METRO REGIONAL QUALITY COUNCIL Minutes
Friday, June 9th, 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

Members: Judi Marie, Mohamed, Chelsea, Frank, Diane, Sara

Guest Attendees: Larissa, Laura, Jodi, Amber, Virginia, Darrell, Lee, Dupree, Hannah, and Kyle

Staff Attendance: Kerri, JoAnn, Donna, Kristin (caption)

Meeting Overview

1) Introductions and Workgroup Updates (20-25 min) @9:05am (everyone)

- Introductions (everyone):
  Everyone took turns and did self-introductions.
- Council Updates (Kerri):
  - The councils had their site audit with DHS and DHS seems satisfied with the progress of each council and the work they are doing. It seems the councils are meeting their deliverables
  - We haven't gotten our council budget approved yet. In order to have money to do our projects we need to get it approved. Once we know more, we will update the council
- Staffing Shortage update (Kerri):
  They have an upcoming meeting in a couple weeks (check down below for details). They finalized and mailed a letter of support listing all the bills they support to all the conferees involved. Diane physically handed the letters to the legislatures at the Capital.

She especially got the chance to talk to John Hoffman. Overall, she thought it was a good experience and would do it again. There were a lot people who testified. The group managed to get some wins which is good news! This coming Tuesday, June 13, there will be some virtual meetings held where Arc staff members will be giving some legislative updates and wrap ups. The dates are included on the last page of the Meeting Minutes. Eventually, the workgroup want to do a podcast centered on the bills they are concerned about. Darrell mentioned the state council on disability has a bill tracker you can check out.

2) **Join Workgroups (60 min) @9:30am**

Workgroups:

- **Employment Workgroup**
- **Housing Workgroup (held in breakout room)**
- **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, July 6th, 2023 from 9-11am**.
    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, June 22, 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)**
  The employment workgroup was tasked with coming up a short list of questions to ask self-advocates in a hybrid environment of mixed attendees both employed and unemployed. Laura and Larissa, new attendees added their expertise and experience to

the group as well as the questions. Laura stressed the importance of people with disabilities advocating for their needs. Larissa talked about the "discovery process" and what it exactly entails. It sounded like a customized approach to doing things. The workgroup is collecting a lot resources relating to employment and are not sure how to store them or where to place them to make them available for pwds. They will continue to tackle this in the future. Kerri mentioned Mohamed advocated for the idea all employers should hire pwds. If they did, unemployment amongst pwds wouldn't be an issue. Darrell, as an employer said we should create incentives for employers instead of requiring them to hire pwds. Hiring pwds can be a "burden" for some small employers. But perhaps incentives would lessen the burden.

- **Housing Workgroup (JoAnn)**
  JoAnn accidentally ended the housing workgroup meeting for all attendees instead of returning them to the main room for further big group discussion. Sorry about that! Anyway, the workgroup talked about the 3 housing videos they plan to create. Each one addressing a different housing barrier. The first video will address housing choice, the second accessible housing, and the third is still up for debate. The group has recruited more people who want to partake in our videos. Unfortunately, not everything scheduled for the day got done nor did all attendees get the chance to talk. However, JoAnn is very appreciative they came. Darrell shared when discussing affordable housing, we should include housing with supports and housing without supports. We should also include deeply affordable housing which is, according to Darrell housing that takes 25% of people's income and includes services and a care plan. The goal of deeply affordable housing is to help people move into independent housing if they can.
  JoAnn created some SharePoint files for the workgroup to use so they can make further progress outside of the monthly workgroup meetings. We want to really narrow our video topics down and finalize them.

4) Other Things to Share & Reminders

- Next council meeting is on **Friday, July 14th, 2023 from 9-11am.**
- **Statewide RQC update:**
  On Tuesday, June 13, 11am-12noon
  Join Zoom Meeting
  https://arcminnesota.zoom.us/j/82025250722?pwd=KzN2bW9NeDBXODlmcm9kaFZ0KzErQT09
  Meeting ID: 820 2525 0722
  Passcode: 217305
- **Julia Page is inviting you to get updates on The Arc's legislative wrap up session meeting.**

On Tuesday, June 13, 12Noon-1pm

Join Zoom Meeting

https://arcminnesota.zoom.us/w/85978371332?tk=Yw1_bMvmkxTu_57p92nBtVpnrje-hcmTuVqVJQ0OUCg.DQMAAAAUBLXVBBZqNUNwekxxVFFwaUhGYXl5VWVSNVZRAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA&pwd=MkdiSko2aXNhanFKTDBIWDhNTlQrQT09

Meeting ID: 859 7837 1332

Passcode: 726919

- 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???