METRO REGIONAL QUALITY COUNCIL MEETING Minutes
Friday, July 12, 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: Chelsea, Wu Yue, Chris, Mohamed, Lynn, Cassie, Robin, Frank, Judi Marie,

Staff Attendees: JoAnn, Sophie, Caption

Meeting Overview

1. **Introductions @ 9:05am**

   Wu Yue is a music a therapist and also has her own nonprofit called Light in the Well which uses music to tell stories of pwds. It gives opportunities for pwds to be involved in music such as orchestra and art.

2. **Updates (30 min) @ 9:10am**

   - Staffing Shortage Workgroup Update (Sophie)

     This workgroup tries to address issues related to PCAs and DSPs and the effects of the staffing shortage on pwds and their supporters.

     They are coordinating a panel of speakers to educate people about CDCS. Poppy, a support planner who knows about CDCS is scheduled to present at the panel event. The panel will also include county workers, parents and CDCS users. Stay tuned for more details.

   - Housing Workgroup Update (Chelsea and Frank)

     Meet separately and include members Chelsea, Cassie and Frank.

     We made a series of videos related to housing and posted the videos on the MRQC Housing Workgroup page on the RQC website and MRQC YouTube page. We are now trying to promote our housing videos. We have so far contacted:

     - local radio stations:

       KFAI (JoAnn), MPR (Chelsea), collab with other The Arc MN staff with KMOJ

       - **Scheduled a spot on a show with KFAI for July 25th**

         We are hoping to spotlight different speakers such as pwds who receive services, parents and DHS.

     The Arc MN no longer offers Housing Stabilization Services but still offers Housing Crisis and Housing Access Services.

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

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

   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, July 25th, 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

- **Judi Marie shared:** the department of labor are working towards Direct Support Professionals having an actual classification. Many service recipients are being notified to support this process. This would allow DSPs to have legitimate recognition within the Dept. of Labor. They could start collecting data and address some of the disparities.
- Next council meeting is on **Friday, August 9th, 2024 from 9-11am.**

Employment Workgroup Agenda (30 min)

Attendance: Wu Yue, Darrell, Mohamed, Cassie, Chelsea, Frank, Lynn, Robin, Judi Marie, Chris,

1. **Employment Resources Presentation Events (Sophie)**

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.
Sophie creates flyers for each event and posts for social media. Sophie emails the flyers to the council. Please share the flyers with your networks. The events are recorded and are available to watch on the MRQC YouTube page.

- ✓ 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
  - Jerry Mellum, Microenterprises
    November 4th, 5:30-7pm
  - Kaposia- employment services
    December 9th, 5:30-7pm

2. **Employment Resources Website (JoAnn)**

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 at the top of the RQC Website.
The website will include:

- Table of contents
- My Employment stories
- Resources for those looking for work and those hiring

Please share any ideas you have for the website. Also share any resources to add.
Lynn suggested adding Connect 700 as a resource which helps pwds get more priority in the hiring process for state jobs they qualify for and also internships.

NEW Transportation Workgroup

Attendance: Lynn, Robin, Frank, Chris, Cassie, Judi Marie, Mohamed, Darrell

Suggestions, concerns and ideas:

1. Darrell attends Met Council Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC) and serves as Vice Chair. The committee meet the 1st Wednesday of each month.
   Darrell Paulsen shared with the council the happenings at TAAC. The committee has 15 members and meet 1x monthly.
   They talk about issues such as:
   - Metro Mobility (paratransit system) used by pwds to get to work, home, leisure, etc.

- Airport transportation and major bus transportation (Greyhound and Jefferson) helping pwds traveling in and out of MN

2. Metro Move
    - Just went online 4 weeks ago. If it's not used, it will be scaled back at the end of September. It's a prepaid service and the CADI worker can load it on consumers' accounts.
    - An attendee shared they were asked to change to Metro Move, but can't get on till September. They have many questions about it and want to find someone who can help answer questions. People can no longer get agency rides from Metro Mobility starting July which means they have no rides from July to September. It seems the communication regarding Metro Move is lacking. Many providers such as financial workers, and case workers and even Metro Move staff don't know what's happening.
    - Robin shared: Day support services have agency contracts with the Met Council. These contracts are ending but Metro Move is an alternative option. The case manager can authorize it for people who want to use it. Or people can stay on Metro Mobility but they need to have rides arranged by their day support provider or arrange rides themselves. People are supposed to contact their case manager if interested. Once authorized, the case manager sends people's info to Metro Move and Metro Move starts arranging rides and bills people's waiver service directly bypassing the day service providers. Metro Mobility is no longer doing standing orders due to performance level. Instead, people have to arrange rides on a regular basis 4 days in advance. The day support providers can still arrange rides for people. Metro Move wanted to transition and end agency ride contracts at the end of August. Then open it up to everyone in September.
    - Darrell supports the idea of using public transport as much as we can because it frees up the system more for specialized transport like paratransit. Darrell explained the different types of transit services. The main service are rides within 2.5 mile radius of public transit. Agency rides are rides used by pwds to get places. Agency rides are no longer being prioritized and are picked up by Metro Move. They have learned that waivered services works well providing transport for pwds. Waiver services cover Uber, Lyft, etc. and are being used by pwds to get around.
    - Another attendee shared if people didn't go to work every day on the same days, they wouldn't get fixed rides. This means if people's schedules vary, their rides become less reliable to get them to work on time.
    - It seems transportation options and reliability depends on each agency scheduling style and some are more proactive at scheduling rides while others leave up to pwds or their families to arrange rides.
3. How can the council help?

- Make it easier for pwds by providing cheat sheets about Metro Move, Metro Mobility, etc. Darrell can help provide us with this.
  We can add this to our employment resources website transportation category.
- Can people get both Metro Mobility and Metro Move to fill in the gaps?
- Distinguish the difference between Metro Mobility and Metro Move.
- Darrell suggests collaborating with other groups such as bike riders to join in commonality and solidarity in expanding transport options. He also suggests increasing public transportation use amongst pwds. Public transport is safe and fun to use. We should promote it! He suggests we could collab with TAAC and do a Public Awareness Campaigns to promote it.