West Central Regional Quality Council
Funded by the Minnesota State Legislature

Agenda July 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 Minutes

Present: Bill, Phyllis, Jeff, Michele, Jason, Sherri, Chad, Calley, Jacki, Jen, Hollie, Mike, Melanie, Lukas, Laurie

Absent: Marni, David, Christine, Angela, Shannon, Molly, Celeste, Janna

RQC Staff: Donna, Katie and Kerri

1) **Welcome/Introductions.** Welcome Michele Mogen!!

Icebreaker question: What is the highlight of your summer so far? (10 minutes)

2) **Bite Site learning** – It's important to be led by people with disabilities. "Together they can break down barriers while learning from each other and building community."

   a) We as an RQC need to make sure that we have people with disabilities at the table to help lead us to a more equitable community.

   b) Nothing About Me Without Me.

   c) Help develop leadership skills.

   d) Start earlier to encourage self-determination for young students to participate in IEPs. Could we provide some tools to schools and parents to help develop skills and learn to make their own choices?

3) **Membership**

   a) Who is missing? Are there people we could add for the workgroups?
   Need to look beyond Clay County, and add people of different cultures

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

4) **Workgroups -** Full council brainstorm

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a) Transition to Adulthood

1. Start students earlier which will help students become leaders.
    - Instead of students starting to go to IEP meetings at 16- encourage right away. K level can participate.
        - Age appropriate list to help show parents and educators how young kids can participate successfully in IEP meetings.
        - This will lead to more participation in the transition years because students will build confidence throughout the years.
2. 6 have taken the survey for guardianship and other options as well as Transition to Adulthood. Consider including families of younger students.
    - Consider sending to elementary/middle schools
3. Maybe expand and make a survey for the parents that have been through transition. "What I wish I had known" type survey.
4. Idea of a parent mentorship/navigator program came up. Parents that have been through the process helping other parents. How could we train these parents? How would they help?
    - "Human library"
    - Online or "go for coffee" or hold small groups.
    - Sometimes the advice given on social media isn't always accurate.
    - Could provide "train the trainer" sessions?
    - Parent panels
5. Reach out to Anita Rayment from Volunteers of America to present Supported Decision making

b) Employment

- Talked about the purpose of a video. A video with both employer and employee point of view. Short and to the point could be effective.
    - Once produced maybe get it out on social media, local news and/or radio.
- Diversity fair-Donna and Katie both went. Crystal Sugar said they enjoy giving tours-might be a good way to see what kind of jobs they have. Mike said he would do this. Donna talked to many of the employers. Also Rural MN CEP about being a part of the reverse job fair.

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- Kerrie brought up "Hearts of Glass Film" Jennifer Tennican. She holds virtual events-maybe something to think about for October. Shows how people with and without disabilities can work side by side.
    - **Hearts of Glass Video trailer**

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Everyone help get the survey seen, share it, talk about it.**
- **Lukas-Post survey on fb group**
- **Donna-look at making another survey for parents that have been through transition already.**
- **Katie and Donna-look at age-appropriate participation in IEP meetings.**
    - **Help promote self-determination or self-advocacy early.**
- **Everyone-watch film trailer "Hearts of Glass" - we could have a public screening and discussion**
- **Donna, Katie, Mike and Jacki-videos– meet & discussion focus of videos, meet with media companies**

5) **Next Meetings** (2 minutes)

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

- **Next Meetings:**
    - **July 27th,11-12:30- - Statewide Workforce Shortage Meeting**
    - **1:30 August 15th - WCRQC meeting**

(3rd Tuesday of each month)

Minutes from past meetings.

Outside opportunities

Tuesday, August 22, 2023 9:00-11:00 a.m .
Odyssey Major Change Initiatives webinar. During this webinar, DHS staff will describe four major change initiatives that will better serve and support older adults and people with disabilities: Electronic Visit Verification, Community First Supports and Services, Waiver Reimagine and the MnCHOICES

revision. These changes are designed to give people more choice and control over the services and supports in their lives..

Registration now open