



Minnesota Region 10 Quality Assurance Commission

Funded by the Minnesota State Legislature
For more information call (507) 287-2032 or visit www.mn-voice.org

Value
Of
Individual
Choices and
Experiences

Fall 2006

Legislative Efforts

- Legislative Committee is currently working hard to prepare for the next Legislative Session. We are preparing to once again go forward with legislation to continue Region 10 QA funding as well as work towards expanding **VOICE** statewide. As many know, one of QA's strongest supporters, Fran Bradley, has decided to step down from office. After the elections, it will be vital to secure influential authors for our legislation. The legislation we will propose could be influenced by the Legislative QA Panel that John Jordan, Cindy Ostrowski, and Dan Zimmer are on. This Panel will be making recommendations to DHS and the legislators for the 2007 session. Our legislation will depend on the final the outcome of these recommendations and DHS' response.
- Region 10 Stakeholders' Candidate's Forum is currently being planned. It will be held in the evening of October 30th, place and time yet to be determined. Look for the announcement in the next few weeks.
- Next Legislative Committee Meeting will be Thur Sept 21 10:00 at the QA/Arc SE MN offices – 2200 2nd St SW Rochester. Anyone interested in attending is welcome!

QA Expansion Efforts

- We now have three regional expansion efforts underway. Both Region 1 QA and Region 9 QA have conducted QAT trainings and are able to start volunteer **VOICE** Reviews this fall. Region 1 QA will also hold an additional QAT Training on October 2nd and 3rd. Wright Sherburne QA will be holding their first QAT Training September 20th and 21st. With all these trainings, LeAnn Bieber and Lori Magnus have had the chance to fine tune their training skills! Efforts have begun to train trainers for each area so that our involvement in QAT Training in expansion areas can be reduced.
- There have been some discussions with a few Region 10 Counties that have not opted into our QA system. Each session has been very positive and it is promising that new Region 10 counties may be deciding to join!
- The next Expansion Meeting is Friday 10/6 at 1 PM at the QA/Arc SE MN offices – 2200 2nd St SW Rochester. In addition, since many of our members are across the state – many call in on a conference phone. If you would like to join us in person or by phone, please let Dan know.

Barriers

- We are in the process of forming a group of people to look at the current list of barriers generated by **VOICE** Reviews. We envision this group to examine barriers and determine steps that stakeholders can take to eliminate or reduce them. This work may be done in a group meeting format or input given separately with "work home" tasks. Anyone interested in joining this group, please contact Dan 507-287-2032.

QA Team Recruitment

Have you wondered what it would like to be a QAT and involved with a person's **VOICE** Review? Do you know someone that you think would make a good QAT? A QAT does not need to be "an expert" on services for people with disabilities – just a good listener and an objective reporter of what they learn in a **VOICE** Review. Enclosed is more information and a QAT application. Use it for yourself or give it to someone you know!

Events

** Region 10 QA Sponsored or Cosponsored

- **Sept 12 – 14th Region 10 QAT Training. Contact LeAnn Bieber 507 775-6586 for more details.
- October 1st Remembering with Dignity. 2 PM at Rochester State Hospital Cemetery in Quarry Hill Park. Ceremony that begins the process of marking all 2,019 gravesites of those people with disabilities who passed away living in the Rochester State Hospital. More information call 507-281-6114.
- October 3rd – 6th Age and Disability Conference Twin Cities More information call 1-800 – 882-6262 or go to www.nafua.org.
- **October 4th Olmsted County Health and Human Services Candidate Forum from 4 – 6 PM at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester. For more information contact NAMI at 507-287-1692.
- October 9th Charlie Lakin Tribute 5:30 to 8:30 PM at the Radisson University Hotel, 615 Washington Ave. MPLS \$50 per person. Contact Monica 1-800-582-5256 for more details or reservations.
- October 17th, 18th Provider's Network, Inc Fall Conference at the Rochester International Event Center. For more information contact Donna Garratt 507-287-9842.
- October 27th, 28th Arc MN Convention. More information call Arc of SE MN 287-2032 or go to <http://www.thearcofminnesota.org> .
- **October 30th Region 10 Stakeholders' Candidate Forum. For more information call 507-297-2032.
- October 24th 9th Conference on Brain Injury - "Kibbles and Bits Food for the Brain Injury Community" at Ramada Inn in Rochester. For more information contact Harry Nevling at 507-289-8989

Dan Zimmer, Director

(507) 287-2032 or danz@mn-voice.org

Visit the QA Commission website at: www.mn-voice.org