



Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council

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Legislative & Public Awareness Committee

Draft Minutes for August 16, 2021

Members Present (P) Not Present (NP)

Deb Arcoleo (P)	Passle Helminski (P)	Michele Leahy (NP)
Juliet Marsala (NP)	John Seely (P)	William Del Toro Vargas (NP)
Anthony McCloskey (NP)		

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Staff: Lee Ann Stewart

PaRC Staff: Michelle Gerrick, Chris Todd

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- No additions to the agenda

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND PAST MINUTES

Quorum was not met for this committee meeting therefore, no votes were taken at this committee meeting.

Discussion for Upcoming Legislative Visits

- Ms. Passle Helminski inquired if there needs to be a committee chair or committee consensus to decide on PaRC legislative visits.
- Ms. Michelle Gerrick informed attendees that chair does not make that decision, committee members can decide to have legislative visits, staff can assist with correspondence with Full Council to poll for who would like to attend legislative visits, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, visits will be done virtually and the timing of the visits can be flexible, and although committee has not voted on current support of legislation, members can still advocate for employment and funding issues that were previously approved on the last PaRC State and Federal Position Papers.
- Ms. Passle Helminski and Mr. John Seely would like to poll for potential legislators to visit and mentioned the following officials: Amanda Wolfe, Rep. Dan Miller, Sen. Lisa Baker, Democratic and Republican Policy Committee Chairs.

Discussion for Legislative Position Papers (2020-2021 Federal and State Position Papers attached)

- Informed attendees that the Legislative Position Papers will need to be reviewed and updated to present to Full Council, once there is a Legislative Committee

Chair. Bills that have been passed into law have now been removed from the document.

Other Business

- Mr. John Seely agreed to be acting Legislative Committee chair until there can be a vote at the next Full Council meeting on August 25, 2021. Would like to poll Full Council for Legislative visits for the week of Full Council to hold virtual visits via Zoom.
- Ms. Deb Arcoleo mentioned she is not interested in the committee chair position.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:00PM