West Central Regional Quality Council
Funded by the Minnesota State Legislature

Notes November 21st, 2023, 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 Notes

Present: Jason, Michele, Jen, Phyllis, Laurie, Jacki
Staff: Donna, Katie and Kerri

1) **Welcome/Introductions.**

Icebreaker question: Favorite Thanksgiving activity

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

   a) Discussed Demand-Resource Mismatch

3) **Staff Shortage Workgroup/The Gathering** –

   a) No meeting this month. Kerri talked about The Gathering. The Gathering happens every October. It was in person one day & online another day this year. It's a time to share information and learn. They try to keep it from having a "conference feeling" but more of a "gathering" of people to share information. The North and South part of the state both had sessions. There were discussions on workforce shortage and both North and South came up with very similar answers in the discussion. The groups will compile the information that was discussed.

4) **Considerations for 2024**

   a) Workgroups – do we keep Employment & Transition to Adulthood

      - For the time being we will keep these until our projects are complete and then we will re-visit the question.

   b) Meeting days – will send questions to missing members

   c) Virtual or hybrid? - if hybrid, can use a device that can help with capturing the people that are "in person". Would need to find an in-person location. Sounded

like virtual worked best for most but we talked about possibly doing an in-person quarterly or 2x/year. This seemed doable for most. We will re-visit this.

d) Council membership – number of people have only come once; attendance spotty. Will discuss council expectations. Think of others that might be interested, especially those outside of the Moorhead area.

5) **Workgroups -** Full council brainstorm

a) **Employment**

- The videos are on the West Central RQC Employment Workgroup website page and social media .
  (1) The Arc Minnesota YouTube channel (81 views and 2,557 impressions as of 11/14/23)
  (2) The Arc Minnesota Facebook page – reach - 185, total minutes viewed – 43
  (3) The RQC Facebook page - Post reach - 23
  (4) CTV, which will generate 35,000 impressions
  (5) LinkedIn - specifically aimed at HR professionals

Oct. 1-Nov. 14	Views	Users	Views per user	Ave. engagement	clicks	File download
employment-work-group	519	263	2.05	1m 13s	15	52

(6) shared information on Disability Employment Awareness Month.
  (a) Fargo Kiwanis and Moorhead Vikingland Kiwanis,
  (b) posts on the RQC Facebook page.
(7) Employment Plans for next year:
  (a) Screening and discussion of the documentary Hearts of Glass.
    (i) partner with college business, social work, and other departments
  (b) Reverse Job Fair
  (c) Customized Employment?

b) **Transition to Adulthood**

- **Rethinking Guardianship for Transition Age Young Adults with Disabilities: The Promise of Supported Decision Making**. Presenter - Anita Raymond from Volunteers of America

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(a) 14 attendees included parents, case managers, a teacher, and advocates.

- Transition Check list & Resources on website
- Website statistics as of 11/14/23

Oct. 1-Nov. 14	Views	Users	Views per user	Clicks	File downloads
transition-work-group/	140	58	2.46	27	13

- Made transition binders and will send them to schools in the region as hardcopy samples. The material is available digitally on website:
  (1) Transition Checklist
  (2) One Page Profile - captures important information about a person on a single sheet of paper
    (a) what people appreciate about me
    (b) what's important to me
  (3) Resources
- Table at Moorhead High School Transition Fair – 10/30
- Surveys
  (1) transition survey one more person responded to. Rank
    (a) Post-secondary education
    (b) financial planning
    (c) Supports & services
- Transition Plans for next year:
  (1) Mental health practitioner to provide tools for students with disabilities that are not able to do some of the things their peers are doing (ie. Driving, inclusion in the community…) Social/emotional goals
  (2) Technology for living and working independently – ARRM
  (3) Post Secondary discussion with a couple colleges.
  (4) Financial Plan-possible webinar with a lawyer to lay out options and give out resources.
    (a) Big picture-not just about trusts but all aspects of how to plan financially. Jackie suggested Brandon Erickson
    (b) The Vault
  (5) Paid Support and services
    (a) Self Direction conference? (Sharing the Needs Self-Direction Connection Conference (harrymeyeringcenter.org))

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6) Recommendations:

a) School districts across Minnesota are not consistent with their programing for transition. This makes inequitable opportunities for students. MDE could provide guidance.
b) Recommend MDE guidance/Q & A to explain the options for parent to participate in Individualized Education Program meeting upon Transfer of Rights
c) There are efforts through many entities, including E1MN and Disability Hub to help people understand steps for transition. Disability Hub has great resources, but many parents are not aware of this. Explore more ways to get information out.
d) Community Transition Interagency Committees (CTIC) could be one avenue, but many counties that do not have a CTIC.
e) School districts and partners could train and utilize parent mentors/navigators
f) Teacher development
g) Continually raise awareness of the value of people with disabilities in the workplace. Work to eliminate Subminimum wage.
h) Continue to fund Innovation Grants to help people with disabilities achieve their personal employment and inclusive housing goals
i) Increase awareness of Employer Reasonable Accommodation Fund and any other funds to help employers include workers with disabilities
j) Develop more ways to encourage hiring people with disabilities
k) Increase transportation options, especially in more rural areas

7) **Next Meetings** (2 minutes)

a) Need Co-chairs – facilitate & help set agenda for meetings & workgroups
   - **Next Meetings:**
     - **Statewide Workforce Shortage Meeting cancelled for November & TBD December**
     - **December 11th, 1-3. Culture of Safety Data Action Group**
     - **December 19th, 1:30 - WCRQC meeting** (3rd Tuesday of each month)

Minutes from past meetings.

Workshops Sponsored by The Arc Minnesota

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Unlocking Opportunities: Job Searching with Self-Advocates
November 28th, 5:30- 6:30pm Zoom Virtual Meeting
Are you interested in finding a job, but not sure where to begin? Join us for an upcoming zoom event focused on helping you in your job search. Self-advocates will share their personal job search experience. They will also provide valuable tips for job searching online and in person. Everyone is welcome to attend, including family and support professionals. Let's empower and support each other on our employment journeys!
Registration

Other workshops:

IASE Virtual Dialogue on the Transition of Youth/Young Adults with Disabilities to Adulthood.
Saturday, December 2, at 9:00 AM (CT)
Moderator: Renata Ticha, Ph.D., IASE President
Presenters are from Australia, Austria, Czech Republic and the US.
https://umn.zoom.us/j/94650367120?pwd=OHZhN3NmeGJJcURsT3MwVldBR05odz09

MIHEC Learning Community Event: A Community-Based Collaborative Transition Model for Minnesota Youth with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (October 10)
Recording of Project overview and findings
https://youtu.be/ICfzBQXon1k

CEC Workshop
How Educators Can Help Students with Intellectual Disability to Think College
Date: Wednesday, Dec 6
Time: 5:00pm-6:00pm
https://exceptionalchildren.org/events/how-educators-can-help-students-intellectual-disability-think-college

Pacer Workshop

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Supplemental Security Income: Qualifying for Benefits

Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Time: 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Join us to hear speakers from Disability Determination Services unravel the mysteries of applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for young adults at age 18 and over. Medical Relations Officers Sara Dicks and Tanya Heitzinger will help clarify the eligibility and application process while providing tips on how to submit a successful application. Participants will also learn how SSI can benefit youth while working or attending post-secondary education.

Location: Online Web Streaming Register for this workshop