West Central Regional Quality Council

Funded by the Minnesota State Legislature

May 16th, 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

Present: Melanie, Calley, Jackie, Phyllis, Bill, Angela, Jason, Sherri, Christine, Jen, Celeste, RQC Staff: Marta, Kerri, Donna, Katie

Guest Speaker: Taylor Guccione

Absent: Mike, Shannon, Marni, Hollie, Janna, Lukas, Laurie, David, Chad

1) Welcome/Introductions. Icebreaker question: Favorite spring activity

2) Guest Speaker:

Taylor Guccione

Taylor talked about Intersectionality and why it's important. Intersectionality: The way people experience privilege or oppression because of their identities. (race, disability, age, where they live…)

Taylor shared a powerful video on intersectionality. Important that we all recognize we have more in common than differences and that we are not alone. How can we incorporate intersectionality into the RQC? Looking at who is part of the RQC and making sure we have a diverse group of people so we can get a wide range of opinions.

All of Us, an award-winning video from our Unconscious Bias course.

3) **Membership**

a) Who is missing? Are there people we could add for the workgroups? Again looking at trying to branch out who we have on the council. Reach out to others to join.

4) **Workgroups -** Full council brainstorm

a) Transition to Adulthood

- We had a long discussion on the transition checklists that some schools use to help parents know what needs to be done throughout the high school career and after.
    - Donna and Katie will look over a number of checklists and try to compile them. The group can then look at it and see if we are missing anything or need to expand on an area.
    - Talk about making sure there is not only a checklist but resources or contacts with items that maybe need direction.
    - Could possibly provide information to teachers during a staff development time on areas in the checklist, which could include:
        - Benefits
        - Guardianship & alternatives
        - Supports and services

- Talked about guardianship and trying to brainstorm on how to educate schools on different options-
    - Some concerns that MDE might recognize guardianship as the best/only option. We might need to look into this as DHS recognizes that guardianship isn't the only option.

Action Items: Katie and Donna will review checklists on transitioning to adulthood from various sources.

b) Workforce

- Talked about different businesses that seem to work well and have hired young adults/adults with disabilities.
    - talked about doing a video or having testimonials from not only the employee but the employer and share that with other businesses around.
        - Try to show them that this could help them with the workforce shortage.
        - Show them "what's in it for them".
- Also talked about "it's who you know" vs "what you know"-how to get those looking for a job connected maybe earlier with the community (goes hand in hand with transitioning into the community)

Action Items:

- All- Continue to think about businesses that we could connect with.
- Marni and Laurie-list of employers in their area.
- Shannon and Mike will talk with the FM Chamber

5) **Next Meetings**

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

- **Next Meetings:**
  (1) May 25th 11-12:30 -Workforce Staffing Shortage Workgroup
  (2) 1:30 June 20th, 2023 West Central RQC meeting

(3rd Tuesday of each month)

Here are some workshop to attend or share with those that could benefit.

Virtual Events

https://mn.gov/dhs/odyssey/attend/upcoming-odyssey-events/

May 23rd, 11-12:30 -Workforce Staffing-data and trends May 25th, 9-11 -Workforce Staffing-Promising Practices

The Minnesota ABLE Program - Eligibility and Enrollment
Date: Thursday, May 25th: 4:30pm-5:30pm

Zoom Link:
https://arcminnesota.zoom.us/j/85988644037?pwd=UDdWdFBPeFN6TU9zUzR4Y2ltaXhWUT09

Meeting ID: 859 8864 4037 Passcode: arc

Join Peter Beierwaltes from MN Department of Human Services for a presentation on what an ABLE Savings Account is and how it impacts people with disabilities. Learn about where you can enroll and how ABLE Accounts compare to other trusts.