



Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC)

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Social Media / Outreach Committee Minutes for January 4, 2023

Members Present (P)

Not Present (NP)

Michele Leahy (P)
Paul Fogle (NP)

Laura Princiotta (P)

William Del Toro Vargas (NP)

OVR Staff Present: James Whitonis

PaRC Staff Present: Chris Todd

CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was conducted through Zoom. Ms. Michele Leahy called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM after quorum was established.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Ms. Michele Leahy stated that she would like to add to the agenda discussion regarding recent invitation for event being held by the Neurodiversity Employment Network (NEN).

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND PAST MINUTES

MOTION was made by Ms. Laura Princiotta to approve today's agenda with additions and past meeting minutes. Ms. Michele Leahy seconded the motion. All were in favor.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

Discussion / Review of Updated PaRC Informational PowerPoint Presentation Content, Design, Information to be Provided Accompanying Word Document / Outline for Presenter

- Ms. Michele Leahy stated that she attends events with similar businesses such as NEN to provide discussion and information about Benefits Counseling, Work Incentive Planning and Assistance (WIPA), Act 69, waivers, long term impacts of services, employment, benefits, retirement funds, and counseling. Would like to

provide information about the benefits of VR counselors working from a business-to-business perspective rather than only from the end user and helping them to understand accommodations. Suggested having a section on the PaRC website about the finite aspects of OVR to the end user to provide information about 100 hours requirement, reapplication requirements for students, and other benefits counseling information.

- Ms. Laura Princiotta informed members in preparation for the NEN meeting that her business also has meetings planned with OVR regarding job placement within the tech industry and anticipates OVR leadership will want to discuss employment opportunities within the tech industry. Would like to provide businesses and OVR with as much information as possible to help integrate trainings within businesses' human resources, streamline the OVR process which is not easily integrated in today's business world.
- Members agreed that the revisions to the PowerPoint presentation were engaging, and consistent with the website and PaRC brand.

Motion was made by Ms. Laura Princiotta to recommend the PaRC Informational PowerPoint Presentation. Ms. Michele Leahy seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Discussion / Review of the MYPLS Quotes Provided PDF of Costs / Recommended Plans They Provided

- Ms. Michele Leahy stated that she would like to see if MYPLS would be able to provide additional Legislative contacts for the PaRC to increase newsletter and other outreach contacts. Suggested having the Legislative Committee work in partnership with the Social Media Committee to make use of and share the costs of the MYPLS services.

Discussion Regarding Additional Themes and Topics for February / March Newsletter and Social Media Posts Members previously suggested articles about Hidden Disabilities and Employment

- Members suggested additional topics and articles for upcoming newsletters including:
 - Articles regarding legal terminology for neurodiverse versus disability and requirements to receive services, what federal requirements and benefits businesses receive or claim when hiring someone claiming to be neurodiverse and informing applicants of services who are neurodiverse on qualification requirements.
 - Benefits counseling can be confusing, and it would be good to provide articles and information to make that easier to understand. This could also lead to a special section within the PaRC website to provide a permanent resource in addition to a newsletter. State and Federal benefits differ and may be the biggest obstacle in people obtaining employment.

- A Benefits Corner located on the website could assist with explaining these issues and keeping users of the website up to date on the many aspects of the waivers, differences between state and federal, and OVR services. This would also be a great topic for the April edition of the newsletter.
- Another topic for the website and newsletter could be the details of OVR services provided such as Early Reach, finite services, and links to other OVR services.
- Articles and success stories from providers, current focus of rehabilitation specialists regarding rate of pay, why are job coaches leaving, this month in assistive technology, accommodations.
- Articles that discuss hidden disabilities from the perspective of why do employees want to disclose disabilities or neurodiverse to employers, businesses that receive federal incentives when hiring someone that is neurodiverse.

Adjourn

MOTION was made by Ms. Laura Princiotta to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Michele Leahy seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned.