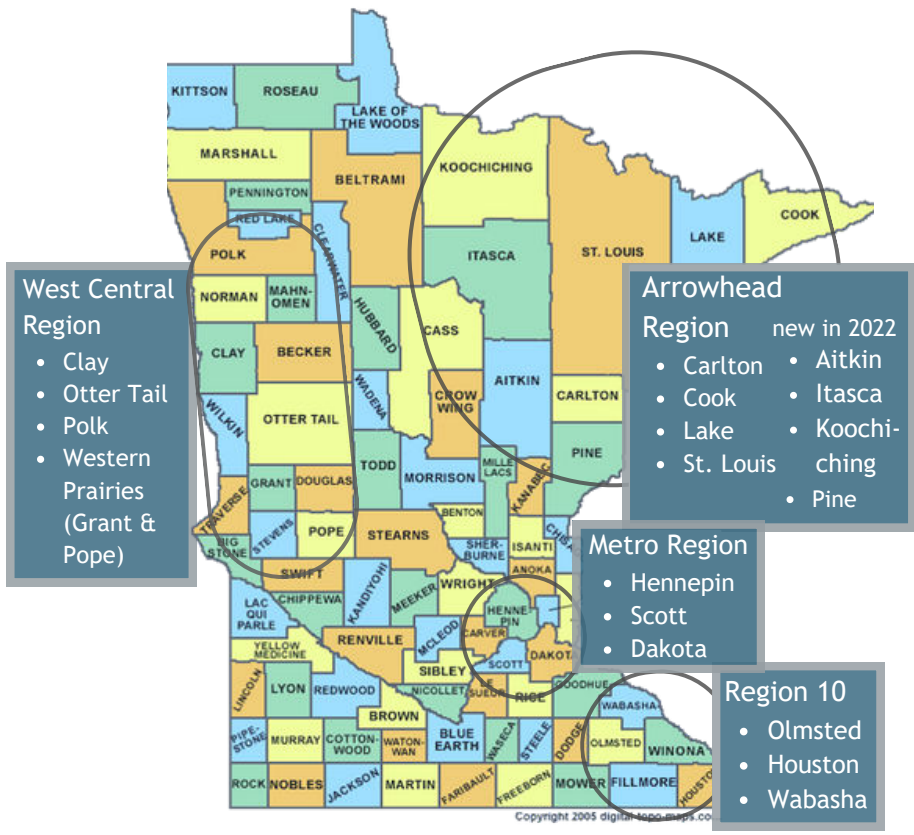


# REGIONAL QUALITY COUNCIL (RQC) NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 1 | JUNE 2023



## Statewide Workgroups

### Staffing Shortage

The Workforce Shortage Workgroup engaged with legislators this spring. The workgroup

- Educated them on how some of their bills would impact people with disabilities in Minnesota
- Advocated for bills that would make a positive impact

## Statewide News

The Regional Quality Councils (RQCs) work to improve the quality of services for people with disabilities. In partnership with the Minnesota Department of Human Services, 2022 was the start for a new contract for 4 Regional Quality Councils across the state of Minnesota:

- Region 10 Quality Council in Southeast Minnesota
- Metro Regional Quality Council
- West Central Quality Council
- Arrowhead Quality Council in Northeast Minnesota

The RQCs worked hard to get staffed, re-engage their council members and recruit new council members. The councils also determined regional priorities to focus on.

All four council work together on the statewide priority of addressing the workforce shortage that creates a barrier to disabled people living the life they desire.

### Culture of Safety - Data Action Group

Each council, except West Central, works with the Department of Human Services in a Data Action workgroup. The purpose is to:

- Review regional critical incidents in licensed settings
- Evaluate the systemic influences that contribute to them
- Make recommendations to DHS's Culture of Safety Action Group for change
- Help organizations move from a culture of fear... to a culture of safety

West Central will start a workgroup in the fall of 2023.

# REGIONAL COUNCILS

## Arrowhead (ARQC)



### Welcome New Staff in 2022

- Program Director Becky Lambert
- Program Coordinator Beth Johnson

ARQC added 4 new counties and 3 new members from the Iron Range with the new contract in 2022.

