West Central Regional Quality Council
Funded by the Minnesota State Legislature

September 16, 2025, 1:30 pm-Hybrid

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

Hybrid meeting-We will be meeting in the Room 8 on 1st floor of the Family Service Center or online

Join Zoom Meeting
https://arcminnesota.zoom.us/j/86181863433?pwd=TBF97J0MY0m5tLGOFySunetFXiYD53.1

Attendance: Katie Cragg, Kassi Sofferman, Christina Marquis, Chad Erdmann, Kerri Leucuta, Cortney Kressin, Michael Pulczinski, Kailee Fruetel, Sarah Jensen, Sherry Wahl, Jason Melby, Nancy Stensgard, Krystal Melby

1) **Welcome/Introductions.** (5 minutes)
   a) **Favorite Candy**
2) **Regional Capacity Building (10 min)** Cortney or Kassi
   a) Person Centered Basics Training Recap
      - 116 people attend at least one session!
      - Large representation from West Central region
   b) Working on partnering with the Family Resource Center in Clay County
   c) Parent Panel for transitioning out of high school, October 14th
      - https://arcminnesota.org/event/parent-panel-transition-out-of-high-school/
3) **Arc MN Micro grant program expansion**
   a) **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I22kxQuz3iA**
      - **Will be making a video like this highlighting the importance of recreation and leisure activities.**
   b) **We are looking for a couple of people that would be willing to tell their story about how they feel when they participate in leisure/rec activities-especially if that**

includes using specialized equipment to do so. The new grant program will help pay for recreation equipment. This could be adaptive equipment or just equipment that you can use to participate in rec and leisure activities.

4) **Nancy Stensgard from Rural MN CEP**
   - **a)** Grant program started 18 months ago, no flyers yet
   - **b)** Planning a parent workshop on October 30th with Pacer at the Family Service Center
   - **c)** Helping with transition age, ages 17 through 24
   - **d)** Focusing on what happens after graduation, what resources to support them
   - **e)** Partnering with Voc Rehab and schools and more

5) **Workgroups -** Full council brainstorm
   - **a) Transition to Adulthood** (35 minutes)
     - SASH and Legislative/Policy Updates
       - (1) Tina Rucci and Maeve Olson came up for SASH.
         - (a) Medicaid 101
       - (2) Rep Heather Keeler
         - (a) Seclusion rooms-had a discussion on this
         - (b) With the makeup of both house and senate there probably wont be a ton of policy changes-anything that will be passed will need to be bipartisan.
         - (c) Special Education Liaison-very brief discussion and I'm going to follow up with her.
           - (i) Help with Transition
           - (ii) Maybe this position could help MDE follow-up and make sure violations are changed. Might get tricky if this is a school appointed position.

(d) MDE and iep violations-there just isn't accountability. What to look at the integrity of programs.

(e) Talked about transportation-safe to school routes. Also talked about widening sidewalks.

(3) Senator Rob Kupec

(a) Vice chair of a new committee to look at how the federal cuts will economically affect Minnesota.

(b) Talked about the trickle down of Medicaid cuts-hospitals will cut positions leaving families without a job(s) especially in rural/greater mn.

(c) Medicaid payback/lookback right now is 3 months this will change to 1 month—talked about how that really could be a strain on families dealing with a new dx...sometimes the process to get a dx and get Medicaid will take longer than a month-meanwhile you have to still doctor and get the treatment.

- Transition Videos-
  (1) What would be worth doing a short video on?
- Parent Panel

b) Employment (35 minutes)

- October event w/Cass Arc—sounds like this isn't going to happen
- Business Highlight in October—waiting to hear back from PA
- Employment Videos
  (1) Same as transition. Thought we'd do
  (a) Customized employment focused on business language-what is in it for the business. Who do we put as a contact?
  (b) Parents job...

6) Culture of Safety Data Action Group (DAG) (5 minutes)

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7) Next Meetings and Events

- Thursday, September 25th 11-12:30 Statewide Workforce Shortage Monthly Meeting
- Monday, October 13th 1-3 Culture of Safety
- Wednesday, October 14th 3-4pm West Central Regional Capacity Building Meeting
- Tuesday, October 21st 1:30-3:15 WC RQC Meeting

Other meetings/workshops

Pacer Workshops

Disability Hub Calendar

Upcoming AuSm Workshops

Minutes from past meetings.