

# West Central Regional Quality Council

Funded by the Minnesota State Legislature



**Agenda October 18th, 2022 1:30 pm**

## **West Central Regional Quality Council Meeting Minutes October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

- Attendance: Nia, Erika, Chad, Victoria, Christine, Calley, Bill, Sherri, Hollie, Jackie, Jen, Laurie
- Unable to attend: Phyllis, Shannon, Melanie
- RQC staff: Donna and Kerri

### **1) Welcome/Introductions. What was your first job?**

### **2) Presentation about Self Advocacy Training & Support – Angie Hart**

Self-advocacy training is available through waived services (DD, BI, CAC & CADI) within the Family Training and Counseling service. The focus is on understanding how to speak up for themselves, person centered planning, and informed choice. There are currently 4 organizations enrolled or in the process of becoming providers of self-advocacy training. All offer online training.

- [Upstream Arts](#) (uses art as a means of expression)
- [Minnesota Disability Support Alternatives](#) (for transition age 14-24)
- [Advocating Change Together](#) (ACT) (disability rights and inclusion)
- [MN Autistic Alliances](#)

Our council could help promote.

For more information, go to

[https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET\\_DYNAMIC\\_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs-331092#](https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs-331092#)

### **3) Proposed Work Plan Kerri**

- Learn about regional needs, identify, and work on 2-3 Quality Improvement projects
  - Council members
- Promote informed decision making, autonomy, and self-direction
- Participate in Data Action workgroup for the Culture of Safety pilot
- Actively partner on agency initiatives to improve the disability services system
- Establish and strengthen diverse partnerships and relationships through community outreach and engagement
- Work with other Regional Quality Councils on a statewide project

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- Work with Quality Assurance to provide information and training programs on formal and informal support options
- Make recommendations to state agencies and other key decision-makers regarding disability services and supports

## **4) Break**

## **5) Subminimum Wage video:**

[Myths vs. Facts: Why Sheltered Workshops?](#)

### **a) Discussion:**

- Limits choice; not individualized
- Some people may feel safer in a sheltered workshop
- May not be encouraged to try new things
- While the intent was to be a training ground for employable skills and jobs outside the workshop, many people are “trapped” and never move on
- Ableist
- Fear that if there is no workshop, people will not have anywhere to go & no way to have a job or socialize
- Subminimum wages; many could make at least minimum wage in community job
- Employers may not be willing to hire a person with a disability
- Staffing & transportation issues for jobs in the community
- Equate “workshop” with “sweatshop”
- From personal experience, it felt demeaning. People were shoved out of the way
- Fear of not having friends in a community job
- Path of least resistance
- Still needs to be an option
- Some may not be able to function in community job. Some environments can be challenging; may need to consider adjusting schedules, tasks, use technology, make adaptations

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- Need to help people be as independent as they can be
- Money drives how services are provided

## 6) **Membership**

a) Who is missing? Clay County is the only county represented in these groups

- People with disabilities - have 2
- Family Members of people who have disabilities - have 4
- Disability Service Providers - have 3
- Disability Advocacy Groups - 0

## 7) **Discussion on Next Meetings**

- a) Co-chairs – facilitate, help set agenda – still need a volunteer
- b) Connect 1X1 - 3 people yet to schedule
- c) In November, we will use [Charting the Life](#) tools to help determine our Council priorities.

- **Next Meeting: Virtual 1:30 November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month