METRO REGIONAL QUALITY COUNCIL Meeting Minutes

Friday, May 8th, 2026, from 9-10:30am

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

Attendee: Mohamed, Cassie, Benjamin (9-10), Rod (9-9:30), Lynn, Alma, Judi Marie, Christina, Adam, Amelia D,

Staff Attendees: JoAnn, Kerri, Cortney

Meeting Overview

1.Introductions

Meet Alma Silver, the newest MRQC member

In her own words, "I am an accessibility consultant and serve on a variety of committees through the Arc, and I'm excited to be joining the MRQC. She/her pronouns."

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 14th 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, May 28th 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

Updates: The workgroup wants to make videos that help DSPs learn how to advocate on behalf of themselves and their profession. They sent the videos to Amy Hewitt from the U of M's ICI. The idea of making the videos was partially inspired by Amy. who mentioned legislators like to hear directly from their constituents.

- There is an opportunity to present the videos with Amy at an ARRM meeting in June 2025.
- They might make one more video showcasing DSPs and their advocacy experiences. But need to recruit DSPs in order to do it.
- Rod might be able to recruit DSPs he knows who have advocacy experience and are willing to talk about it.

- **Lynn: Self-Direction Conference in October**

Lynn informed us about an upcoming Self-Direction Conference that's in Saint Cloud on October 21st and 22nd. Attendees will learn how to self-direct their own care and have a chance to network with other attendees and sponsors.

- Cost $75 to sign up and $100 total
- There are scholarships available if the cost is a barrier to attend
- Someone like your employer can sponsor you to attend
- Looking for speakers who want to talk about their own lived experiences or are knowledgeable about a particular topic like ablism
- The RQC at the moment can't help reimburse you if you want to attend
- To learn more, visit https://www.harrymeyeringcenter.org/home/selfdirection/

Employment Workgroup

Interviewing Employment Services Providers

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

Scheduled interviews so far:

- Next Tuesday, May 12th virtual meeting from 10:30am-12pm with Lindsey from Achieve
  If interested in attending or help interview, please contact JoAnn

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

- Create 1-pagers to inform Minneapolis council members about the program and advocate for its increase in funding
- Scheduled meeting with Joe from Maple Grove City Development to help us look over the information sent to us from Minneapolis Public Works

  Meeting is scheduled for May 12th from 9-10am.

  If interested in attending and helping out, please contact JoAnn

Collab with ICI and their "Ready to Ride" project

The MRQC is helping the UofM's ICI's Ready to Ride project by gathering information from people with lived experiences about their transportation experiences. Besides the MRQC, Region 10 RQC along with ACT (Advocating Change Together) are helping to recruit and train participants.

Approach:

- Create survey questions, online version and document version
- Coordinate focus groups to foster conversations

Next Steps

- Reach out to Transition Programs

- Get their approval from school staff to have students complete surveys and conduct focus groups
- Schools so far that approved?
    - School district 196- Rosemount, Apple Valley, Eagan
    - School district 622- North Saint Paul
- Other ideas:
  Someone suggested partnering with Focus Beyond who work specifically with transition age students

- We can use the information we collect from the survey for-
    - ICI usage
    - Informing transit services about what pwds need
    - Educating legislators about what transit services pwds need

Additional ideas and questions?

Cortney shared: The second annual Great Minnesota Positive Supports Get Together is happening on June 11th. This is hosted by the Department of Human Services and ICI at U of M, and it is free.