METRO REGIONAL QUALITY COUNCIL MEETING Minutes
Friday, June 14, 2024 from 9-11am

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.

Meeting Attendance

Attendees: Mohamed, Chris, Chelsea, Lynn, frank, Judi Marie, Cassie,

Staff Attendees: JoAnn, Sophie, Kerri, Caption

Meeting Overview

1. Updates (45 min) @ 9:05am

- Staffing Shortage Workgroup Update (Kerri)

  The workgroup met in May. They want to learn more about CDCS. They realize not many people know about it as an option. To help people learn more, they developed a panel of experts to educate people. This would include experts like users of CDCS, case managers, planners, etc. Attendees can learn for example how to hire and direct supports. Chelsea can reach out to her people to maybe sit on the panel. They would conduct the panel sometime in the middle of July.

- Housing Workgroup Update (JoAnn)

  JoAnn is emailing people and groups and tracking her progress in an excel spreadsheet. Chelsea mentioned Dakota County commissioners vary on housing policies since Dakota County has both urban and rural areas. Chelsea has suggestions on who we should email from Dakota. JoAnn will wait to hear back from Chelsea before emailing Dakota County. It was noted emailing might not be enough. Perhaps we should call people and explain the project in addition. Emails can get lost or ignored. Phone calls are harder to ignore.

  How to use and who to show the videos?

  Perhaps we could use the videos to help counties promote and fund housing programs. Also, we could use the videos for fundraising, educating, increasing awareness and lobbying to help advance beneficial housing policies. Whoever holds the purse strings should be who we target. State funding for housing programs varies from county funding. Programs that might be mandated by the state are managed and funded by counties. Which programs get approved or not is usually driven by the people who show up at county meetings to voice their disapproval for certain development projects (aka “not in my backyard”). Communities are hesitant to have pwds living in their neighborhoods. It was asked if there were any videos that talked about including pwds in their neighborhoods in a positive way.

Unfortunately, there is no such video. But there is a video "accessible and affordable housing" that talks about aging and housing and how providing accessible housing benefits society as a whole especially as society ages. Sophie suggested contacting radio stations and doing a spot explaining the videos and how we can be more welcoming to pwds into our communities and how that benefits us. Sophie has contacts with Saint Paul neighborhood networks and MN council on disability who could help us promote the videos.

Ideas to include in communication plan:

The housing workgroup members can come together again to discuss this.

- One idea is to send the videos to counties and get them and other agencies to post the videos on their websites, social media pages, etc. We also want to get the videos into the hands of county staff workers so they can use them to educate their consumers.
- Another idea is to determine what barriers there are to housing and who can help change those barriers and target our videos to those who have power to make changes.
- Target the videos to guardians (such as Magic and Wings) and also to transition students and schools. (Minnesotaguardianship.org)
- Share the videos with The Arc staff and legislative team and figure out what housing policies to advocate for.
- Share the videos with the public to educate them about resources and policies they can support
- Provide people with a prewritten script to use when contacting their legislators about which policies to support and why. Perhaps add this to our Housing Workgroup website for people to download or copy along with a search tool on how and where to find their reps. We can create "action alerts". **https://www.ncra.org/home/get-involved/advocacy/Grassroots-Lobbying/Writing-Effective-Letters-to-Your-Legislators#:~:text=Here%20are%20some%20important%20tips%20to%20keep%20in,if%20applicable.%207%20Identify%20the%20issue.%20More%20items**
- Share the videos at festivals such as Pride. JoAnn is attending Juneteenth this weekend and can show the videos there. Talk to the public about housing barriers, bring flyers and share QR code to see more.

2. **Recruiting Members and Reviving Participation (Sophie)**

   If anyone has any ideas on how to attract new members, please do share.

   Sophie edited the 1 pager to reflect suggested changes. Ideas include adding a graphic of people sitting at a round table and more details of each workgroup's actions.

3. **RQC Guidelines Workgroup (Kerri)**

   Those who volunteered: Robin, Frank, Sophie, and JoAnn.

   This Workgroup is to come together and review the guidelines for the RQC and see if anything needs to be changed. They want to get people from each council to come together and decide on any changes. Kerri will reach out to the people who volunteered in the next few weeks to find a time to meet.

4. **10 Minute Break @10:03am**
5. **Workgroups (60 min) @10:13am**

- Employment Workgroup (30 min)

  This workgroup meets directly after the council meeting.
- Transportation Workgroup (30 min)

  This workgroup meets directly after Employment Workgroup
- Culture of Safety/Data Action Group (DAG) Workgroup

  This workgroup meets separately outside of monthly council meetings. They meet the first Thursday of each month from 9-11am.
  The next meeting will be on **Thursday, August 1st 2024 from 9am-11am.**
  Join Zoom Meeting
  https://arcminnesota.zoom.us/j/81121977247?pwd=SDBmVW1RQWFlVHBHKy96a1JESElEUT09

  Meeting ID: 811 2197 7247
  Passcode: 678410
- Staffing (DSPs & PCAs) Shortage Workgroup (Kerri)
  This workgroup meets separately outside of monthly council meetings. They meet the fourth Thursday of each month from 11am-12:30pm.
  The next meeting will be on **Thursday, June 27th, 2024 from 11am-12:30pm**.
  Join Zoom Meeting
  https://arcminnesota.zoom.us/j/87154192462?pwd=aDE2YnBUcVR1S2dvc0NzOUpFWCt5dz09
  Meeting ID: 871 5419 2462
  Passcode: 266371

