West Central Regional Quality Council
Funded by the Minnesota State Legislature

Agenda April 18th, 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 4/18/23

Present: Mike, Sherri, Shannon, Jen, Marni, Hollie, Jason, Laurie, Lukas, Celeste, Melanie,
Absent: Jackie, David, Calley, Chad, Phyllis, Christine, Bill, Angela, Janna
RQC staff: Donna, Kerri, Marta, Katie
Guest: Dawn Swiers

1) **Welcome/Introductions.**
Welcome Celeste Weber (Vocational Rehabilitation), Lukas Senn, (Self-Advocate), & Katie Cragg, new West Central RQC Associate!

Icebreaker question: As we look at supported decision making, are there people you turn to for support? Would this be any different for people with disabilities? (10 minutes)

2) **Presentation – MaxAbility -** Dawn Swiers

- Dawn talked about their Rochester MaxAbility task force.
- They do 4 educational trainings/year for employers to educate them on the benefits of hiring an employee with a disability. Helps the employers connect to people in the community who can help them make a successful workplace for people with disabilities.
- Reverse job fair: Instead of the business being the one at the individual tables, it is the employee seeking a job.
    - This person will have info about themselves
        - "Present" themselves to employers that walk around and talk to each individual looking for a job. Those seeking a job could possibly have interview questions given to them beforehand so they are prepared.
    - Work with job seekers well in advance of the job fair date.
    - 6 weeks out, they start marketing it heavily to local businesses. They recruit businesses that align with the job seekers
    - At 3 weeks out - send out a registration and get businesses signed up
    - 1 week out - remind businesses to attend

- Make sure each job seeker is preparing for their table
- Target Market has been ages18-24, but could be older if that is where the need is.

- Traditional career fair: A job fair that would be specific to those with a disability

3) **Workforce shortage workgroup** update

- Has been meeting twice a month
- Learned about the legislative process
- Determined which legislative bills aligned with workforce staff shortage
  - Were going to put them in plain language, but determined we started too late. This would not have much impact at this point.
- Wrote a letter to the conference committee for the Omnibus bills.
  - Commented on the issues identified in the bills that were included
  - The letters will be sent via email and hand delivered

4) **Membership**

a) Who is missing? Are there people we could add for the workgroups?

Clay County is the only county represented in the following categories

- People with disabilities - have 3
- Family Members of people who have disabilities - have 4
- Disability Service Providers - have 4
- Disability Advocacy Groups -1 (regional)

5) **Workgroups -** Full council brainstorm

a) Employment (30 minutes)

- Jackie talked with TellWell. A video would be $5-8,000. Shannon has worked with them. If you share your purpose and intent, they can help you develop and script the video. Taylor also might be a good video resource.

- Talked about possibly talking with employers about why they do or do not hire those with disabilities. Mike suggested doing business tours to start a rapport with the business.
- MRQC did a fact vs fiction and other handouts that might be nice to give to businesses
- Possible presentation with the Chamber of Commerce
- Hosting a reverse job fair?
- Do something during October, which is Disability Employment Month

Action Item:

1. Mike bring list of employers and we can work off of that and possibly add
2. Shannon contact chamber
3. Kerri info to Donna on MRQC handouts
4. Laurie - Ottertail Co list of businesses
5. Marni - Polk Co list of businesses

b) Transition to Adulthood (30 minutes)

- Talked about how to get info to parents with transition aged students. Parent teacher conferences, just hand out to case managers, events like Special Olympics
- Transition Expo coming up-has been at MSUM or MState (CTIC) Moorhead High had an "open house" for students with different transition organizations there. Possibly host an event that provides child care or have an info meeting at the same time as Arc activity (dance or games)
- Angela Doll has access to all the SpEd Directors in the region

Action Item:

1. Laurie check whether CTIC is meeting in Otter Tail
2. Donna check with Clay County CTIC on the Expo
3. Katie check with Moorhead schools to see if they are planning another organization Open House
4. Katie and Donna do more brainstorming on transition

6) **Next Meetings** (2 minutes)

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a) Need Co-chairs – facilitate & help set agenda for meetings & workgroups
   - **Next Meeting: 1:30 May 16th, 2023**
     3rd Tuesday of each month

Here are some workshops to share with those that could benefit.

Pacer Virtual Workshops – the housing topics below were also explored last year & the webinars are archived here, along with other topics like Customized Employment and Social Security

Housing – Starting the Journey: Step One – How Do We Start?
Date: Monday, April 10, 2023 slides https://www.pacer.org/livestream/resources2023/04-10/slidedeck-2perpage.pdf

information to help individuals develop their vision for community living, housing, and services. Provided information on person centered thinking and planning, and an overview of housing and service options.

Living, Learning, and Working After High School

Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 — 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM CT Register for this workshop

Join PACER's free transition-to-adulthood mini-conference series for Minnesota parents of young adults with disabilities. Hear from community experts and PACER transition specialists on a variety of topics.

Housing – Starting the Journey: Step Two – How Is It Paid For?

Date: Monday, April 24, 2023 — 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM CT Register for this workshop

Participants will gain a "big picture" view of how housing is funded through federal, state, and county resources, including how their young adult can become eligible for, and access, funding. Topics include income supplements and budgets.

Life Planning Series: Part 1 – Special and Supplemental Needs Trusts and ABLE Accounts
Date: Tuesday, May 2, 2023 — 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM CT Register for this workshop

This workshop will focus on power of attorney, health care directives, maintaining eligibility for government benefits, special and supplemental needs trusts, and ABLE Accounts.

Housing – Starting the Journey: Step Three – What Are the Options?
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 — 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM CT Register for this workshop

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Participants will hear a more detailed explanation of individualized housing and service options from a panel of parents, young adults, and housing providers as they share their journeys through the process. Registration recommended for all three workshops in this series. Register for each session separately.

Life Planning Series : Part 2 – Supported Decision-making and Guardianship
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 — 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM CT Register for this workshop

This workshop will address the consideration and purpose of supported decision-making and guardianship, with a focus on the details of the legal procedures and a discussion about both short and long-term planning.