**METRO REGIONAL QUALITY COUNCIL MEETING Minutes**
**Friday, November 10th, 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: Lynn, Mohamed, Christopher, Joe, Rod, Larissa**

**Staff Attendees: JoAnn, Kerri, Sophie, Donna, Captions, Cortney**

## Meeting Overview

### 1) Introductions and Workgroup Updates (45min) @9:05am

- How does the council want to continue conducting meetings?
    - Donna's who coordinates the West Central RQC shared her council holds their workgroup meetings sequentially. Half of the meeting devoted to one workgroup and the other half devoted to the other workgroup. This enables more people to participate in both groups which is good because it allows more voices to be heard.

      PreCovid, the meetings were in person which gave a more personal touch. If people want to meet in person, Mohamed suggests hybrid meetings because not everyone can attend in person. However, to do this involves determining how we approach it. He suggest people have their own devices when participating and The Arc can help devise ways to provide the tech needed to pull off hybrid meetings. Kerri mentioned a possible gadget we could use called an OWL, This is a camera that rotates its head towards the person talking. These are just ideas. The council will need to discuss this further to work out the details.
    - JoAnn will send an email asking people how they want to conduct meetings.

· Staffing Shortage Workgroup Updates (Kerri and Sophie)

- The workgroup didn't meet in October. Instead they participated in The Gathering which is a 2 day event (October 24th & 26th) and involves 2 locations, North and South. Both Gatherings held market learning sessions where participants discussed the staffing shortage. What people shared were basically the same for both locations. This gave the workgroup a chance to hear from people and get their stories. They want to share these stories with legislators.

They want to figure out ways to address the staffing shortage and how they can make an impact. Last year, they wrote letters to legislators showing support for bills that made positive impacts for pwds. There was also a survey that people could fill out.

- Housing Workgroup Updates (JoAnn)

  - The Housing videos are now in the editing stage. The workgroup is busy creating their Housing Resources website. Please share any resources you feel should be included in the website. Click on the link to see how the website looks so far. https://www.qualitycouncilmn.org/resources/housing-resources/. The council has received many housing advocate referrals who are interested in being involved in any housing related endeavors the workgroup is doing
    - How does the workgroup want to make use of these referrals?
    - JoAnn plans on emailing and asking the Housing referrals to:
      - 1. Write a "my housing journey" story that explains how they obtained housing.
      - 2. Contribute any helpful housing resources to add to the Housing Resources website.
  - A meeting will be held soon to discuss the website. JoAnn will email the invite as soon it is ready. JoAnn proposes the idea of offering more specific categories and more specific resources.
  - Collaborate with Region 10 council who is also doing housing so we can create 1 comprehensive RQC Housing Resources website.
  - Kerri mentioned the RQC has a feedback "contact us" feature where people can write in suggestions, ideas and stories. Perhaps we could make use of this feature.
  - Larissa mentioned many housing resources are duplicated from other websites such as HB101, DB101 and MSA which can be overwhelming if you don't know how to navigate them. She suggests we use a template created by Disability law center that is a guide to transition. The way the template is laid out: what the program is, what the eligibility is, and who to contact, is all the info people really need. Click on the link to view the template. https://mylegalaid.org/downloads/Into-Adulthood-Guide_Final-PDF-English-Dec.-2021.pdf
  - Lynn suggested we offer a FAQ section. Short questions could be addressed for each resource like: how are staff trained? What is the staff ratio? Accessible van, exertions, section 8 requirements, homeownership, etc. One idea to obtain answers to questions is to use HB101 Pathways tool that give examples of answers. You have to create a MyVault account to use the pathway tool.
  - Kerri suggested maybe teaching people how to access needs like how to use the pathways tool. Perhaps there are checklists available we can use that already exist.

**2) Join Workgroups (70 min) @9:50am**

- Employment Workgroup

  Please read the Employment Workgroup Minutes if you want to know more.

- 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.

  You can read more about DAG and their report including perhaps some MRQC recommendations in the link down 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, December 7th, 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 outside of monthly council meetings.

  The meeting is rescheduled and the new date will be emailed.

  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, December 8th, 2023 from 9-11am.**