West Central Regional Quality Council
Funded by the Minnesota State Legislature

January 21, 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 Minutes

Hybrid meeting-We will be meeting online and in the Spud Room on 5th floor of the Family Service Center

Join Zoom Meeting
https://arcminnesota.zoom.us/j/84751084695?pwd=GurDb5xFmzZL1bqE0VhxaqCJnS6IJ9.1

Meeting ID: 847 5108 4695
Passcode: 020219

Attendees: Kassi Sofferman (Arc MN), Katie Cragg (Arc MN), Mai Thor (Arc MN), Michele Mogen (Professor/Community member), Chad Erdmann (DHS), Michael Pulczinski (Voc Rehab in Moorhead), Shannon (CCRI), Kerri Leucuta (Arc MN), Sherry (parent), Sarah Jenson (Clay County Social Services), Jason (self advocate), Jessica Jackson (parent)

1) **Welcome/Introductions.** (5 minutes)
   a) What was your first job?

2) **Council of Safety Data Action Group (DAG)** (5 minutes)

- Perspectives of workers with background studies
  - Is there a way we can help with that?
- Gathering more information on the intake process on people receiving services/placements
- Two left: Define processes and paperwork and trying to simplify that.

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

- Looking into doing community listening sessions throughout the west central region to see what families and individuals are using for positive supports and what is needed
- Looking for and/or implementing parent support groups throughout the region and in the other counties besides Moorhead

4) **Capitol Connectors**

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5) **Council membership** (5 minutes)
   - **a)** Always recruiting and of course if anyone ever has agenda items let me know
     - Self-Advocate needed, other counties?
   - **b)** Reviewing guidelines
   - **c)** Outer area reach (outside of Moorhead)
     - Reaching out again to Becker and Douglas counties
     - Shannon: Has a contact in Alexandria/Douglas county that she will reach out to and see if she has anyone to connect with
     - Jessica: Stein connection in Moorhead
     - Kerri: Can we make a recruitment flyer?
       - (1) Kassi will do this to share to county reps for them to pass along
     - If anyone hears about tabling opportunities or community gatherings, please reach out to Katie and let her know to share resources

6) **Elimination of Subminimum wage discussion**
   - **a)** Think of questions you have heard, or you have

Microgrants and questions?? Can we have the microgrant manager attend a meeting?

7) **Workgroups -** Full council brainstorm
   - **a) Employment** (35 minutes)
     - Businesses not allowing job coaches (due to insurance)
       - (1) Is this common?
         - (a) "Liability thing", typically depends on jobs. (Usually with jobs that are for like manufacturing or with animals)
       - (2) Is there something we can do about this?

(a) Reach out to Disability Law

(b) Liability insurance work-around

- Business questionnaire distribution and intro paragraph
  - (1) Kassi is making a flyer with a QR code to distribute
  - (2) We would appreciate if group members could help distribute the flyers to businesses – even if it's just a few!
- Job fair opportunities
- Information about entrepreneurs with disabilities/people with their own businesses. Adding this to the RQC website/partnering with the metro.
- Lack of information on starting your own business
  - (1) Would a waiver cover this?
  - (2) Maybe creating a FAQ and resource guide to gain employment that way
- Jessica: Information about on-the-job training/internships/volunteering experience
- Community ed class idea: How to channel/find your talents and use them to make money
  - (1) How to market your business
  - (2) Doing a whole business series like this (self-employment one first)
    - (a) Reaching out to college professors etc

b) Transition to Adulthood (35 minutes)

- Transition Series planning and scheduling
- FM area getting Project Search
  - (1) https://www.projectsearch.us/
  - (2) Nationwide program that partners with school districts and organizations to do internships with students in their last year at the school district
  - (3) Getting this next fall, sharing between Fargo, West Fargo, and Moorhead
- Guardianship topic to be addressed
  - (1) Reaching out to an ombudsman
  - (2) We had a guardianship webinar last year by Anita at Volunteers of America. Is there a different way to approach getting this information out? Do we reshare the same webinar?

(a) Looking for a better perspective than an anti-guardianship lens
(b) Guardianship paperwork is overwhelming and doesn't answer some questions, and a lot of families can't afford attorneys
    (i) Need info on "how to do guardianship" while still doing supportive decision making and dignity of risk
    (ii) WHEN is it right to do guardianship? How to make sure their needs are protected?
(c) https://www.voamnwi.org/center-excellence-supported-decision-making
(d) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vla29A4xkEk&t=485s
(e) https://arcminnesota.org/resource/arc-guide-to-guardianship/

8) Next Meetings and Events

- Thursday, January 23rd Statewide Workforce Shortage Monthly Meeting
- Tuesday, February 11th West Central Regional Capacity Building (will send out invite)
- Monday, February 17th SASH 6pm at MSUM
- Tuesday, February 18th WCRQC Meeting
- Thursday, February 20th Website Overview with Brian (registration to come)
- Monday, February 24th Arc Dance at Hopkins

Other meetings/workshops

Pacer Workshops

Disability Hub Calendar

Upcoming AuSm Workshops

Minutes from past meetings.