Other Things to Share & Reminders

- Next council meeting is **on Friday, July 12th, 2024 from 9-11am.**

Employment Workgroup Agenda (30 min)

Attendance: Mohamed, Robin, Chelsea, Chris, Judi Marie, Cassie, Lynn

1. **When to meet?**
   It was decided that both the employment and transportation workgroups will meet after the regular council meetings on Friday mornings.
2. **Employment Resources Presentation Events**
   Presentations will be held the second Monday of the Month in the evenings sometime between 5:30-8pm. They will be around 1 and ½ hours long with the last half hour devoted to audience questions. So far, they will all be virtual.
   - ✓ Suggestions given on who to invite to present:
     - Jen Jensen, Goodwill , Work Incentives Connection,
     - Mona Patterson, Equality Pathways to Potential
     - Colleen Wieck DD Council Director (Sophie has contacts)
     - 211 united way (suggested by Darrell)

- ✓ We have heard back from a few organizations interested such as:
  - **Opportunity Partners- employment services**
    August 12, 2024, from 5:30-7pm
  - **Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services**
    September 9th, 2024, time yet to be determined
  - **Rise – subminimum to minimum wage transition**
    October 7th, 2024, time yet to be determined - There is interest for this one to be hybrid (in person and virtual), but that has not been discussed yet and so if it is the flier and registration will reflect that.
  - **Jerry Mellum, Microenterprises**
    November 4th, 5:30-7pm
- ✓ Things to think about when organizing these kinds of events
  - New idea is to schedule them during the week during lunchtime so working people who are mandated to gain more training can get credit for attending. This might boost our attendance record.
- ✓ How to advertise our events?
  - JoAnn shared the presentation schedule with MNAPSE.
  - Jerry Mellum will help us advertise our events by posting them in a newsletters shared amongst counties.
  - We should create media content, like a radio spot, TV station commercial, etc., so we can reach out to people who aren't connected to disability services. There are contacts that we can reach out to and potentially get a spot to share.
  - Identify community leaders and go to where they are.
  - Schools don't like receiving our emails
  - **Robin can help promote our events within Hennepin County and transition programs and so can Cassie**
  - Sophie posts our events on Arc calendar.
  - Sophie posts the flyers on the RQC website and RQC Facebook and other social media sites.

3. **<u>Employment Resources Website (JoAnn)</u>**

   We are in the middle of creating a comprehensive new Employment Resources website. The website has the same layout as the Housing Resources Website and likely will be in the same location as the housing resources under the Information Tab on the top of the RQC Website.

   The website will include:
   - Table of contents
   - Videos
   - My Employment stories
   - Resources for those looking for work and employers

   Please share any ideas you have for the website. Also share if you have any resources to add.

NEW Transportation Workgroup

MRQC Transportation Workgroup Suggestions, concerns and ideas:

1. Transportation is a big part of employment especially getting to and from work. Fear of Lyft and Uber leaving MN in May. Hasn't happened yet but could happen still.
2. How to conduct meetings?
   Continue to conduct within regular Friday meeting
3. There is interest in reaching out to Dr. McKinney the CEO of DHS?. Sophie can reach out to her.
   Overall idea is to form and develop relationships with higher-ups and us to determine what needs to be done to make beneficial changes or suggestions and how the MRQC plays a role in that.
4. The new Metro Move is now in action, but Frank and Lynn are hesitant to make the move! Find out the differences between Metro Move and Metro Mobility and how they compare?
5. Metro Mobility is planning to host multiple community events both in person and virtual for individuals to come share their experiences and feedback. The information and times for those can be read here: https://metrocouncil.org/News-Events/Transportation/Events/Metro-Mobility-conversation-2024-05-30.aspx
6. Darrel is the VP of Met Council Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC) Meets 1st Wednesday of each month: you can learn more and see their upcoming meetings here - https://metrocouncil.org/Council-Meetings/Committees/Transportation-Accessibility-Advisory-Committee.aspx
   Anyone is available to attend those meetings and there are times when the council has public comment requests.
7. Conduct collaborative conversations with workers from Metro Mobility, Met Council, TAAC, etc.
8. **Robin encouraged us to attend MN transportation access meetings**. Every state agency that provides transit and access attends these meetings. They come together to discuss legislations, planning, implementation, etc. Host quarterly meetings where people from the public like us can be heard and speak about their wants, needs and goals.
   https://www.disability.state.mn.us/2018/04/03/updates-from-the-mn-council-on-transporation-access/
9. **Robin mentioned the TACP** grant program which operates within the Metro Area. It is program that manages transit for pwds, seniors and low income in every Metro county. They also attend MCOTA meetings.
10. Invite someone from MCOTA to talk to us and base our goals on what they're doing.
11. How to let MCOTA or DHS know their current metrics of being an hour late isn't acceptable by most standards. Why are pwds subject to this? We could suggest

different or improved metrics to use. **Frank can help** with this because he does it for a living.

12. **Frank suggested reaching out to AARP** since 25% of people over 65 don't drive which is huge demographic.
13. Collect stories of people's personal stories on how they are impacted by long wait times, sitting for my ride, being late to work, arrive way too early to work, etc. JoAnn and Sophie can help with this.
14. Perhaps we should establish a goal first before having further discussion or advocating.
15. Mohamed wondered how to integrate services better because the services are already there but perhaps not unitized more because they're hard to navigate. We could conduct studies on services that have successful usage and learn from them. Also see if there are disparities between urban and rural or statewide usage.