METRO REGIONAL QUALITY COUNCIL Minutes
Friday, September 8th, 2023

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: Frank, Chelsea. Jodi, Cassie, Judi Marie, Mohamed, Sara, Lynn, Sophie, Laura, Jonathan,

Staff Attendees: JoAnn, Kerri, Kristin (caption), Brittanie

Meeting Overview

1) Introductions and Workgroup Updates (40 min) @9:05am (everyone)

- Engagement and Access Committee (Brittanie)
  Brittanie talked about an accessibility toolkit outline she would like people's opinions about. The toolkit covers many areas of accessibility such as physical, digital, communication, programs, transport, and cultural. The goal of the toolkit is to act as a checklist to address the bare minimum requirements of accessibility access. JoAnn will email the toolkit outline to meeting attendees. The toolkit is not for employment, but addresses accessibility access. Jonathan suggested the Zephyr from the Autism Society MN. They have a useful toolkit we could get ideas from.
- New and resigned members:
  Lynn and Sophie are new members while Rachel and Diane have resigned.
- Regional Quality Council Associate (Kerri)
  Jeffrey has resigned so we are in the process of hiring a new associate.
- Staffing Shortage Workgroup Updates (Kerri)
  The workgroup created a purpose statement to address the needs of people with disabilities (pwds) and to educate legislatures with data driven information so they can make better informed decisions. The workgroup came up with strategies to meet their goals such as developing surveys for providers and DSPs to get their perspectives. They will use the feedback from the surveys to inform legislatures about the work experiences of DSPs as well as the effectiveness of 245 statutes. They plan on posting the surveys on Facebook and at the Gathering. In addition, the workgroup plan to collaborate with ICI who do similar work.

Attendee Comments:

Jonathan mentioned there isn't enough support or funding for interdependent service provision such as providers among friends or pwds working for other pwds. If there was more support, healthier relationships could be built especially when hiring parents as care givers. There is a lack of training for young pwds to deal with issues that arise when they become adults. There needs to be more training for young pwds like learning about employer/employee dynamics so they can be better prepared to hire DSPs. Lynn agrees to what was being said. Jonathan added it seems to him the cooperate world is more accessible than the disability service world. It is difficult to get employed at DHS as a worker for anybody. It is easier to get hired at Target than at DHS. The system of hiring workers needs to become more efficient and accessible. Frank remarked DSPs are people caring for people. It is difficult to compare the two. It is different than hiring sales clerks to stock shelves but Frank agreed there needs to be changes made.

- Housing Workgroup Updates (JoAnn)

  The workgroup is making progress on their video project. They have scheduled October 3td, 2023 as their filming day and will film most participants at The Arc Saint Paul offices.

2) **Join Workgroups (75 min) @9:45am**

Workgroups:

- **Employment Workgroup (JoAnn)**
  - Please read the Employment Workgroup meeting minutes if you wish to know more.
- **Housing Workgroup (JoAnn)**
  - This workgroup meets separately. They have formed 3 mini subgroups that meet outside of council meetings. Each subgroup is addressing a particular housing topic and will make a short educational videos pertaining to each topic.

    The 3 topics so far are:

    1. parent advocates and housing
    2. accessible housing
    3. advocates and housing

    Please contact JoAnn if you are curious to know more about this workgroup and their video project.

- **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, October 5th, 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 providers to join. Please notify an RQC staff if you are a provider or know a provider who would be interested in joining.

- **Staffing (DSPs & PCAs) Shortage Workgroup (Kerri):**
  - This workgroup meets separately.
  - The next meeting will be on **Thursday, September 28th, 2023 from 11am-12:30pm.**
    Join Zoom Meeting
    https://arcminnesota.zoom.us/j/87154192462?pwd=aDE2YnBUcVR1S2dvc0NzOUpFWCt5dz09
    Meeting ID: 871 5419 2462
    Passcode: 266371

3) **Other Things to Share & Reminders**
   - Next council meeting is on **Friday, October 13th, 2023 from 9-11am.**