West Central Regional Quality Council
Funded by the Minnesota State Legislature

February 18, 2025, 1:30 pm-Virtual

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 Minutes

This meeting will be virtual only-no in person option

Join Zoom Meeting
https://arcminnesota.zoom.us/j/84751084695?pwd=GurDb5xFmzZL1bqE0VhxaqCJnS6IJ9.1

Meeting ID: 847 5108 4695
Passcode: 020219

Attendees: Kassi Sofferman (Arc MN), Katie Cragg (Arc MN), Sarah Johnson (Arc MN), Jason Melby (Self Advocate), Linda Driessen (Arc MN), Chad Erdmann (MH DHS), Sarah Jensen (Clay County), Shannon (CCRI), Michael Pulczinski (VR), Hollie Wanner (Clay Co) , Jessica Jackson (parent) , Laurie Sanders (Otter Tail), Jana Peterson (Dis.Law), Melanie Courrier (Ottertail)

1) **Welcome/Introductions.** (5 minutes)
   a) Favorite Candy Bar
2) **Arc Minnesota Micro Grant-Sarah Johnson**
   a) There are two categories, please choose the ONE that best fits your situation
   b) Application is available to prepare ahead of time to review and fill out to submit when the links are open
   c) Instead of saying something general like “I need a laptop”, write something more specific like “I would like a Dell laptop.” etc
   d) The process, once submitted, takes about a month and a half. Please keep an eye on your email in case more information is needed
   e) Any questions, feel free to reach out to Sarah Johnson at the Arc. Sarahjohnson@arcminnesota.org
3) **Council of Safety Data Action Group (DAG)**

a) One more consideration to do: Reducing of the amount of complexity in paperwork

4) **Regional Capacity Building**

a) Planning Person Centered Thinking training in the region

b) Also planning a condensed version for parents and families who do not want to do the full two-day training but would benefit from the information

5) **Capitol Connectors**

a) Now is the time to advocate for the Medicaid Waiver

- Affects students and people with disabilities

b) Call or write to elected officials - information and templates below!

c) If you have any clients or know anyone who would like to help, have them connect to Katie and she can get them connected to Capitol Connectors

6) **Membership**

a) Guidelines

- We can revisit later if we want to do separate workgroup meetings or keep our one meeting a month with both workgroups
- Other RQCs have co-chairs and executive committees who decide the agenda and co-facilitate meetings
  - (1) Question: How big are the councils that utilize the co chair and the executive groups?
    - (a) Katie will find out this information
    - (b) Our RQC is heavily professional-based and that is something we could improve. We need to recruit more self-advocates and parent advocates

- Workgroups are formed as needed
  - (1) Two to three topics
  - (2) Once we feel as though our workgroups topics have advanced or we have other things we would like to focus on instead, we can change our topic
    - (a) Examples: Housing, transportation
- There are mileage reimbursements for those who are out of town and would like to come to the in-person meetings

7) IEP Advocacy Questions

a) Are there any organizations that help with IEP meetings?

- PACER doesn't do them anymore
- Options or Freedom Resource Center
  - (1) https://www.myoptions.info/
  - (2) https://freedomrc.org/
- Possible Disability Law Center, they would need to call our intake, 1-800-292-4150 to open an intake
- Possible that parents can request someone from the dept of education to be present at IEP meetings for transition
- National Council on Independent Living https://ncil.org/

8) Workgroups – Full council brainstorm

a) Employment

- Subminimum Wage Series
  - (1) All the RQCs in the state are working on this series

(2) There will be five lunch and learns

(3) We will be inviting elected officials as well

- Employment Survey

b) Transition to Adulthood

- Technology and housing
- Registration question "what would you like to see"
- What's next resource

(1) Would be based on different areas, what's next in Moorhead would be different than what's next in Fergus Falls

(2) Talking about transition programs, some schools have this and others do not

(a) Schools should help with this whether they have a specific program or not

(3) Feedback: The paths are all just so different and dependent on location. So many different starting places. It can be overwhelming with all the options.

(a) Voc rehab as a resource?

(b) Possibly making a checklist of options after 12th grade, checking if your district has a program, etc

(i) Might have to be pretty general checklist

(4) Feedback: It seems that this is very much left for parents to figure out and we have no idea

(a) It is discouraging for parents to hear different things from all different sources

(5) Question: If a transition program in a nearby town is able to provide more than your school, can you apply to go there?

(a) It depends on if there is open enrollment in that district

- Inclusion event with MSUM and Hope Inc

9) Next Meetings and Events

- Thursday, February 20th Website Overview with Brian Johnson's website
- Thursday, February 27th Statewide Workforce Shortage Monthly Meetings
- Monday, March 10th Culture of Safety
- Monday, March 17th SASH 6 pm at MSUM
- Tuesday, March 18th Next WC RQC Meeting
- Monday, March 24th Becker County Transition Fair DL 5pm-7pm
- Tuesday, March 25th Rally at the Capitol Advocacy

Advocacy Information

Sample Email and script to elected officials for opposition to cuts in waivers

https://docs.google.com/document/d/14q61E11O8BZIwaiYR9b6mtyxOX5n4A5DK1vtheJcpA/edit?tab=t.0

Helpful Links

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Y-DCizyrEhe3xg54BJmSsPGHjTzHGPP/edit#heading=h.h5xy60xzu7k5

Other meetings/workshops

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Pacer Workshops

Disability Hub Calendar

Upcoming AuSm Workshops

Minutes from past meetings.