



Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC)

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Executive Committee Meeting Draft Minutes for June 21, 2022 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Committee Members (P = Present) (NP = Not Present)

Cindy Duch (P) Passle Helminski (P) Juliet Marsala (P)
William Del Toro Vargas (P) Rob Wallington (NP) Michele Leahy (P)

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Present: Cheryl Novak, James Whitonis

Staff Present: Michelle Gerrick, Chris Todd

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND PAST MINUTES

Ms. Michele Leahy motioned to approve past minutes and today's agenda. Ms. Juliet Marsala seconded the motion. All were in favor.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

POLICY COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION OF COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE NEEDS ASSESSMENT (CSNA) STATEMENT OF WORK

- Mr. James Whitonis informed members that the OVR legal team has provided recommendations for changes to the format of the CSNA draft to make the document less redundant and more readable. There will be no changes to the goals. OVR Will provide an updated draft to the Council sometime after the July 4 holiday.
- Ms. Juliet Marsala inquired about the potential contractor / contract being required to have experience using person first language and meets 508 compliance.
- Mr. James Whitonis informed members that he will research whether language and compliance is stated in the provider agreement that is required for a contractor to agree to once chosen.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION OF FY 2022-2023 COMMITTEE GOALS AND BUDGET

- Ms. Juliet Marsala suggested increasing the Governance Committee's budget to \$11,000 to cover travel costs associated with Goal #7 for attendance of other Board meetings and conferences. Suggested clarification to the Goal#7 for what Board meetings would be included under the Governance Committee. Suggested a member should attend the board for Medicaid Assistance Council.
- Ms. Passle Helminski said that she will inform of member's comments about Goal #7 to the Committee.

REVIEW/UPDATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE GOALS FY 2022-2023

- Ms. Juliet Marsala suggested members attend the Advancing States HCBS conference, Rehab and Community Providers Association (RCPA) conference, and Disability Pride Parade.
- Ms. Michele Leahy informed members she was accepted to be a speaker at the next Advancing States conference.
- Ms. Passle Helminski inquired if the Executive Committee will still be part of the State Board of VR strategic planning stated in Goal #1.
- Ms. Juliet Marsala stated Executive Committee would still oversee items in Goal #1 and #3 as it is part of outward facing partnership and planning. The Governance Committee as stated in their goals handles issues that are inward facing. Stated that for goal #4 while the Governance Committee is now doing the work of some of the items listed such as preparing By-Laws, the Executive Committee still is providing review and has a responsibility to participate in those items listed in the goals.

Ms. Juliet Marsala motioned to increase the Executive Committee budget to \$15,000 and for the approval of the goals. Ms. Michele Leahy seconded the motion. All were in favor.

PaRC REPRESENTATION ON GOVERNOR'S OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

- Ms. Passle Helminski asked Ms. Michele Leahy if she would be interested in serving as the PaRC representative on the Governor's Employment First Oversight Commission since Ms. Cindy Duch's term on the Council is ending in a few weeks. Ms. Leahy accepted. The Executive Committee will move forward and make this recommendation at the next Full Council meeting in August.
- Ms. Passle Helminski suggested staff reach out to Ms. Cindy Duch regarding additional information about the Commission.

BEGIN PLANNING/DISCUSSION FC MEETING ON AUGUST 10, 2022

- Members provided suggestions for speakers for the August Full Council meeting including Mr. David Gates or Ms. Josie Badger to speak about the new Job Success

Act, Act 69 that expands MAWD and to provide details, promotion, and education about how MAWD can be utilized as it was recently passed into law. Another suggestion was Community Health Choices Managed Care Organizations' specialists who could speak on how the partnership with OVR has been proceeding, provide waiver regulation updates, and inform members if they have observed an increase in employment and transition services as the waiver update has now been in effect for about eighteen months. Updates from OVR on Work Incentive Planning and how OVR is proceeding with benefits counseling. Planning and progress on the transition from 14C Sheltered Workshops was also requested.

Ms. Juliet Marsala motioned to adjourn today's meeting. Ms. Michele Leahy seconded the motion. All were in favor.