METRO REGIONAL QUALITY COUNCIL Meeting Minutes
Friday, August 8th, 2025 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, Rod, Cassie, Diane, Robin, Benjamin, Shannon Wagner, Christina, Amelia D, Annelise, Lynn, Frank, Adam,
Staff Attendees: JoAnn, Kerri, Cortney

Meeting Overview

1. Introductions

2. Workgroups Updates

- ### Culture of Safety Workgroup

  This workgroup meets separately outside of monthly council meetings. They meet on the second Thursday of each month from 1-3pm.

  Their next meeting is **Thursday, August 14th from 1-3pm.**

  Join Zoom Meeting
  https://arcminnesota.zoom.us/j/87931714598?pwd=J3UWuLFrAlr1mSVbNZFGayJ3Gwwnlx.1

  Meeting ID: 879 3171 4598
  Passcode: 116521

- ### Staffing (DSPs & PCAs) Shortage Workgroup

  This workgroup meets separately outside of monthly council meetings. They meet on the fourth Thursday of each month from 11am-12:30pm.
  The next meeting is **Thursday, August 28th from 11am-12:30pm.**
  Join Zoom Meeting
  https://arcminnesota.zoom.us/j/87154192462?pwd=aDE2YnBUcVR1S2dvc0NzOUpFWCt5dz09
  Meeting ID: 871 5419 2462
  Passcode: 266371
  They are putting together resources like one-pagers and trainings for self-advocates and DSPs to use when advocating for themselves. This includes using The Arc MN self-advocate resources like “make your case” worksheets. They also want to create short tutorial videos that give helpful tips on advocacy. The purpose is to aid people in their

advocacy efforts and help them feel more comfortable and confident when reaching out and talking to legislators and other law makers.

Employment Workgroup

Human Resources Project

Goal: Collaborating with faculty from college and university training HR programs to create learning opportunities for their students and staff so they can become more educated about people with disabilities and their potential as future employees.

- Partnering with Olivia Lape and the Peer-to-Peer Mentor Program
  They can provide us with presenters with lived experiences and content for PowerPoint presentations
- **Updates:**
  - MSU-Mankato is interested in having us present
    Find out more about what they're thinking and how to present and who wants to partake- Michelle Thom, enterprise director of employee experience MN management and budget
    Options-
    - ✓ Partake in one of their Quarterly Recruiter Community of Practice meetings. The next one is in October
    - ✓ Schedule a "lunch-and-learn" type of session for our recruiter community at any time.
- Reach out to trade organizations
- Reach out to Tayler and Katie from West Central to help create content for the PowerPoint presentations and keep the content fluid so it be changed so serve different purposes
- Review employment resources like the "myth busting" handout and update them so we can hand them out to HR staff and students
- Find out how HR staff help people with disabilities fill out applications
  If HR staff don't know, we can help with this
- AI can help people with writing resumes- certain software pick out key words
  Ask The Arc HR staff if they use AI to weed out and narrow applications

Employment Services Survey Project

Goal: Survey Employment Services providers and employees to find out what barriers they face when providing services to people with disabilities.

Actions taken:

- Officially partnered with Hennepin County and Dakota County
- MRQC staff started emailing the surveys
- Help by sharing the links to the surveys and flyers posted on the MRQC employment workgroup page on the RQC website

Additional info and questions:

What is the time frame for the surveys being open?
Hennepin County might have their own time frame, but we don't necessarily have to follow their time frame. We can decide our own time frame.
Frank can help analyze the results. He can use bureau of labor statistics as a reference and compare our results with theirs. So far, we have gotten 16 responses from each survey starting from the time we started emailing which was a little over a week ago until now.

Transportation Workgroup

Community Conversation Event- Rethinking i-94 Project

This is event is scheduled-

- **When is it happening?** September 8th, 2025
- **What time?** 12pm- 1:30pm
- **Where?** zoom virtual event
- **Who to invite?** Disability advocates and groups
- **How to promote?**
  - ✓ Monday, August 25th from 5-9pm, MRQC staff along with The Arc and MN Council on Disability will table at the State Fair to promote the event and create a flyer for it.
  - ✓ Share the attached flyer with friends, families, colleagues, etc.

For more information, access the MNDOT Rethinking i-94 page.

For a broader viewpoint, here are some links to a few local News articles.

From MPR News Rethinking i-94 article.

From MNPost Rethinking i-94 article.

Short Overview:

- Members of the Policy Advisory Committee or PAC are the ones that decide what gets approved to move forward. Read more about the stakeholders and the decision making process.
- PAC members include MnDOT workers, mayors, city council members, commissioners, senators and representatives, etc.
- Currently in Phase 2: scoping the alternatives-involve public engagement and conducting community conversations to get feedback from various local communities about the proposed alternatives.
- MNDOT decided to move forward with 4 of the 10 options.
  The 4 options are:
  - ✓ No build
  - ✓ General maintenance B
  - ✓ Reduced freeway A
  - ✓ Reconfigure freeway