METRO REGIONAL QUALITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Friday September 11th, 2020
9 am – 11 am
The Arc Minnesota
2446 University Ave West, Suite 110
St. Paul, Minnesota
Zoom

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 Guccione, Erin Paredes, Tim, Katie Elleraas, Chelsea Lorenz, Mohamed Alfash, Joe Cuoco, Paris Gatlin, Robert Morneau, Jeffrey Nurick, Mary Gaasch, Kyle Dennis, Rebecca St. Martin, Rod Carlson, Rhonda Godfrey, Judi Marie Ringe

Guest: Poppy Sundquist, Jacob and Frank
Guest Speaker: Alicia Munson, Public Policy Director, the Arc Minnesota
Intern: Kayla Owens

1. **Introductions/What's Happening?**
   - Any updates or announcements to share?
     - Mohamed on committee to help people struggling because of Covid-19 in Ramsey county
     - Angie presented employment information this last month at person centered collaborative meeting with Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), and other government agencies present. More meetings on docket for employment, including one next Tuesday, to share employment best practices.

2. **Legislative Updates – Alicia Munson, Public Policy Director, The Arc Minnesota**
   - Federal updates
     - Congress still at stalemate in terms of Covid-19 relief response. Looks like there will not be any federal Covid-19 relief from the Federal Government until after the election in November.
     - The Arc US focusing on Covid-19 relief for those with disabilities.
     - Town Hall forum with Congressman Phillips
     - Important to continue to try to directly connect with Congress members thorough forums or direct outreach

        - Council member asked a question on how to reach out. - Alicia responded to figure out who's running in your district and then to participate in community events, reach out to them on social media by just sharing your personal story, elevating this as an election issue
        - Mohammed recommended reaching out to local and state government too. Also, federal assistance program for counties at a large enough size, in Minnesota this was Hennepin and Ramsey counties. Those counties are now trying to figure out how to spend this money; Mohammed suggested allocating some of it to individuals with disabilities that have been impacted by Covid-19. The council should try to connect with Hennepin and Ramsey counties to express this concern and suggestion of how to allocate their funds.
    - Minnesota Council of Nonprofits and Medicaid press conference to discuss keeping people with disabilities in mind during Covid-19 relief planning
- State updates
    - Governor Walz has been issuing extensions of peace time state of emergency which gives him broader authority to executive order. But legislation needs to approve this, and senate and house not agreeing, so Extension of peace time state remains.
    - Special Session
        - During first special session in June, new policy bill passed that put in statute, independent living first priorities, to promote most inclusive environment for those with disabilities.
        - Policies to prevent sexual abuse and assault in regard to support staff and those with disabilities was also passed
        - Public Health Grants of 10 million to reduce spread of Covid-19
        - Senate has sole responsibility to overturn commissioners
    - Discussion of bonding bill, really pushing for a housing bonding proposal
        - Homes for All coalition to create inclusive housing for all. However, long floor sessions have not resulted in a decision
    - Looking into next fiscal year, 7-billion-dollar shortfall
        - Advocate for positive change for those will disabilities
        - Protest against negative changes for those will disabilities
    - Engagement in Waiver Reimagine Project
        - Want to consolidate waivers to being based on where you live instead of what type of disability the person has
        - Concerns over if it is actually reimagining or is just a rebranding for them. Another concern that changes to this have not been accessible.
        - Engagement opportunities for Stakeholders on September 22nd and 23rd for Waiver Reimagine Project session. Link to register: https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=DHS-327204
    - Focus on policies around discrepancies in education during Covid-19, and students with disabilities who are distance learning. Fear of restrictive access for students with disabilities to quality and inclusive education.
    - Email Alicia Munson for additional questions or comments
        - Email: aliciamunson@arcminnesota.org

1. **Workgroups**
   - **Employment**
     - Updates to share?
       - First 3 We Work! Videos (as of Friday 9/11 morning)
         ADA/Introduction: 161 engagements / reached 1,258 people
         Job I Love: 272 engagements / reached 2,385 people
         Supporting Higher Education: 73 engagements / 1,531 people reached
         Total: 506 engagements / 5,174 people reached
       - Overall Facebook activity up 8,902%
         Post engagement up 883%
         Page likes up 750%
         Note: great improvements but should know initial numbers were low

     - Discuss progress on WeWork Campaign and MRQC Employment Report
       - Employment report awaiting final approval from Arc MN Policy Director and CEO
       - We Work! – next 6 videos lined up but waiting to receive them
         Angie asked: Would it be better to do a quick video or skip this week and wait for our community partners? Workgroup decided to skip next Wednesday
     - October Disability Employment Awareness Month – what can we do to honor/celebrate?
       - Connect and support other efforts
         Angie has volunteered to support efforts with the Department of Human Rights / ADA Celebration Planning Committee – waiting for details
         Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE), University of Minnesota Institute on Community Integration (ICI), etc.
         DEED? VRS?
       - How can we connect with employers?
         Look at the Fortune 500 companies based in MN
         Chambers of Commerce
         List of employers from interview efforts
       - Blogs from community members
       - Create a hashtag and ask council members to take to personal social media (if they are comfortable)

   - **Support Staff**

   Updates to share?
     - Finalized a project focusing on recruitment and retention
       - MRQC staff created provider and support staff surveys and sent to work group this week
       - Joe shared Supportive Living Solutions is worried about how much time it is going to take so not sure if they are going to do it. They also do something similar to this project already.

- Mary shared Hammer is onboard, just deciding who is going to be the point person in their human resource department because they are short staffed right now.

Review provider and staff surveys

- Rebecca wants target audience for this to broaden from providers to employers
  - Tayler agrees but choose to focus on organizations and agencies because we have these connections and to pilot test it
  - Others suggested to explore and broaden our reach after we do this pilot round
  - Rebecca and Erin suggested that we should change it right now, so we don't have to go back and change it later
  - Kyle agreed that this a universal tool for anyone
  - Other members suggested we should pilot test providers first
  - Rebecca suggested that we time the survey to see how long it takes to complete
- Feedback on First 3 Questions
  - Rebecca suggested that we should take neither agree nor disagree out
    - Rebecca wants to swap neither agree nor disagree with a category that's Not Applicable
    - Other members in group agree
    - Tayler will include new scale in next version to give feedback
- Suggestion to add Question in between 4 and 5 that says "Enjoy working with supervisors and other administrators (if any)"
  - Rebecca suggested switching from "enjoy working with" to "easy to work with"
  - Suggestion that this should be on employment survey instead
  - Suggestion of changing to "I have a good working relationship with"
    - Rebecca agrees with this suggestion
- Question 5
  - Changed "balance negatives with positives" with "communicate challenges a prospective employee might have with the

Project Plan - plan next steps, timeline, roles/responsibilities

- Tayler will make changes to surveys and send them out to group to review and finalize
- After workgroup finalizes surveys, MRQC staff will create surveys on SurveyMonkey and Tayler will send this out to group to review
- Tayler will look into how we will connect with organizations to utilize this data

2. **Large Group Share Out (10:50 - 11am)**
   - **Support staff workgroup**
     - Finalized project idea: Provide technical assistance to service providers to evaluate current practices in the area of staff recruitment, retention, and cost of turnover. The

Department of Human Services Recruitment and Retention in Supports for Minnesotans with Disabilities toolkit will be used as a guide for this project.

- MRQC staff created provider and support staff surveys. Workgroup made edits and hope to have the scripts finalized by next week.

3. **What's Working/What's Not (11am)**

Working: Technology

Not Working:

Next Meeting: October 9th, 2020 from 9:00 – 11:00am