METRO REGIONAL QUALITY COUNCIL Meeting Minutes
Friday, July 11th, 2025, 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

Attendees: Lynn, Ben, Annelise, Mohamed, Diane, Adam, Cassie, Christina, Amelia S, Robin, Amelia D, Judi Marie, Becky R, Yue Wu

Staff Attendees: JoAnn, caption, Kerrie, Cortney, Sophie

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.

  Their next meeting is **Thursday, August 14th from 1-3pm.**

  Join Zoom Meeting
  https://arcminnesota.zoom.us/j/87931714598?pwd=J3UWuLFrAlr1mSVbNZFGayJ3Gwwnlx.1

  Meeting ID: 879 3171 4598
  Passcode: 116521

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

  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, July 24th from 11am-12:30pm.**
  Join Zoom Meeting
  https://arcminnesota.zoom.us/j/87154192462?pwd=aDE2YnBUcVR1S2dvc0NzOUpFWCt5dz09
  Meeting ID: 871 5419 2462
  Passcode: 266371

Employment Workgroup

Human Resources Project

Goal: Collaborating with faculty from college and university training HR programs to create learning opportunities for their students so students can become more educated about people with disabilities and their potential as future employees.

- Partnering with Olivia Lape and the Peer-to-Peer Mentor Program.
- Reaching out to:
  - Colleges/Universities with HR training programs.
  - Perhaps Frank and Mohamed can help since they have connections to colleges and universities
- **Actions to Take:**
  - Emailing Colleges and Universities

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.

Actions to take:

- Finalize drafts of the 2 surveys
- Secure partnership with Hennepin County
- Finalize drafts of the 2 flyers
- Finalize draft of email message template to use when emailing.
- Create an excel spreadsheet of employment services agencies to contact.
- Start emailing.

Email links to the surveys to Kerri and Stacy. Perhaps the surveys could be useful for the work being done in the Staffing Shortage workgroup.

Transportation Workgroup

Community Conversation Event- Rethinking i-94 project

The MNDOT staff of the Rethinking i-94 project want to have conversations with the different communities affected by the project. They want a chance to talk about the project and get the perspectives of the communities. They have asked Community Leaders to create opportunities where such conversations can be held. They might attend our September meeting.
For more information, access the MNDOT Rethinking i-94 page.
For a broader viewpoint, here are some links to a few local News articles.
From MPR News Rethinking i-94 article.
From MNPost Rethinking i-94 article.
To give a short overview:

- Originally built in the 1960s. This is an old highway and needs major repairs. The Corridor portion (7 ½ miles) which connects the downtowns of Saint Paul and Minneapolis is what is being worked on.

- MNDOT started this project back in 2016, but actual construction is planned to start in 2030 something.
- One mission of the project is to increase input from disenfranchised and marginalized communities who have historically been harmed by infrastructure projects such as highway projects. An example of this is the Rondo neighborhood.
- MNDOT recruited "Community Leaders" to act as representatives and connectors to the various communities affected by the project.
- The project's completion dates have been extended so MNDOT can get more feedback from the community.
- MNDOT proposed 10 options and narrowed it down to 4 options.
- There has been some controversy with the project, especially pertaining to MNDOT's community engagement process, prioritizing cars and trucks over people, negative impacts on the environment and people's health relating to their choice of final options.
- People are upset MNDOT proposed options which they didn't intend on moving forward with. The sentiment "You get what you build for" has been said by those advocating for At Grade option.
- People are upset that the At Grade (boulevard) option was removed.
  This is where instead of a freeway, it would be replaced by streets and allow for housing, businesses, parks, etc. on either side.
- To learn more about the 10 options, read the attached PDF-PAC presentation from Jan 17, 2025, start on page 18.
  MNDOT decided to move forward with 4 of the 10 options.
  The 4 options are:
  - ✓ No build
  - ✓ General maintenance B
  - ✓ Reduced freeway A
  - ✓ Reconfigure freeway

Council Feedback:

- The idea is to invite MNDOT to inform us about the project and have them get feedback from us, especially the viewpoint of people with disabilities and their advocates.
- The council overall supports the idea of holding a community conversation with MNDOT about the project on the date chosen.
- Once we cement a date and time, we will create a flyer to promote the event.
- It was suggested we invite people from other disability advocacy organizations to the event to share their voices on the matter.
- **When is it happening?** At the MRQC September meeting which September 12th from 9-11am.
- **Who to invite?** The Arc metro staff, MN Council on Disability, etc.
- **How to promote?** Table at the State Fair to promote the event and create a flyer for it. Perhaps partner with MN Council on Disability and set up a table in the Education building at the State Fair.