METRO REGIONAL QUALITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Friday, May 13, 2022
9 am – 11:00 am

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.***

(Please Note: As the Chairperson, Jeffrey has requested that if you do not understand him please ask that he types out his statement or reply for understanding…do not pretend).

1) **Welcome Introductions (10 Min) – Kerri/Jeffrey**

Attendance: Jeffrey, Erin, Chelsea. Frank, Diane, Judi Marie, Kyle, Mohamed, Lindsey
Unable to attend: Rachel, Bradford, Rod, Tim, Katie (Katie has a new position with Scott County and will no longer be involved with the MRQC…A new Scott Cty. Rep. TBD)
Staff: Kerri, Buff, Becky and Beth (Arc Northland)
Guests: Stacie and Ari

- **Welcome to new MRQC member Lindsey Horowitz -- Post-Secondary Transition Specialist, Minnesota Department of Education!**
- **Welcome to our guest Speaker Stacie Enders -- Positive Supports Policy Analyst, Workforce Shortage Co-Lead, External Program Review Committee (EPRC) Coordinator; Disability Services Division, Minnesota Department of Human Services**
- **It is Friday the 13th … are you superstitious?**
  - **Most are not superstitious, but are curious about the history surrounding Friday the 13th.**

2) **Minutes from April Meeting (5 Min) -- Jeffrey**

- **Questions/comments?**
  - **None**

3) **New MRQC Coordinator (5 Min) -- Kerri**

- **JoAnn Leppink has accepted the position of Metro Regional Quality Council Coordinator and will be starting May 16, 2022!**
  - **JoAnn graduated from University of Wisconsin-Stout with a BS in Vocational Rehab and from Western Michigan University with a MA in the Blind and Low Vision Studies Program. Prior to accepting this position, JoAnn served as a Housing Navigator for the AmeriCorps Heading Home Program.**

4) Guest Speaker on Workforce Shortage -- Stacie Enders (60 Minutes)

- **Stacie will provide an overview of workforce shortage initiatives and legislation that is currently happening in the state of MN**
- **There will be time for Q&A, so please feel free to have questions prepared**

*******Break (10 Minutes)**

5) Debrief Stacie's Presentation/Information with breakout rooms (20 Minutes)

- **10 minutes/breakout**
- **10 minutes share thoughts with group**

- Stacie shared a lot of information from the DHS website, but this information may not be communicated/shared with the people who need it.
- Information and resources need to be communicated better to bring awareness to them
- DHS offers a lot if information but there is not teaching or training on how it can be applied or who is responsible
- We need to hone in on what we really want to do before we invite other guest speakers so we can be more clear/specific about our request for information. (Suggestions for other guest speakers include Linda Wolford and someone from the Olmstead Implementation Office.)
- Consensus is that the workforce shortage is an important priority, but how do we as a council want to make an impact.
- Stacie Enders indicated that she is working on a project to level the playing field with PCA vs DSP. Do we want to get involved with this? Hold a legislative session to inform legislators and make clear that there is a difference in the two positions…that when PCA's are given wage increases, this does not affect DSPs.
- There is work being done by Linda Wolford and her workgroup about pathways to the DSP profession and how job seekers can be directed to or informed of the profession; Larry Eisenstad from DEED (sp?) is working with high schools to create interest with students in the DSP profession
- We should talk to Aric and Liz about how Collaborative Safety relates to the Direct Workforce Shortage
- What ACTION do we want to take?
- Although everyone wants to work collaboratively, people/groups are still working in silos
- Quality is better when people are working together and builds a communication network
- Although we all know that Covid has made a negative impact on the workforce shortage, it was a problem before Covid and will continue to be a problem…We need to look at long-term solutions that won't go away as things improve with Covid

6) Bite Size Learning Opportunity (10 Minutes)

- **We did not get to this, so will try it another time!**

Ableism video: https://vimeo.com/492480733

Discussion Questions:

- **Why is learning about ableism important?**
- **What are some examples of how ableism shows up in your professional life?**
- **What do you think society could do better to include and accommodate Disabled people?**

(Bite size learnings are something that have been part of other RQC meetings and members have found them to be informative, thought provoking and make for good discussion. Please let Jeffrey and I know if this is something this council would like to continue with!)

Other

- **RQC Associate Job Position will be posted once JoAnn is on boarded. We want JoAnn to be involved with selecting the person she will supervise. Kerri will share the job description, once it is posted…please share with your networks. Please direct interested candidates to Kerri at kerrileucuta@arcminnesota.org or 507-513-7615**
- **Frank from the MRQC and two people from Region 10 RQC continue to review current charters/guidelines in an effort to create one document.**
  - **This workgroup will meet every two weeks until there is a draft ready to share with the councils.**
  - **If anyone else from the MRQC is interested, please reach out to Kerri**
- **Culture of Safety Data Action Group – Next meeting is scheduled for 5/20/2022**