



# Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC)

55 Utley Drive, Camp Hill, PA 17011

Voice: (717) 975-2004 or (888) 250-5175 TTY: (888) 559-2658 Fax: (888) 524-9282

Email: [parc@parehabilitationcouncil.org](mailto:parc@parehabilitationcouncil.org) Website: [parehabilitationcouncil.org](http://parehabilitationcouncil.org)

## Legislative & Public Awareness Committee Draft Minutes for August 8, 2022

### Members Present (P)

### Not Present (NP)

Jeanette Alexander (NP)

Julia Grant Barol (P)

Lynn Heitz (P)

Michele Leahy (NP)

William Del Toro Vargas (P)

Paul Fogle (P)

**PaRC Staff Present:** Chris Todd, Michelle Gerrick

**OVR Staff Present:** James Whitonis

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** None

### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND PAST MINUTES:

*Ms. Lynn Heitz motioned to approve today's agenda and past meeting minutes. Ms. Julia Grant Barol seconded the motion. All were in favor.*

### Discussion and Possible Action Items:

**Preparations for Upcoming August 9th Meetings with State House of Representatives and State Senate Legislators and Legislative Staff**

**Review of August 9th Legislative meeting schedule**

**Discuss / plan member's availability for attendance from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM**

**Discuss / review member talking points to cover with Legislators and/ or their staff**

**Discussion of pre-meeting materials to be provided to Legislators and/ or their staff**

- Mr. William Del Toro Vargas informed attendees he has availability to attend the August 9th State Legislative meetings from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Inquired about member availability to attend throughout the day tomorrow.

- Mr. Paul Fogle informed members he has cleared his schedule to attend as many as possible.
- Ms. Julia Grant Barol inquired about the process for holding the legislative meetings via Zoom as this will be her first time in attendance. Mr. William Del Toro Vargas confirmed that members will join Zoom using the PaRC link information and that Legislators and their staff will join Zoom according to their scheduled times.
- Mr. Chris Todd (staff) informed attendees that 15 minutes was requested for each meeting and the schedule has 30 minutes between each meeting to allow for time between meetings for guests to enter and leave the Zoom call and potentially provide time if the discussion runs long or members would like to hold discussion between meetings. Informed members Ms. Jeanette Alexander will have availability to attend from 11:00 AM to 3:30 PM.
- Ms. Julia Barol stated that she has a lot of flexibility to attend the meetings for tomorrow but must leave to attend another meeting by 3:45 PM.
- Ms. Lynn Heitz stated that she will be available tomorrow to attend about 90% of the meetings.
- Mr. William Del Toro Vargas inquired if there was an informative Power Point presentation about the Council for the meetings.
- Mr. Chris Todd stated that there was not a Power Point presentation used in the past for Legislative meetings and there is not a Power Point presentation for Legislative meetings available at this time but that is something that could be discussed for development.
- Mr. Paul Fogle stated that on Wednesday during the FC meeting a Power Point presentation will be discussed regarding Council outreach and that it could also be discussed to be implemented for Legislative meetings if the Committee would like.
- Mr. William Del Toro Vargas inquired about what pre-meeting materials are being sent.
- Mr. Chris Todd stated that on Friday pre-meeting materials were sent that included the Annual Report and Website links, State and Federal Position Papers, and the 2020 VR Highlights. Is going to send the 2021 VR Highlights this evening or tomorrow morning as they were just received from OVR this morning and asked if members had other suggestions for pre-meeting materials.
- Mr. William Del Toro Vargas stated that each 15-minute meeting begins with 5 minutes of introductions, thanking legislators and staff for their participation, asking for full funding of OVR, and discussion of the talking points. Inquired if including a talking point to assist the Employment First Commission with getting their seats filled was a good idea.
- Ms. Julia Grant Barol stated that the Employment First Commission is having issues with members rolling off the Commission and getting new appointees added to the Commission. Suggested encouraging those appointees being approved and added.
- Mr. Paul Fogle agreed that was fine and stated that the Council has its own issues with getting members through the entire approval process, which can be as lengthy as more than nine months.

- Mr. William Del Toro Vargas stated that Legislators do not have full control over OVR and that members could bring up or have issues with OVR resolved during the FC meeting or State Board meeting and not the legislative meetings. Suggested that Legislative meetings are not the time to bring up issues members are having with OVR and requested this to be a talking point to be shared with all members.

## **Determine Committee Meeting Dates for Fiscal Year 2022-2023**

### **Frequency of meetings**

### **Discuss availability**

### **Standing day and time for month**

- Mr. William Del Toro Vargas inquired if Legislative Committee meetings should be held on a quarterly basis.
- Mr. Paul Fogle stated that it is his hope that Committees would meet at least bi-monthly to work on projects or invite speakers to attend. There is a possibility that two FC meetings will be held in-person next year and to be cognizant of that, when scheduling Committee meetings.
- Mr. William Del Toro Vargas inquired if the Committee should schedule their next meeting in December until there is more information available about in-person meetings and until the legislature is re-opened until after this year's election. Suggested staff provide polling for dates sometime between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Suggested the Agenda for next meeting should include preparation for the new incoming Legislators.
- Mr. Paul Fogle stated that would be fine to schedule the next meeting for December, especially with it being an election year the Legislature will be shut down on November 30<sup>th</sup> or until after the new year. Suggested the Committee holding an introduction to new members of the Legislature this coming Winter. Requested staff re-send the Position Papers for review for tomorrow's meetings.

## **Adjourn**

***Ms. Julia Grant Barol motioned to adjourn. Ms. Lynn Heitz seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.***