## Workgroups

ARQC focus is on Person Centered Practices, especially within the housing and transportation sectors.

- Develop a person-centered practices overview for specific groups of people. These groups include Direct Support Professionals from small providers, apartment managers and caretakers, transportation workers, and people with disabilities.
- Develop plain language materials on Person-Centered Thinking and Positive Behavior Supports in partnership with self-advocates in 3 different regions within the Arrowhead. We have also committed to continuing these self-advocate groups after the grant ends this summer.
- Joined the Affordable Housing Coalition and the Regional Transportation Coordinating Committee.

## Metro (MRQC)



### Welcome New Staff in 2022

- Coordinator JoAnn Leppink
  - Worked at AmeriCorps as a Housing Navigator at Catholic Charities Higher Ground location
- Associate Jeffrey Nurick joined in August 2022. Jeffrey was previously the MRQC chairperson.

## Workgroups

### Housing

- Address the increased need for affordable, safe, long-term housing for people with disabilities through the creation of informational videos
- Offer resources that help address needs

### Employment

- Aims to expand competitive employment opportunities for people with disabilities
- Work with self-advocates and employers to create resources and offer trainings

# REGIONAL COUNCILS

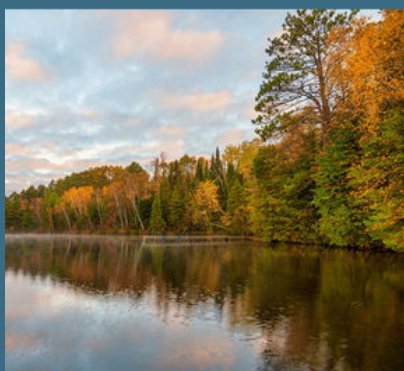
## Region 10



### Welcome new staff in 2022

- Coordinator Zoey Immygen  
Zoey moved from Florida, where she worked as an Election System Coordinator for Sumter County
- Associate Marta Milliken  
Marta has been with the Arc since 1999. She currently supports the Region 10 RQC and the other regional quality councils

## West Central



## Workgroups

### Housing

- Collaborating with accessible housing councils to educate decision-makers about the challenges, and changes needed, for people with disabilities
- Explored the idea of tenant councils
- Goal is to hold an accessibility walk before the end of the year. This would include demonstrate accessibility of local business and residential buildings.

### Transportation

- Worked with Rochester Public Transit to make their ZIPS (Zumbro Independent Passenger Service) paratransit application more accessible.
- Attended a training session at the Saint Cloud Metro Bus Mobility Training Center. They taught us how a transportation hub works. We learned how their person-centered process helps people get their transportation needs met.
- Our goal is to continue working with transportation providers to create more accessible transportation options and provide education.

## New Regional Quality Council in 2022

The West Central RQC started in September, with 15 council members. WCRQC currently has 22 members.

Coordinator Donna Atherton

- Served as the West Central Executive Director
- Parent of 2 adults with disabilities

Associate Katie Cragg started in April, 2023

- Parent of a teenager with disabilities
- Has a special education degree



# REGIONAL COUNCILS

## West Central Workgroups

### Employment

- Encouraging employers to hire people with disabilities
  - Show how people with disabilities can contribute to businesses
  - Provide information on accommodations

### Transition to adulthood

- Survey and focus groups to understand needs
- Transition checklist
- Information on guardianship, alternatives and supported decision making



The Regional Quality Council is a group of people working together to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities. Each Council welcomes people with diverse experiences, especially people with disabilities and their families, to join the council in their region.

For more information, go to: [www.qualitycouncilmn.org/contact](http://www.qualitycouncilmn.org/contact)

The RQC collaborates with regional stakeholders and partners to monitor and improve the quality of services, person-centered outcomes, and overall quality of life for individuals with disabilities.

A grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services supports Region Quality Councils.

The Arc Minnesota and The Arc Northland are Fiscal Hosts.