West Central Regional Quality Council
Funded by the Minnesota State Legislature

Minutes March 21st, 2024, 10:45 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 Minutes

Present: Michele, Jeff, Jen, Jason, Angela Doll, Angela Thompson

RQC Staff: Donna, Katie

Guest: Gene Martinez

1) **Welcome/Introductions.**
Icebreaker question: Favorite childhood snowstorm activity.

1. **Capital Connectors and Arc legislative agenda - Gene Martinez -** Arc MN Legislative Advocacy Coordinator

    a. **CDCS Bill (Consumer Directed Community Supports)**

        i. Change the budget structure so it would give more funding-comparable to those that use typical waiver services.

            1. Families' find that they need more than their budget allows.

        ii. More transparency about how the budget is determined

        iii. Trying to get counties across the state be more consistent for allowed expenses

    b. **Sub-minimum wage bill**

        i. Approximately 3200 are still getting sub-min.

        ii. Has been moved to a House bill vs the Governor's Budget.

        iii. Senator Utke proposed an amendment to delete sections of the bill that related to reducing or ending the use of 14c certificates in Minnesota. Senator Hoffman, who Chairs the committee, expressed support for this amendment, emphasizing the need for a plan to transition away from subminimum wages.

iv. Arguments:

1. People would lose services if subminimum wage wasn't an option
2. Providers need more time to figure out how to go forward if they can't use subminimum wage.
    a. Bills passed last year provides funds to help providers change their business plan and move toward competitive employment

c. MA EPD (Medical Assistance Employed for Persons with Disabilities)

i. Proposed bill to get reports due every 12 months instead of every 6 months. This will help be less of a burden for those that receive MA EPD.

ii. Would like to have it set up like TEFRA where if you are past due on a payment you don't get kicked out of the program. You still owe that money, but you can still get the services.

iii. Bill to eliminate premiums but that isn't likely this bonding year. This was proposed last year, but asset limits passed without eliminating premiums.

d. Capitol Connectors

i. Each congressional district has a group that meets monthly. This group can help with civic engagement. Also take a deeper dive into the policy that is trying to be passed.

ii. Next Meetings: April 10, 6:30-7:30 and May 8, 6:30-7:30

iii. Capitol Connectors

e. REV-UP MN (register educate vote use your power)

i. Voting rights engagement. Want to make sure people know their rights when it comes to voting.

ii. They hold educational forums.

West Central Regional Quality Council
Funded by the Minnesota State Legislature

Minutes March 21st, 2024, 10:45 pm

1. Next forum 3/22 11-12

   "Protections for Voters with Disabilities under Federal Law"

   https://arcminnesota.zoom.us/j/82496676453?pwd=0WanQNmt7rBhma9peCeSTEOTQhEl0v.1

   Meeting ID: 824 9667 6453
   Passcode: 456255

iii. Arc MN toolkit

1. REVMN fb page in this link
2. Other voter information

2. **Council of Safety Data Action Group (DAG)** Discussed the parts of our system contributing to the issues and what might need to change to improve things.
   a. Staff shortage demand-resource mismatch-starting to look at recommendations
   b. Challenges with medication administration-starting to look at recommendations
3. **Staff Shortage Workgroup –** Made 1 page documents about caregiver responses to FINDS survey and The Gathering responses regarding staffing shortage
4. **Council membership** Please provide suggestions or talk to potential members
5. **Workgroups -** Full council brainstorm
   a. **Employment**
      i. MBA presentation – March 20th
      ii. Hearts of Glass - date change - April 9th (Will email flier)
         1. The panel
            a. Steven Schmit from Blue Sky
            b. Kevin Anderson-local OT
            c. Jen-the film maker
            d. 2 employees from Vertical Harvest
         2. Options to view
            a. In person at MSUM

b. Online-both video and panel
c. Online video but go to MSUM for the panel

iii. Reverse Job Fair – May 8th (will email flier)
1. Partnering with Moorhead Career Academy
a. Tom will send info to MHS case managers and employers
2. If you know of anyone that is looking for a job let them know
a. Part-time, Summer employment, full-time

b. **Transition to Adulthood**

i. Transition services presentation-April 30, 6-7:30pm This webinar will review the basics about transition services from special education, Vocational Rehabilitation Services, State Services for the Blind, and waivers and how these programs work together to support youth and families.

ii. Technology session – working with ARRM

1. We are looking at doing a session on day-to-day technology

iii. Mental Health session

1. Katie is still working on this

iv. U of M ICI wants to do a community conversation about transitioning to adulthood.
1. Want to come to Moorhead but are open to other areas in our region as well.
2. This group talked about how different Moorhead is vs rural MN and it's important to see both.

v. Self-Direction session

1. Something we can think about in the future. At this point we don't have the capacity to do this.

6. **Next Meetings**

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

West Central Regional Quality Council
Funded by the Minnesota State Legislature

Minutes March 21st, 2024, 10:45 pm

- **Next Meetings:**
  - **March 28th, 11-12:30 Statewide Workforce Shortage Meeting**
  - **April 8th, 1-3. Culture of Safety Data Action Group**
  - **April 16th, 1:30 – hybrid RQC meeting** (3rd Tuesday of each month)
    For those that can attend in person, we will meet at Clay County Social Services in Moorhead. We will use KanDao technology to interact with people virtually

Looking ahead to April: We will have a hybrid meeting. For those that can attend in person, we will meet at the Clay County Family Service Center- Clay County Social Services, 5th Floor Spuds Mtg Room, 715 11th Street N, Moorhead. We will still have the Zoom option.

Minutes from past meetings.