METRO REGIONAL QUALITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Friday, March 11, 2022
9 am – 11:00 am
Zoom: https://arcminnesota.zoom.us/j/83315333385?pwd=ak0rSDFrWjFBY2xmVGFvTm1SZm9uQT09

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.***

1) Welcome Introductions (10 Min)

- **Attendance: Jeffrey, Chelsea, Mohamed, Kyle, Erin, Tim, Rod, Judi Marie, Rachel, Diane, Frank**
  Unable to attend: Bradford, Katie
  Staff: Kerri, Buff
- **Spring is around the corner! What is everyone looking forward to?**
  - **April Birthdays! (Jeffrey, Erin, Judi Marie); Baseball; Spring Smells; Being able to open windows; No snow; Being outside; Going for walks without having to worry about ice; Gardening; Take dog for walk; Biking; Get kids outside**

2) Minutes from February Meeting (5 Min)

- **Questions/comments? -- No Questions or comments**

3) RQC Coordinator Job Position has been posted. Please share with your networks and direct prospects or interested candidates to Kerri at kerrileucuta@arcminnesota.org or 507-513-7615

a) Interview process has been started for this position. More information will be shared as it comes available.

- **Salary should be posted on the job description so all applicants know the salary to accept therefore making it equitable**
  - **Buff will connect with HR to ensure salary is included in posting as it was meant to be**
  - **Updated Job posting is attached to this email for sharing with others…website still needs to be updated**
- **The requirement to travel might make this position inequitable. If people do not drive, they may think that they are not qualified to apply for the position.**
  - **Being able to travel is different from being able to drive. Part of our job is to listen to people, and sometimes this requires going to where people are.**
  - **Sometimes RQC Staff go to conventions or events to learn from others and share information about the RQC.**
  - **Accommodations/options for travel could be discussed if needed.**

4) **Membership (15 minutes)**
   a) **Who are we missing at the table?**
      - **People who have disabilities**
      - **Family Members of people who have disabilities**
      - **Disability Service Providers**
      - **Disability Advocacy Groups**
      - **Lead agency staff**
      - **Staff of state agencies with jurisdiction over special education and disability services**
   b) **Membership must be representative of the communities in which they operate, with an emphasis on people with lived experience from diverse racial and cultural backgrounds**
   c) **A terms document has not been found…Kerri is creating a new membership/terms spreadsheet. Please have an idea of when you started with the MRQC (Month/Year)**
      - **Since this is a new contract and the fiscal year is different from before, we will make current terms begin on January 2022 and make them 1 or 2 year staggered terms**
        - **Please let Kerri know if you have a preference in term (1 year or 2 years). If Kerri has not heard from you, she will stagger the terms and send out to the group for approval.**
        - **Also, if you know someone who may be a good fit for the RQC, please refer them to Kerri.**

5) **Collaborative Efforts – Who do we want to collaborate with and/or hear from? (30 Minutes)**
   a) **Jason Flint has been emailed to see if he would be available to attend the April meeting to share updates around what is happening currently in MN related to Disability Services**
      - **What would we like him to share about specifically?**
        - **Employment for people with disabilities?**
        - **Direct Care Shortage?**
        - **System and social change efforts?**
        - **Disability Rights and Disability Justice efforts?**
        - **Other?**
      - **Jason Flint is the DHS contact for the RQC contract. Waiting to hear back from him about attending the April meeting**
   b) **Mohammed connected Kerri with the coordinator of the Direct Care Workforce Shortage Cross Agency Steering Committee to discuss collaborative efforts and possible presentation**
      - **Linda Wolford recommended that Kyle as the Regional Resource Specialist on the MRQC (and also participates in the Workforce Shortage Steering Committee) could act as a conduit since she is not readily available at this time to present to the MRQC**
      - **Kerri will connect Kyle to Linda using the email communication that has already occurred, and will report back with information about other state efforts around the workforce shortage (i.e. Recommendations made by the committee to address workforce shortage, and what is occurring to implement the recommendations, etc.)**
   c) **Other suggestions?**
      - **Rachel has reached out to a contact with the Department of Education about someone that may be interested in becoming a member of the council**
      - **Mohamed has a connection to the Olmstead Implementation Office and will make an Introduction to Kerri to see if we could learn from them any statewide efforts**
      - **Mohamed is also interested in introducing his Ramsey County Contact to the MRQC to see if they would like to participate.**

