West Central Regional Quality Council
Funded by the Minnesota State Legislature

March 18, 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 Talking Points

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/84751084695?pwd=GurDb5xFmzZL1bqE0VhxaqCJnS6IJ9.1

Meeting ID: 847 5108 4695
Passcode: 020219

Attendance: Katie Cragg (Arc Minnesota), Holly (Clay County Social Services), Sherri (Parent Advocate), Chad Erdmann (MNDHS), Janna (Disability Law Center), Alicia (Polk County Social Services), Jill (Becker County), Dee (Parent advocate and PsychNP), Kerri Leucuta (Arc Minnesota), Kevin (Arc Minnesota), Melanie (Ottertail County), Michele Mogen (Community advocate), Jason (self advocate)

1) **Welcome/Introductions.** (5 minutes)
   - **a)** Do you fill out a March Madness Bracket?
2) **Council of Safety Data Action Group (DAG)** (5 minutes)
   - **a)** Still on last recommendation which is paperwork-trying to limit paperwork and complexity of it.
3) **Regional Capacity Building (10 min)**
   - **a)** West Central RCB is working on creating and sharing materials about Person Centered Thinking practices. We are meeting with MN DHS to collaborate on this, and are also currently discussing creating a webinar or two for this as well. If you have any thoughts on Person Centered Thinking practices or positive supports in the West Central region, please reach out to Kassi at KassandraSofferman@arcminnesota.org
4) **Council membership** (5 minutes)
   - **a)** Mixing up agenda-do workgroups first?

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5) **Miscellaneous**

a) Regional Newsletter-Monthly

- ACES information-our advocacy and community outreach
- Housing information
- RQC information
- General region info on disability events
- News from Naveh

b) Disability Pride Event-brainstorm? Thursdays in July

- Looking to connect with the Pride Collective in our area. Alex-from Pride collective said nobody is grasping the intersectionality of disability and LGBTQIA community.
- We want this to be a community party. Applying for a grant through West Central Initiatives.
- Ideas on location? We would love an indoor/outdoor option that is accessible, it would be nice if it were close to a bus stop.
- Do we know of any regional events typically planned for disability pride?
- We plan to have resource tables there

c) Other events, classes, webinars?

- Classes coming up to the event? Civil engagement?
  (1) Red River Valley League of Women Voters: Why local elections are important.
  (2) Protest art class…advocacy art.
  (3) Looking for maybe 1 more event.
- Topic ideas:
  (1) Finances and financial planning
  (2) Giving resources for different types of things people can apply for such as the microgrant, housing resources

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

- Will send this out and you can pass it along
  - (1) History
  - (2) Agencies
  - (3) Self Advocates
  - (4) Balancing work and wages
  - (5) Question session

e) Policy-Letters of support

- Policy and RQC in the future
- **HF 1803** -Tina is wondering if we'd write a letter of opposition.
  - (1) I believe committee sees the bill today-she will keep me updated on if it gets through committee
  - (2) The bill is saying that they would move our laws to fit federal laws. The federal law is that once a student turns 16, you have to start transition planning. Minnesota is ahead of that and transition planning has to start at 14. This bill would allow parents to hold off on this until 16.
    - (a) The sooner you can introduce the families and students to these ideas about transitions the better. If anything, parents need more time to digest all of the information.
    - (b) Focus should be put on the transition plans rather than the age it should begin.
    - (c) Students participation in IEP meetings is important from a young age. Secondary transition should not be as complicated, and these things should be addressed when students start receiving services. This should start way before ninth grade.
    - (d) All of us need to hear things multiple times to really learn and understand things, so if we can start mentioning these ideas to

parents right away, it won't come as such a shock when the planning starts.

(3) The bill is also saying that the IEP should focus on the long term goal instead of having benchmarks or short term objectives as well.

(a) Schools are required to provide progress reports quarterly in a written form to parents. Unsure if this is actually happening broadly, but maybe that is what this is stemming from. We are supposed to be giving updates, and how do we give updates when there is only one long term measurable goal?

(i) Every school has a different way of handling this.

(ii) We don't want to put more worry on parents.

(iii) The very front of the IEP states when progress reports will happen. The requirement is that progress reports come with when the school's does (midterms, report cards)

(b) Incremental objectives. One long term goal, but with structuring the trajectory process. Setting out the objectives on the way to the goal. Is this goal reasonable?

(i) This might be an attempt to reduce paperwork for special educators. You may be taking away the actual writing of those objectives, but you're not taking away the work of the instructional part and the data part. However, taking this out of the IEP would reduce those smaller step updates to the families in written form and it could be a real loss in communication with families.

- **Jesse Bethke Gomez-workforce shortage group is writing a letter of support for S.F. 1062 Pilot Project that will certify DSPs.**

(1) Key provisions of SF 1062:

(a) Establishment of a Pilot Project: The bill proposes a three-year pilot project to certify direct support professionals, in collaboration with various state departments and educational institutions.

(b) Curriculum Requirements: The curriculum is designed to meet or exceed existing training standards, including at least 80 hours of instruction based on core competencies for direct service workers.

(c) Scholarships and Compensation: Scholarships will be provided, including a work stipend of $20 per hour for 80 hours of instruction. Certified professionals will be eligible for an 18.75% wage differential.

(d) Evaluation and Reporting: An independent evaluation of the pilot project will be conducted, with findings reported to relevant legislative committees.

(2) The purpose of this is similar to a CNA certification.

(3) This would be beneficial in places like greater Minnesota or more rural areas where they don't have schools that have this certification. Asking for more information about accessibility in rural communities. Right now bill does not include Greater or Rural MN

6) **Workgroups -** Full council brainstorm

a) **Employment** (35 minutes)

- Subminimum wage series-will send that out
- Survey

(1) How to proceed…have you passed it on?

(2) Link for the questionnaire: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=JyKsbtUUWUiChaKOI-oT0tByHudBH_tMr2IOxkidiKFUQUtFN0s4NkhZUVpUSDcwRjhLNVRVNEVUUC4u

- Self-employment brainstorm and update-met with metro region
  - (1) Biz resource and push it during holidays
    - (a) If you know someone who is self-employed with a disability, please forward their information to Katie.
  - (2) Do we want to do a webinar on self-employment? How can we encourage people to go that route? Create a group? Provide informational resources?
    - (a) Start with an informal meeting to gauge interest and then see if we do a webinar
      - (i) This isn't an option people typically think they can do, getting the word out there
      - (ii) Maybe reaching out to local shops to see if they would partner with people with disabilities twice a year so they can get the word out and share their work
        1. Farmers markets

b) Transition to Adulthood (35 minutes)

Didn't get to This

7) Next Meetings and Events

- Monday, March 24th Becker County Transition Fair @MSTATE DL 5pm-7pm
- Tuesday, March 25th Rally at the Capitol
- Thursday, March 27th Statewide Workforce Shortage Monthly Meeting
- Tuesday, April 1st Subminimum wage series starts
- Monday, April 14th Culture of Safety

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- Tuesday, April 18th WCRQC meeting

Other meetings/workshops

Pacer Workshops

Disability Hub Calendar

Upcoming AuSm Workshops

Minutes from past meetings.