West Central Regional Quality Council
Funded by the Minnesota State Legislature

April 15, 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 Meeting Minutes

Hybrid meeting-We will be meeting in room 2 on the main floor of the Family Service Center

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

Attendance: Katie Cragg (Arc), Kassi Sofferman (Arc), Cortney Kressin (Arc), Michele Mogen (community member), Sarah Johnson (Arc), Jason (self-advocate), Sherry (parent advocate), Janna (MN disability law center), Holly (CCSS), Christina Marquis, Alicia Caputo, Chad Erdmann

1) **Welcome/Introductions.** (5 minutes)
   a) Favorite Spring Activity?
2) **Sarah Johnson Microgrant Discussion**
   a) **Panel on starting your own business, will be on the 29th of May**
   b) **Panel consists of 5 small business owners**
   c) **Question ideas:**
      - **How many people went through Vocational Rehabilitation for help?**
      - **If they did go through voc rehab, was it helpful?**
      - **Curious about financial aspects of it regarding business assets. Where do the finances come from, how do people access that?**
      - **What kind of supports? Who supported you in this venture, parent, case manager, etc? Or was it all by yourself?**
      - **How do you know and decide what's best for you, nonprofit or for-profit?**
      - **How do you know what kind of business you wanted to do?**
      - **Do you file your own taxes for your business or does someone help you with your taxes?**

- **Curious about marketing and design. How do you create your own logo, how do you go about marketing promotions?**
- **How do you determine if there's a market for the product that you want to sell? How do you determine the need and interest from the community?**
- **Registration link: https://arcminnesota.zoom.us/j/83559824084?pwd=83D44Cnwdr6pEU9BbBWak03rRnKKyF.1**

d) **How can we get a list going of small business owners with products and/or services to support? There is one starting in the metro but we would like to start a resource guide in the west central region.**

- **Google form?**
- **Sarah: Maybe adding a question to the form that is already sent out to the microgrant recipients, if they would like their small business advertised on our website**
- **https://www.qualitycouncilmn.org/entrepreneurs-within-the-disability-community/**

3) **Regional Capacity Building (10 min)** Cortney

4) **Workgroups -** Full council brainstorm

a) **Employment** (35 minutes)

- Business Survey Update
  - (1) Share results and discuss-share screen
    - (a) Promoting information on accommodations for businesses
  - (2) I do think this gives us insight that really any information would be useful. Kassi is going through what we have as RQCs already and maybe going

to condense the information or make a QR code type resource for businesses to use.

(3) MBA job fair. Do we go hand out the survey…or do we go hand out information on hiring people with disabilities? Or both? Wednesday 10-?

- Marketing discussion
  - (1) Link and QR code to West Central Newsletter
  - (2) TikTok Thoughts? How can we make sure what we are making is being seen? Employment videos.
  - (3) Anyone have ties to radio/media?

b) Transition to Adulthood (35 minutes)

- DL transition fair-a wide variety of people 16-24. 100 went through. We had 40ish at the table and I talked to maybe 15-20. Really a great turnout.
  - (1) Thought for Moorhead in the future... Market to everyone!
  - (2) Reaching out to community partners to market for it as well, with reminders
- MN ICI grant on transportation-still in the works, but they are looking at our area or the metro to be involved in the pilot program. It's educating people with disabilities how to use public transportation.
  - (1) Travel trainer?
- What's next resource-brainstorm the different paths
  - (1) Why? Even if we don't hit everything…parents truly don't know what their options are. I think that lists help. For example-R MN Cep? Nobody has heard of that. If parents can see a list-even if we say, this is a start and we might have missed options…I think it would be helpful.
    - (a) Webinar for finding purposeful work

5) Other (10 minutes)

a) Elimination of Subminimum wage lunch and learn-Tuesdays in April

- This is going really well! We are having about 45-60 people each session and the sessions are very interesting. I will send out a copy of the youtube page with the notes.

b) Policy Update & Day at the Capitol

- Day at the Capitol was great. 2 self-advocates from our region-that I know of, there may have been more. Met with Rep Keeler. She wants to meet again in the summer to talk and brainstorm ideas for bills that would help with a number of things, but mainly worker shortage for DSPs and PCAs. She said there has been an idea of a "sub" type list-which I believe we've talked about something similar. She mentioned that she doesn't love the idea of parents being the ones on the list as they typically already are so tapped out.

- **SF 1062**-DSP certification, **HF 1803** –IEP short term goal changes and option to wait on transition, **SF 1101-**Requires insurance companies to cover AAC devices

  (1) Basically all of these seem to just be sitting there.

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

a) Meeting yesterday

7) Next Meetings and Events

- Thursday, April 24th Statewide Workforce Shortage Monthly Meeting
- Tuesday, April 29th Rally at the Capitol
- Monday, May 12th Culture of Safety
- Tuesday, May 13th West Central Regional Capacity Building for Positive Supports
- Tuesday, May 20th West Central RQC Meeting
- Thursday, May 22nd Statewide Workforce Shortage Monthly Meeting

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Other meetings/workshops

Pacer Workshops

Disability Hub Calendar

Upcoming AuSm Workshops

Minutes from past meetings.