METRO REGIONAL QUALITY COUNCIL Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 10th, 2026, 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: Tara R (9-10), Mohamed, Cassie, Christina, Diane, Frank, Amelia D., Robin, Benjamin, Adam (9-10)

Staff Attendees: JoAnn, Sophie, Kerri

Meeting Overview

1. Introduction

Meet Tara! Tara is interested in becoming a council member. Tara works as a mental health therapist and works with clients who have disabilities. Tara identifies as being neurodivergent.

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.

The next meeting is Thursday, May 7th from 1-3pm.

- **Staffing Shortage Workgroup (Big Group)**

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, April 23rd from 11am-12:30pm.

Creating a video series "Power of Support: professionals who speak up" and released a teaser video and first 3 videos so far. They are working on a 4th video and post the videos on the RQC YouTube channel. To watch the videos, visit https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzjP45LzMKwiF0MRNzzjoMW3LWWuvv78P

- **Staffing (DSPs & PCAs) Shortage Workgroup (Small Group)**

This workgroup meets separately outside of monthly council meetings. They meet every Thursday to make progress on short videos aimed at helping DSPs advocate for their needs. The videos will cover topics such as: What does advocacy mean? How to connect with your legislators? How to tell your story? etc.

If you wish to join, contact an MRQC staff member.

The next meeting is Thursday, April 16th from 9-10am

Employment Workgroup

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.

Interviewing Employment Services Providers

Attendees brainstormed and created a list of questions to ask providers.

The answers we get will guide our future work such as:

- advocating for changes cited in the report and interviews
- offering educational trainings and resources for things providers want to know more about

Transportation Workgroup

Snow Removal Program

- Waiting to get information from Minneapolis Public Works staff
- Will use information to create 1pagers to inform Minneapolis council members

Collab with ICI and their "Ready to Ride" project

The MRQC maintains communication with Brian Abery from the UofM's ICI about how the MRQC can help ICI with their project. The project is a collaboration with other Universities.

Besides the MRQC, Region 10 RQC is also partnering with ICI on this project along with ACT (Advocating Change Together) to help recruit and train participants.

How can the MRQC help?

Collect recommendations about transportation from people with disabilities to add to their training curriculum materials. We created a survey to help us. The Met Council also conducts surveys we should check out and compare our survey questions to theirs.

Approach:

- Create survey questions, online version and document version
- Coordinate focus groups to foster conversations
- Email survey to individuals and groups
- Partner with Hennepin County TCAP

<u>Next Steps</u>

- Reach out to Transition Programs
    - ➢ Draft an email to send to schools explaining the project
    - ➢ Partner with school staff to administer survey to students and facilitate focus groups
    - ➢ Draft a letter to parents explaining the project
    - ➢ letter to parents into different languages so it be accessible to non-English readers. Money is needed to translate documents, but Brian knows some translation services that can give us a major discount.

    We might have 3k to spend on projects that we can use in the next 6 months

    - ➢ Email the council asking if they are okay with spending money translating documents
    - ➢ The information we get can be made into 1pagers to inform parents, and whoever else

    Who else to reach out to beside schools as backup?

    - ➢ Reach out to disability advocacy groups
    - ➢ Reach out to providers

    We can use the information we get from the focus groups for-

    - ➢ ICI usage

- Informing transit services about what pwds need
- Educating legislators about transit services

Additional ideas and questions?

There should be more transportation service providers to choose from instead of just one. Right now there is just Lyft. Other options besides Lyft should be available for people with disabilities to choose from.

Cassie shared: Company's like Uber, need to agree to provide and bill for services in this capacity and they have not been a company that has been interested in this. A provider would need to either get enrolled through MHCP and/or have a lead agency willing to work with them for pass through billing. This has a lot to do with lead agency choice regarding pass through billing and also choice of company's/providers to participate in these types of programs.