METRO REGIONAL QUALITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Friday February 14, 2019
9 am – 11am
The Arc Minnesota
2446 University Ave West, Suite 110
St. Paul, Minnesota
Hennepin/Ramsey Conference Room

Purpose Statement: The purpose of the Regional Quality Council is to connect with and promote all communities of people with disabilities so that services and supports help them to live a life based on their hopes and dreams. The council will work together to continually monitor and improve the quality of services and supports for people with disabilities. The council seeks to improve person-centered outcomes, quality of life indicators, and to drive overall systems change.

In Attendance: Angie Guenther, Tayler Guiccione, Joe Cuoco , Diane Sjolander, Robert Morneau, Georgann Rumsey, Ann Cirelle, Jeffrey, Katie Elleraas, Chelsea Lorenz, Rod Carlson, Tim Sullivan , Rebecca St. Martin Rhonda Godfrey, and Paris Gatlin.
Intern: Emily Van Krevelen and Josh Smith
Guest: Alicia Munson – Public Policy Director at Arc MN

1. **Introductions/What's Happening?**
   - Georg – the grant from The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) was not renewed. Georg will be taking on a new role for The Arc Minnesota in St. Cloud, she will be involved in policy work in regards to community engagement. Unfortunately, Georg will no longer be a council member. Paris Gatlin, Arc MN's Chief Advocacy Program & Services Officer, will be taking her spot on the council.
   - Georg – through her work with the OVW, they created a resource called, "Picture Guide to Mandated Reporting for Adults with Disabilities", which uses visual aids to demonstrate/educate people on what kind of situations will need to be reported if shared with a mandated reporter. It provides people with variety of options and honors the individual's self-determination.
   - Emily and Jeffrey have created a project to address the concern and challenges people with disabilities face when they want to work but do not know how their benefits will be impacted. They have created a focus group for people with disabilities to introduce the DB101 website and a tool DB101 called the "Work and Benefits Estimator".
   - There have been ten employer informational interviews so far and there are three more scheduled. Tayler explained some of the main takeaways from these interviews: employers report positive experiences with job coaches. A common challenge employers talked about was communication difficulties, transportation, creating flexible schedules, and attendance for employees with disabilities.
   - Tayler is working on a community engagement project, which includes making connections with organizations, councils, and self-advocacy groups. If you know of a group or organization that we should connect with, please connect with Angie.
   - There are 2 employment focus groups for people with disabilities planned on 2/18 and 2/24

2. **Legislative Update - Alicia Munson, Public Policy Director, Arc Minnesota**

- 2020 Legislative agenda:
    - Reform Minnesota's guardianship statute:
        - Statue has not been updated for the past ten years even though the approach has shifted among community and providers. The statue should align with this change and indorsing supportive decision-making for people with disabilities. Changes would align with Uniform Law Commission recommendations to promote the rights of each individual.
        - The changes would include time-limited guardianship, which would include reevaluation of guardianship for each situation and present other options available to the individual.
        - Input from council members: Concern about the impact this may have on family members and the additional work needed to reprove the same thing that has already been demonstrated.
    - Expand access to inclusive child care:
        - Challenges with finding child care for children with disabilities.
        - Solution: Establishing reimbursements for childcare providers and creating grants to encourage inclusive settings for children with disabilities.

Other topics on the 2020 Legislative Agenda, which were not discussed during council meeting.

- Promote employment at livable wages for people with IDD
- Enhance education and career pathways
- Prevent sexual violence
- Improve Personal Care Assistance services
- Invest in affordable, accessible housing statewide

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4. **Small groups: Discuss future work**

With a focus on engaging with, educating, and training people with disabilities and their families.
Consider: What types of work could the council take on? What would it look like?

- Community outreach: Address the Not In My Back Yard (NIMBY) mentality
    - What it looks like: National Night Out, city councils, etc.
- Follow up on Person Centered plans
    - What it looks like: Follow up on the actual plan to see if it is really being utilized
- Connect with other groups who have same goals/plans and help support them in their work
- Be a resource to help connect people who recently become disabled
    - Ex. Emotional support connections or providing them with resources to help them be supported in other ways during this transition
- Be a voice and help implement case management redesign, waiver reimagine, , and the switch from PCA services to Community First Services and Supports (CFSS) through stakeholder involvement
- Engagement with community, case managers, and stakeholders as a conduit – sharing the information from the content experts to the community
- Creating panels and work groups

    - Ex. DHS engagement with service providers
- Timeline for MNChoice Assessments is long, helping getting people connected to supports in the meantime
- Vetting legislative platforms for various groups to do focus groups and listening sessions (groups such as Best Life Alliance, MNCCD, ARRM, etc.)
- Transportation

Are there existing efforts already addressing these areas? If so, how would the council fit into this work?

- U of M: Utilize Grad students, ICI?
- STAR & Lifeworks may already have follow up on Person Centered plans
- Panels with waiver reimagine and case management redesign
- Virtual Insight Panel (VIP)
- MN APSE- focusing on Employment First model: providing feedback
- Social Security Administration:
    - ex. Putting DB101 and Disability Hub pamphlets with check from SSA

Do council operations need to shift in order to be effective in moving this work forward (and in addition to our employment work)?

- More DHS and SQC involvement during meetings
- Alternate small group and large group each month
- Combination of small and large group during the meeting
- Adding one hour to the meeting time
- More diversity in council
- Continuing talking with employers
    - Idea: Go to mayor's office and go directly to businesses to ask if they would be open to hiring people with disabilities

Angie will send out a survey to council members to narrow down the focus based on these ideas

6. **What's Working/What's Not**
    - **What's working:**

      -More time in small groups
      -Lots of ideas going forward, "brainstorming"- would like to see it narrowed down
      -Small group discussions
      -When you become matter of fact with us in order to create the change needed
      -Productive Conversation
      -Communicating with council members over zoom

    - **Not working:**

      -Room was too warm
      -Time management (2)
      -N/A

Next Meeting – March 13, 2020 from 9:00 – 11:00am