

Twin Cities Regional Capacity Building for Positive Supports

January 14th 1pm-2pm

Purpose:

The purpose of Regional Capacity Building is to promote and share information about Positive Supports regionally, and share recommendations with state leaders. Positive Supports are practices that improve quality of life and cultural responsiveness. Each region will form a network to build partnerships and help strengthen their communities.

Focus areas:

- [Positive Behavioral Supports](#)
- [Person Centered Thinking and Practices](#)

Agenda:

- Success Story Library update
- TOET Workgroup Update
- Ongoing meeting schedule discussion
- MII collaboration discussion
- Positive Supports Waiver Service Discussion/Lived Experience
- Hot Topic: January 20th, Noon-1pm
 - Charting the LifeCourse, Supported Decision Making
- Supported Decision Making Series

Meeting Notes

- Meeting: Twin Cities Regional Capacity Building for Positive Supports – January meeting (1/14/2026 at 1pm)
- Facilitator & Arc Staff: Cortney Kressin, Sophie Iverson (Metro RCB Associate), Jackie and Connor (Arc Interns)

Key updates/Meeting Notes

Success story library

- An intern, Connor, has begun working on a success story library, interviewing people who have previously shared success stories at earlier meetings.
- Connor may contact members by email, meeting, or phone to follow up; anyone with a positive experience (e.g., person-centered planning, Charting the LifeCourse,

People Planning Together) is encouraged to reach out to Cortney or Connor to be included. Connor can be reached at: arcsupportintern@arcminnesota.org

TOET work group (Tiered Onsite Evaluation Tool)

- The TOET work group is a subset of this regional group, with members including Sophie Randall and Jackie.
- The group has had several meetings and is exploring ways to incorporate self-advocate input into the science-based evaluation tool, with the goal of bringing draft ideas back to the full group around February–March for feedback and periodic check-ins.

Supported Decision-Making series

- An upcoming Supported Decision-Making series will be held on Fridays, and participants do not need to attend every session. Link to register: [Supported Decision-Making series](#)
- Planned content includes:
 - Overview by Anita Raymond, Center for Excellence in Supported Decision Making.
 - Self-advocate and parent panel sharing lived experience.
 - Session on special education and turning 18, with presenters from the Department of Education and a transition program administrator.
 - Presentation from Autism Advocacy and Law Center on the Bill of Rights for people under guardianship and how to end guardianship when it is no longer needed, with emphasis on supported decision making and the full continuum of options.
- A resource list will be sent out after the series.

DHS Workforce Shortage Initiative Survey & Culture of Safety Trainings:

- Complete DHS Workforce Shortage Initiative survey and Culture of Safety trainings:
 - Complete the [Workforce Shortage Initiative survey](#) if applicable to your role or organization.
 - Upcoming trainings related to the Culture of Safety initiative:
 - Three hour Orientation training: [Webinar announcement: Culture of Safety Orientation](#)
 - Three day Advanced Practical Trainings: [Webinar announcement: 2026 Culture of Safety Three-Day Advanced Practical Trainings](#)

Advocacy on funding and Days at the Capitol

- Alma announced a statewide funding freeze at the state level affecting Medicaid funds for PCA and other direct care services, urging participants to contact their representatives to request restoration of these funds and offering herself as a contact for more information.
- Courtney added that there are multiple Days at the Capitol coming up (including Disability Day at the Capitol and Social Work Day at the Capitol) and encouraged participants to:
 - Attend themed advocacy days or
 - Reach out directly to their legislators about issues such as the funding freeze and other concerns.
- The Arc's public policy team is available to help people connect with their representatives and support advocacy efforts.

Closing notes

- Courtney encouraged participants to use the remaining meeting time for rest, reflection, or mental health, rather than immediately returning to email, acknowledging she is recovering from a lingering illness.
- The meeting ended with thanks and an invitation to connect at the Hot Topic meeting, Days at the Capitol, and the Supported Decision-Making series