METRO REGIONAL QUALITY COUNCIL Meeting Minutes
Friday, May 12, 2023
9:00 am – 11:00 am

The Regional Quality Councils shall:

1. Support efforts and initiatives that drive overall systems and social change to promote inclusion of people who have disabilities in the state of Minnesota
2. Improve person-centered outcomes in disability services; and
3. Identify or enhance quality of life indicators for people who have disabilities.

(Please Note: As the associate, Jeffrey has requested that if you do not understand him please ask that he types out his statement or reply for understanding…do not pretend).

Meeting Attendance

Attendees: Darrell Paulsen, Sara Larson, Amber Perkins, Mohamed, Jodi Lewis, Lee Ohnesorge, Cassie, Chelsea, Robin, Judi Marie and Jason U

Staff Attendance: Kerri, JoAnn, Donna, Jeffrey

Meeting Overview

1) **Introductions and Workgroup Updates (20-25 min) @9:05am (everyone)**
   - Introductions (everyone)
   - Staffing Shortage update (Kerri)

     Meet once a month and is a statewide workgroup involving all councils. Started out focusing on learning and researching various legislative policies relating to staffing shortage. Then narrowed their focus on a few important policies and were going to translate them into plain language and try to share them with others. However, since the legislative is coming to end in May, the workgroup decided instead to write letters of support to conference committee members for policies they thought were important, especially to have the policies retained in the Omnibus bill that will be voted on soon. Some workgroup members like Diane personally hand delivered some of the letters to the legislatures. Now they are done writing letters, they need decide what they want to do next at their next May meeting.
2) **Join Workgroups (60 min) @9:30am**

   Workgroups:
   - **Employment Workgroup**

- **Housing Workgroup**
- **Culture of Safety/Data Action Group (DAG) Workgroup:**
  - This workgroup meets separately.
    For more information, click on link below.
    https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/news-initiatives-reports-workgroups/long-term-services-and-supports/culture-of-safety/
  - The next meeting will be on **Thursday, June 1st, 2023 from 9-11am**.
  - Down below is the zoom link to the meeting.
    Join Zoom Meeting
    https://arcminnesota.zoom.us/j/81121977247?pwd=SDBmVW1RQWFlVHBHKy96a1JESElEUT09
    Meeting ID: 811 2197 7247
    Passcode: 678410
    This workgroup would like more members. Please notify an RQC staff if you are interested in joining.
- **Staffing (DSPs & PCAs) Shortage Workgroup:**
  - This workgroup meets separately.
  - The next meeting will be on **Thursday, May 25, 2023 from 11am-12:30pm**
  - Join Zoom Meeting
    https://arcminnesota.zoom.us/j/81885206657?pwd=emMvYVhjUWtEangvbE5mTUNJdFZCUT09
    Meeting ID: 818 8520 6657
    Passcode: 330275

3) **Group Discussion (20 min) @10:35am**
   Share what each workgroup worked on with the rest of the attendees.
   - **Employment Workgroup (Kerri)**
     Want to support people looking for jobs by providing resources. They want to gather info about resources both employed pwds and pwds looking for work find helpful and what barriers they face. They want to hold focus groups to find out. However, JoAnn and Jeffrey have been struggling hearing back from agencies they have contacted about focus groups. They have gathered some info from the individual advocates and parent interviews conducted by Olivia. The takeaways from the interviews was that navigating the system is overwhelming and finding the right resources people need is hard. The workgroup decided to create "pathways" documents aimed at various demographics like High School students who are about to graduate and don't' know what options or "pathways" are available to them or the steps involved in each

pathway. The workgroup created a SharePoint file to store all the resources and documents they create.

- **Housing Workgroup** **(Cassie)**
  Are still in the process of developing the format and structure for their informational videos addressing housing barriers. They narrowed the barriers down to about 3 and will create videos for each one. They want to start each video with specific barriers people face and present facts about current policies in place that are the cause of the barriers. Then present a recording of an actual person giving their personal testimonials about experiencing the barriers. Lastly, include a QR code that would direct them to more resources either posted on the MRQC website or other websites which offer more specific information. They want to recruit more people with lived experiences to share their personal experiences with housing barriers so they can be included in the videos.

4) Other Things to Share & Reminders

- Next council meeting is on **Friday, June 9th, 2023 from 9-11am.**
- Actively seeking new council members.
  If anyone has someone to recommend to serve as a potential member for the council, please email Arc staff, JoAnn. Or if anyone has suggestions on how or where to seek potential members, feel free to share your ideas.
- Anything else???