6) **2022/2023 Priorities (45 minutes)**

- **Continuing the conversation…**
  - **Housing shortage for people with disabilities**
    - **Due to the staffing shortage some people are being evicted from assisted living settings with only 30 day notice**
      - **Are there any emergency options for this?**
      - **Connect with Kyle (at kyle.dennis@state.mn.us) and/or your Case Manager regarding potential resources**
    - **Housing can be difficult if a lease is involved as a state assigned guardian may not have the same oversight or aren't willing/able to accept the financial responsibility of signing leases… those who have natural supports/family members as guardians also may have limitations if financial supports are needed.**
    - **Housing and services are two separate issues that are related…Services may be available but there may not be housing for people to live and receive services.**
    - **As an FYI…The Arc is applying for a new microgrant program that is specific to housing and employment. The grants are expected to be between $200 and $2000 and may help with things such as absorbing costs when signing a lease that a state assigned guardian may not be able to take on. The grants will be one-time and can be used only for things not covered by other funding sources. *This is not approved yet, just applied for. If anyone has thoughts around how people could use this money (eligibility requirements) please email Buff Hennessey at buffhennesey@arcminnesota.org.***
    - **Housing and staffing are connected and there are some bills being put forward around short and long term staffing issues. Diane offered this information:**
      - Below is a link to the House Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee hearing from March 8. It addresses 3 bills that have a possibility of being included in the Omnibus Bill later in the session. While all 3 bills are important, the third one directly addresses the DSP workforce crisis. At 42:10 in the video, House File 3100 is discussed, which is a modification to the Disability Waiver Rate System.
        - https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hjvid/92/895496
      - HF3215 (22-05566 (mn.gov)), SF3884: Community Mental Health Program Workforce Relief
      - HF3157 ((22-05146 (mn.gov)), SF2773: Employment Exploration service base wage index modified. It levels the base wage of employment exploration with employment development
      - **HF3100 (22-05058 (mn.gov)), SF2771: Disability Waiver Service Reimbursement Rate Modified**
  - **Both the MRQC and the Region 10 RQC have indicated the importance of educating legislators. Is there interest in a statewide legislative session? Include the Arrowhead RQC as well?**
    - **Hearing testimony from people impacted by staffing shortages and housing shortages would be impactful**
    - **It seems like there isn't always a lot of thought that goes into laws/legislation and how they will impact people with disabilities and their living situations**
    - **There has been an uptick in media about group homes closing and people falling through the cracks. Can we use the media to our advantage to get the word out there and help with this issue?**
    - **Not just the public needs to be educated, but also service recipients, family members, advocates, lead agencies, etc.**

        - How decisions are made. What decisions are made at the federal level vs the state level vs the county level.
        - Different people need different things, but when things are put into practice we design a limited number of options and get stuck looking at one or two things to try to solve a problem
    - Specific legislative barriers could be included in conversations to legislators
    - Is there interest in forming a workgroup around this?
        - Frank, Judi Marie, Jeffrey, and Diane are interested.

- **Workgroup development**

7) Once Around

<u>Other</u>

- **Culture of Safety Data Action Group – April 8th will be the Culture of Safety Refresher from 10a-11:30. The full RQC meeting will be from 9a-10a and the Data Action Group will meet with Aric Gregg at 10a…all are welcome and encouraged to stay for the refresher. If you are not a member of the Data action group and would like to drop off at this time, you may.**
- **Frank from the MRQC and two people from Region 10 RQC have agreed to review current charters/guidelines in an effort to create one document. If anyone else from the MRQC is interested, please reach out to Kerri…a meeting will be scheduled soon.**