West Central Regional Quality Council
Funded by the Minnesota State Legislature

Notes January 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 Agenda

Sorry, no recording this month.

Present: Sherri, Michele, Chad, Jen, Mike, Lauri, Janna, Melanie, Jackie, Jason

RQC Staff: Donna, Katie, Kerri **Guest:** Brittanie Hernandez-Wilson

1) **Welcome/Introductions.**
Icebreaker question: Volunteering ideas
   - Senior Citizens centers, Nursing/retirement homes, adaptive programs/Special Olympics, animals (shelters), Flowers/community garden, Farm to table, food shelf, schools, church, bell ringing, non-profit events, homeless shelters, library, sporting events, community gardens

2. **Ableism & The Arc Minnesota legislative proposal -** Brittanie Hernandez-Wilson

   - Arc Legislative Agenda https://arcminnesota.org/public-policy/legislative-agenda/ Detailed agenda items
     - Teachers and school staff need training on ableism.
       - This is not part of the education licensing, and The Arc Minnesota feels it should be.
       - Not only for special education teachers but for all educators.
     - People with disabilities should be leading this training as they are the ones with lived experience.
     - This bill will have minimal cost and schools shouldn't have to re-create this training as there are people already out there doing it.
   - Contact Brittanie for questions or to talk about this
     - Brittaniehernandezwilson@arcminnesota.org

- Maren.christenson@gmail.com - Arc MN Public Policy chair very involved with this and the playground agenda

3. **Council of Safety Data Action Group (DAG)** systemic barriers or challenges
    - Staffing shortage impacts for provider capacity and lead agency social services
    - Background studies/check limitations
    - Challenges with medication administration
4. **Staff Shortage Workgroup**– Kerri
    - Gathering-RQCs in Duluth and Rochester areas hosted in-person day of "The Gathering"
    - Participants in both areas agreed on the issues
        - Providers are struggling to match clients with staff because of the worker shortage.
        - DSPs underpaid
        - Staff aren't trained for person-centered care
        - Workers are overworked
        - People with disabilities are struggling to live a person-centered life because of the shortage.
            - They can't work because there aren't job coaches.
            - They can't be out in the community because there aren't enough staff to take them.
    - Focus on educating legislatures in how the system works
        - Many don't know the language (PCA and DSP are different)
5. **Council membership**
    - We need to look beyond Moorhead for committee members.
    - We only have 1 self-advocate, would like to get a few more.
6. **Workgroups -** Full council brainstorm
    - **Employment** (25 minutes)

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i. **Hearts of Glass** tentatively set for April 11th, MSUM
    1. Dr. Marcia Scarpin – will include it in curriculum for her Concordia class
        a. 30 students
        b. Might struggle getting students to go in person for panel but will record it so she can have them watch it.
    2. Shirley Johnson, MSUM Special Ed, excited about participating
        a. Perhaps use CMU - streaming - fee
        b. Shirley will talk to advisors from MSUM student groups to help market and plan
            i. Student Council for Exceptional Children (SCEC)
            ii. National Student Speech-Language and Hearing Association (NSSLHA)
            iii. Education Minnesota Aspiring Educators
    3. Panel – consider who could provide an inclusive perspective and lived experience
        a. Provider
        b. Voc rehab
        c. OT – Kevin Anderson
        d. Employer (Hornbachers?)
        e. Self-advocate
        f. Entrepreneurs
            i. Check out Emerging Prairies Startup Brew weekly meetings at

ii. Reverse Job Fair
    1. We will be talking to Kjersten Skatvold from MHS
    2. Start thinking about people you know that might need a job.
    3. Start thinking about businesses you know that might want to hire.

iii. Became member of MBA (Moorhead Business Association)

- **Transition to Adulthood** (25 minutes)
    i. Checklist translated to Kurdish, Somali, Spanish – on website

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ii. **Financial Planning/Estate Planning training** with Brandon Erickson-6:30pm February 22nd – be interesting to include someone who uses trusts and ABLE

iii. Maybe look at doing a training on SSI and MA especially the different kinds of MA. (MAEPD asset limit change-you can work)

iv. Technology for work & home –Alaina Gallagher from ARRM

v. Self-direction seminar – speaker next month from Mankato Self-direction Connection Conference

1. Would we want to do this or take parts of it and put a mini version on?

vi. Mental health practitioner

1. Looking for a practitioner that would be willing to do a group with parents about the mental toll transition takes on Students and Parents/Caregivers.

7. **Action Items:**

- Need new members for the council - try to think of 1 person and talk to them or send suggestions to Donna. Outside of Moorhead preferred. We are especially looking for self-advocates.
- Spread the word about the Hearts of Glass documentary and event
- Spread the word about **Financial Planning/Estate Planning training** 6:30pm February 22nd – be interesting to include someone who uses trusts and ABLE. Flyer to come

8. **Next Meetings** (Email Donna if you'd like an invite to any of the meetings)

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

Next Meetings:

- **January 25th, 11-12:30 Statewide Workforce Shortage Meeting**
- **February 12th, 1-3. Culture of Safety Data Action Group**
- **February 20th, 1:30 - WCRQC meeting** (3rd Tuesday of each month)

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- **Hybrid meeting in April? Location?**

Minutes from past meetings.