West Central Regional Quality Council
Funded by the Minnesota State Legislature

Minutes: May 21st 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 Agenda

Hybrid meeting:

Present: Shannon, Deb, Sherri, Jason, Jessica, Lauri, Janna, Jeff

Arc Staff: Kerri, Donna, Katie

1) **Welcome/Introductions.** Welcome new member Deb Reif-Reda
2) E1-MN – Jeff Bjornson shared information about this and what local teams are doing.

Local Teams

- **Schools/Charter Schools/Districts/Cooperatives**: administrators, work coordinators, special and general education staff, counselors, social workers, nurses, 504 coordinators.
- **Vocational Rehabilitation Services/State Services for the Blind (VRS/SSB)**: Rehabilitation Area Managers (RAMS), Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) counselors, E1MN liaisons, Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) representatives, placement coordinators, State Services for the Blind (SSB) managers, SSB counselors.

Lead agencies (counties and tribal nations): supervisors, managers, waiver case managers, E1MN employment liaisons.

- E1MN is more of a Concept-different agencies working together to provide information/communicate

3) **Council of Safety Data Action Group (DAG)**

a) Added another member, so 2 new in the last few months

b) Reviewed recommendations from other RQCs

- Med management,
- access to services during hospital stays
- Consolidation of paperwork

c) Discussed medication standards, best practices for policies/training/administration, with some flexibility for providers– Chad mentioned Licensing would be able to provide some consistent information & standards for med administration and documentation.

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d) Talked about background disqualification categories and how long background checks take

4) **Staff Shortage Workgroup**

a) There will be a panel discussion on CDCS.
   - Parents and County workers
   - Discussion on how families are using CDCS and what is going well for them and what isn't.

5) **Capitol Connectors**

a) workshop on the Medical Assistance for Employed Persons (MA-EPD) program. *This is an issue on our 2024 legislative agenda that will return in 2025 to finish work on the reform of the MA-EPD program.* This work incentive program allows individuals with disabilities to pay a premium for their medical assistance. It allows participants to escape poverty and accumulate unlimited assets (after the 2023 legislative session).

However, there is still work to be done in terms of eliminating the premiums for MA-EPD and adjusting time periods for recertification and ensuring continuing access to MA-EPD if someone falls behind in payment of premiums.

6) **Council membership**

a) If you can think of anyone that would help our group, feel free to invite them or send their information to Katie (katiecragg@arcminnesota.org) and she can reach out.

7) **Workgroups -** Full council brainstorm

a) **Employment**
   - Reverse Job Fair cancelled
   - Employment pages on RQC website
   - Janna is doing some regional visits to day programs that have work programs paying subminimum wage.
     (1) She will talk with participants to see how they feel about working for subminimum wage.

- Discussion on possibly why families end up choosing the day programing either with or without the work option. Usually it's "easier" because it's a one stop shop- where cares are taken care of and participants can also work.

  This sometimes causes guardians not to be as mindful about the subminimum wage. The amount of care and scheduling stress that is taken off the guardian seems to outweigh the want for competitive employment. There doesn't seem to be other options?

- What can our group do? Opportunities we could provide or classes/webinars

b **Transition to Adulthood**

- Transition services presentation
  1. 19 attended via zoom
  2. Vocational Rehabilitation, MN Dept of Ed, Social Services, State Services for the Blind presented.

- Technology session - May 30th, 3:30 & 6 (the 6:00 session might be canceled due to low registrations) At MSUM

- Community conversations
  - MN ICI came and facilitated a discussion about transition to adulthood in Moorhead.
  - Parents, School administrator, Taps program director (NDSU program), County worker, Para, Self-Advocates
  - Great discussions on what we see going well in our community and what we see as areas we need to do better at. Katie will get the full notes from ICI and look for commonalities. There were 5 groups discussing the questions asked.
  - Parents really felt empowered and felt like they were being heard. Really great feedback from the parents that were involved.
  - Look at doing this across our region

- ACL Transition Workgroup

  - This is a statewide workgroup that met every few months throughout the school year to discuss MN ICI's progress on their research. Katie will try and get in the workgroup next school year.

- Talked about the community conversation and how that went in Moorhead. The other schools talked about what they were doing or seeing in their program that worked. Many have pretty extensive programs.

2. **Next Meetings**

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

- **Next Meetings:**
  - **May 23rd, 11-12:30 Statewide Workforce Shortage Meeting**
  - **June 10th, 1-3. Culture of Safety Data Action Group**
  - **June 18th, 1:30 - 3:15 WC RQC meeting-Virtual only this month**

WCQRC Activities

- May 30th, 3:30-4:30, 6-7 - ARRMS Technology workshop – Hybrid In-person/virtual

Other meetings/workshops

Pacer Workshops

Disability Hub Calendar

Upcoming AuSm Workshops

Minutes from past meetings.