METRO REGIONAL QUALITY COUNCIL Meeting Minutes

Friday, June 12th, 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: Ben, Mohamed, Becky Rother, Alma, Adam, Diane Fritz, Lynn, Rod,

Staff Attendees: JoAnn, Kerri, Cortney,

Meeting Overview

1.Introductions

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, July 9th 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, June 25th from 11am-12:30pm.

They are working on videos informing DSPs on how to advocate for themselves legislatively. Linda, the RQC coordinator for Region 10 will be presenting along with Amy Hewitt from ICI at **ARRM conference in July 14-15th** at the Mystic Lake Center in Prior Lake. They will be

talking about DSPs. They are recruiting DSPs who are willing to either appear or be quoted in a video. If you know of any DSPs who are interested, let an MRQC staff know.

They post videos on the RQC YouTube channel. To watch the videos, visit https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzjP45LzMKwiF0MRNzzjoMW3LWWuvv78P

Email the MRQC the DSP video flyer

- **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. The cost goes partly to get your exhibit table.
  - Looking for speakers, sponsors and entrepreneurs who want to talk about their own lived experiences or are knowledgeable about a particular topic like ablism.
  - To learn more, visit https://www.harrymeyeringcenter.org/home/selfdirection/

Employment Workgroup

Interviewing Employment Services Providers

The MRQC are in the process of reaching out to employment services providers so we can interview them. If interested in attending or want to help ask interview questions, please contact MRQC staff.

People interested in helping so far: **Alma, Diane, Benjamin**

We have 3 interviews so far. We need to work on defining the main themes/patterns of each interview response. The plan is to form a workgroup to work on this. Maybe meet once week or every other week to go over the responses.

Transportation Workgroup

1. **Minneapolis Snow Removal Program**

- If you live in Minneapolis, you can schedule a meeting with your Minneapolis City Council member and talk about the program and share your experiences dealing with snow and ice during winter.
- Wait to create promotional flyer until new statistics come out in July and the program is inactive.

If interested in helping out, please contact MRQC staff.

2. **Transportation Survey Project**

Goal- gather information about people with disabilities and their transportation needs and uses, in particular transition age people.

Approach:

- Create an online survey questionnaire, deadline for response submissions open till December 31st 2026.
- Coordinate focus groups to foster conversations

Results: 98 responses so far

Next Steps

- Reach out to Transition Programs
  - Get their approval from school staff to have students complete the survey and conduct focus groups
  - School participation so far?
    - School district 196- Rosemount, Apple Valley, Eagan
    - School district 622- North Saint Paul
- Reach out to:
  - Eden Prairie and submit completed research application form
  - Focus Beyond who work specifically with transition age students
  - Disability advocacy groups to get more responses
  - **Please share the survey with your networks. Access the Transportation Survey – Fill out form**
    The more responses we get from advocacy groups, the better!

3. **Share your thoughts about Sidewalks and Ramps:**
   - Saint Paul Public Works Draft ADA Plan is open for Comments.

- Approach:
    - We will plan on working on this as a group. Let an MRQC staff know if you are interested in taking part. We will start scheduling meetings to review the plan once a week ASAP.
- You can help shape the Saint Paul Public Works draft ADA Transition Plan. You can read the plan and which evaluated the city's conditions of sidewalks and pedestrian ramps. The draft ADA Transition Plan incorporates what we heard and lays out what Public Works will do to make Saint Paul accessible for all.

  The draft plan is **available for comment until July 6, 2026.**

  View Draft ADA Plan

  Share Your Comments on the Draft ADA Plan

4. **Rethinking i-94 update**
   Next step is the environmental impact statement phase
   There are 4 main issues to consider- purpose and need, social, economic, and environmental, community goals, other considerations

   Access https://talk.dot.state.mn.us/rethinking-i94 to learn more.

5. **What can we do while our projects take a pause?**
   A couple of our projects are inactive during the summertime but become active in fall.
   - **Build relationships with other disability organizations**
     The Disability Advisory Committee- they advise on many issues relating to pwds like public works, parks, employment, sidewalks, construction projects, and compliance with ADA. We should try to collaborate with them because they work on similar projects to ours.
   - **Getting involved in MCOTA and attending their meetings**
     MCOTA Home - MCOTA
     Quarterly meetings where state agencies (DHS, MNDOT, etc.) that have transportation as part of their responsibilities get together.
   - Contact **Mark Zoller,** *Accessibility Coordinator,* Department of Human Rights & Equal Economic Opportunity (HREEO)
     Mark.Zoller@ci.stpaul.mn.us
     www.StPaul.gov/HREEO
   - Form a group of self-advocates to talk to DHS about their efforts combatting fraud and how it affects providers and service recipients. The MRQC is small and might not have the capacity to take any action on this topic.