West Central Regional Quality Council
Funded by the Minnesota State Legislature

Meeting Minutes: July 16th 2024, 1:30 pm

The Regional Quality Council will:

1. Support efforts and initiatives that drive overall systems and social change to promote inclusion of people who have disabilities in Minnesota
2. Improve person-centered outcomes in disability services
3. Identify or enhance quality of life for people who have disabilities

West Central Regional Quality Council Meeting Minutes

Present: Jill, Chad, Janna, Phyllis, Shannon, Jessica, Melanie, Jason, Deb, Sheri, Sarah
RQC Staff: Katie, Kerri

1) **Welcome/Introductions.** (5 minutes)

2) **Disability Pride Month**
   a) **Dupree Edwards**
      - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbOGQNz6fKY
      - Missed the boat this year but Marissa and I hope to do an event next year for Disability Pride Month.

3) **Staffing for the Associate position**
   a) 49 applicants
   b) Narrowed it to 3 and have started interviews, hope to have the position filled by the end of the month.

4) **Council of Safety Data Action Group (DAG)** (5 minutes)
   a) Starting to talk about paperwork-how can we streamline it-this and then med errors will be our last 2 topics before recommendations.

West Central Regional Quality Council
Funded by the Minnesota State Legislature

Meeting Minutes: July 16th 2024, 1:30 pm

5) **Regional Capacity Building** (5 minutes)

   a) Individual region meetings. Now we will start focusing on who would like to be a part of the team. We are talking about maybe making a PATH. Also about doing a tutorial video on positive supports for new team members.

6) **Council membership** (5 minutes)

   a) Meeting time and date….does this still work well? Seems to work for most-and we have had good attendance. We will not change it unless attendance starts to changes.

7) **Workgroups -** Full council brainstorm

   a) **Employment** (35 minutes)

      - Able In Schools

         (1) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RfQYpIM21Kw

         (2) Kim Pladson-TNT Fitness looking to partner and work together for vocational opportunities and business education

         (3) Kim has some solid business partners. This will be a good opportunity to connect and team together on getting local businesses to hire people with disabilities.

         (4) Kim's point is…we are all trying to do the same thing. She would like to get us together and join forces.

         (5) Looking at starting to explore the workforce sooner. Not getting the students to work-but getting them interested in the idea. She would like to do industry tours. Moorhead does this-but for sophomores and some students are left out. We would look at specifically setting up opportunities for students with disabilities to look at local businesses.

         (6) Not sure what the council's role would be but Kim is looking to get further into MN with the curriculum. We could help with that as well as business education.

- Business Education
  - (1) Kim is talking about this as well-also starting to make businesses realize that they need to help in areas. Natural supports.
  - (2) The group talked about how it is important to start looking at talking with college age business students and HR. If we can educate this group before they become business owners or work in HR they would go into business knowing more about people with disabilities and more apt to hire them. This could end up being a recommendation-disability education for business majors.

b) **Reverse Job Fair/Disability Employment Month**: Talked about the reverse job fair and if that would be a possibility in October. I think that we need to step back and really try and connect with these businesses first or we will end up without participants like last year. Also needing to connect with people that are actively looking for a job. We possibly could look at doing a regular "job fair" and invite students and the disability community to.

c) **Job Coaches**: The reverse job fair conversation lead to an in-depth conversation on job coaches. Right now VR has been holding some applications in our region because of the lack of job coaches. How can we help with this? Is there a "think outside of the box" approach we can help with?

- Parent co-op type "sub" idea. Problem with this is parents also would need to be trained and hired by the agency.
  - (1) Wonder if each agency had a "parent" co-op type group? Parents/caregivers that have a certain time free in their day-they get hired as PRN

- Talked about parents using their network to find a job for their loved one. Usually this leads to more of a natural support situation which then helps with not needing a job coach or if the job coach can't go, the employee still can.

d) **Transition to Adulthood** (35 minutes)

- Transition check list now in Hmong and Vietnamese-will add that to our website soon.
  (1) Spanish, Somali, English, Kurdish…
  (2) Under "Transition Folder" https://www.qualitycouncilmn.org/work-group/west-central-transition-work-group/

- Guardianship Bill of Rights (Taylor and Nora)
  - Great resource. Has the bill of rights in plain language. This is a great resource for individuals under guardianship but also a great reminder to guardians of what their role is. There is also a fillable PDF available.
    - Under "Guardianship and Supported Decision Making" https://www.qualitycouncilmn.org/work-group/west-central-transition-work-group/

- Mental Health Session
  - NAMIMN-emailed the family peer group, they are doing a webinar on teens and mental health/drug use. Beth Love
    - She suggested doing a panel instead? The group agreed that this would be helpful. We would like to get a therapist as well as people with lived experience.
    - Decided on virtual-as it might be easier to get a therapist to participate.

- Waiver Services Session transitioning to adulthood--Cortney Kressin from The Arc?
  - We discussed what families would want to know.

- Keep it simple: Short history of why we have waivers-maybe share the Katie Beckett story, what type of waivers, why would you need one-but keeping in mind some do not.

- Talked about possible CDCS portion and then Disability Hub…this might have to turn into a series of webinars. Also briefly discussed maybe talking about the CFSS change as of October 1st. What will this look like?

- CTIC

  - No longer-due to lack of participation, there is no longer a CTIC. This seems to be the case across MN. Started once language was changed in the statute so it wasn't mandated.

- ND Assistive

  - Can do an open house, but if there are individual questions/specifics they still have to make a private appointment. Is this worth it then? Opinion?
    - The council agreed that it would still be worth doing an open house type event.
    - Just making sure it's clear to participants that if there are personal areas they want to address they will have to make a private appointment. This is due to how the program is funded and for record keeping.
    - We could send out a registration with a questionnaire though about what specifically people would like to see.

8) Next Meetings

a) Need Co-chairs – facilitate & help set agenda for meetings & workgroups

- **Next Meetings:**

  - **July 25th 11-12:30 Statewide Workforce Shortage Meeting**
  - **August 12th 1-3. Culture of Safety Data Action Group**
  - **August 20th, 1:30 - 3:15 WC Council meeting**

West Central Regional Quality Council
Funded by the Minnesota State Legislature

Meeting Minutes: July 16th 2024, 1:30 pm

WCQRC Activities

- The goal is to get one of these events ready for August and get into some transition fairs in September, so if you know of any-let me know.

Other meetings/workshops

Pacer Workshops

Disability Hub Calendar

Upcoming AuSm Workshops

Minutes from past meetings.