



Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC)

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Legislative & Public Awareness Committee Draft Minutes for June 28, 2022

Members Present (P) Not Present (NP)

Jeanette Alexander (P)

Deb Arcoleo (NP)

Julia Barol (P)

Lynn Heitz (P)

Passle Helminski (P)

Michele Leahy (P)

Juliet Marsala (NP)

William Del Toro Vargas (P)

PaRC Staff Present: Chris Todd, Michelle Gerrick

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND PAST MINUTES:

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

Discussion and Possible Action Items:

Nomination for Committee Chair and Co-Chair

- Ms. Passle Helminski nominated Mr. William Del Toro Vargas for Committee Chair and he accepted.
- Ms. Passle Helminski and Mr. William Del Toro Vargas nominated all other Committee members for Co-Chair and they each respectfully declined due to time constraints.

Ms. Passle Helminski motioned to nominate William Del Toro Vargas for Committee Chair. Ms. Jeanette Alexander seconded the motion. Ms. Michele Leahy abstained. The motion passed.

Review / Update Committee Goals and Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

- Mr. William Del Toro Vargas reviewed Committee budget of \$11,000 and each of the Committee goals.
- Members agreed with keeping the budget at the same level and suggested adding to Goal #2 meeting with veteran organizations, advocate groups, and veteran state agencies including OVR District Offices, CareerLinks, Wounded Warrior Project, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, U.S. Veterans Affairs, Vietnam Veterans of America, and other State and Local organizations that represent veterans with disabilities.
- Ms. Michele Leahy informed attendees Social Media Committee is working to expand list of contacts for Council newsletter, inquired about updated point persons for all organizations listed in Goals, and suggested adding to Goal #3 Pennsylvania Council on Independent Living
- Ms. Passle Helminski confirmed having updated contacts for the goals, suggested removing the Governor's Advisory Board as it no longer exists, adding the National Federation of the Blind, American Council of the Blind, and organizations that represent deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind communities.
- Mr. William Del Toro Vargas requested for staff to compile a spread sheet or other document to track all organizations the Council partners with and their individual contact information. Suggested adding a Goal #4 to attempt to reach out to each State Legislator during Fiscal Year 2022-2023 to inform and education about the Council. Steps to achieve the goal include providing information about the Council website, position papers, annual report, and newsletter. Also, would include researching and compiling contacts, using Facebook to network, and next steps for collaboration between Social Media and Legislative Committees.

Ms. Passle Helminski motioned to complete the edits to the Committee goals and forward them to the Executive Committee. Ms. Jeanette Alexander seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Discussion of State and Federal Legislation / Review Watchlist Legislation regarding Highly Automated Vehicles (HAV) and transportation

- Ms. Passle Helminski informed members that members of the state Senate are working on legislation to create automated, self-driving vehicles, considering safety concerns especially for people with disabilities.
- Mr. William Del Toro Vargas inquired if each bill is related to employment.
- Members agreed each bill listed for state and federal legislation is related to employment.

Ms. Passle Helminski motioned to add to the Council's Position Papers the support of the following state and federal bills HB2398, S965, HR2327, HR6860, HR5252, HR4672, S.2065, S.4102, S.53, and S.3726. Ms. Jeanette Alexander seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Discussion for Upcoming PaRC Meetings with State Legislators Determine date and time for Zoom meetings (next FC meeting is August 10th)

**Determine Legislators for staff to invite / poll
Discuss / plan member talking points to cover**

- Members agreed to hold Legislative Meetings on August 9, 2022 throughout the day depending on legislator's availability.
- Members agreed to invite the following legislators for meetings: Representative Frank Farry, Senator Hughes, Mr. Zach Ross, Ms. Amanda Wolfe, Representative Ryan Bizarro, Representative Dan Miller, Representative Mary Jo Daley, Committee leaders for Labor and Industry, Appropriations, Health and Human Services, Policy, Democratic and Republican Caucuses, Education, and Veterans Affairs.
- Members agreed to discuss Employment First during meetings and looking into the structure of other States' similar legislation.

Determine Committee Meeting Dates for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Frequency of meetings

Discuss availability

Standing day and time for month

- Members agreed to meet on August 4, 2022 at 2:00 PM.

Adjourn

Ms. Passle Helminski motioned to adjourn. Ms. Julia Barol seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.