



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 Website: parehabilitationcouncil.org

CareerLink / WIOA Committee Meeting Minutes for March 14, 2023

Members Present (P)

Rob Wallington (P)
Paul Fogle (P)

Not Present (NP)

Andrew Pennington (P)

Kara Donatucci Pham (NP)

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

State Workforce Development Staff Present: Daniel Kuba

Guests Present: Twana Jones

PaRC Staff Present: Chris Todd, Michelle Gerrick

CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was conducted through Zoom. Mr. Rob Wallington called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND PAST MINUTES

MOTION was made by Mr. Andrew Pennington to approve the agenda and past meeting minutes. Mr. Rob Wallington seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Agenda items:

Discussion / Review for Committee Budget and Goals for FY 2023-2024

- Members agreed to add a step for quarterly reviews to Goal #1 regarding accessibility updates of CareerLink sites.

- Members agreed to add a step 2 to Goal #3 to ensure members are attending different state and local Workforce Development Board meetings and providing report on those.

Discussion for Committee Chair / Vice Chair for FY 2023-2024

- Mr. Rob Wallington recommended that Mr. Pennington be committee Chair for the upcoming Fiscal Year. Mr. Pennington stated that he would be willing to serve as Chair of the Committee. Members requested that the recommendation will be forwarded to the Executive Committee.

PA Workforce Development Updates

Mr. Dan Kuba, Deputy Secretary, Workforce Development

- Mr. Dan Kuba provided a link to their grants page, which provides information and resources for procurement of grants, vendor registration, and sample grant agreements; <https://www.dli.pa.gov/Businesses/Workforce-Development/grants/Pages/default.aspx>
- Mr. Kuba provided updates on grants and State Workforce Development (SWD) grants. Once finalized he will share a recent report received on digital literacy and digital deserts. SWD will continue to invest in digital literacy grants. SWD continues to invest in veterans to provide employment services to veterans throughout the Commonwealth. The School to Work grant came about as pilot project and will be continued as Governor Shapiro has included \$3.5 million for the grants in his budget which continues to provide a pathway to employment for youth. Provided instructions and link above to apply for grants which also includes a newly created video with step by step requirements/instructions and the application process. SWD also provides trainings for grant writing / applications. A \$10 million grant has been created working with the Department of Corrections for those transitioning from the prison system to employment.
- SWD continues working with OVR to ensure CWDS technology upgrades and forms are fully accessible. Currently in the pilot stage of the digital intake at PA CareerLinks. This will modernize the process across the Commonwealth.
- Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) provides employers that hire individuals with significant barriers to employment with a tax credit of \$1500 to \$3000 a year for each employee.
- SWD is currently working on a grant for the trades focusing on DEIA and the recruitment of minority women and veterans.
- Mr. Andrew Pennington inquired if the WOTC is available for individuals hired within the year. Inquired if VR is making businesses aware of the WOTC.
- Mr. Kuba reported that WOTC is an ongoing process. Once hired the paperwork is submitted to the Federal Government for the employee and then the credit is applied upon approval. SWD is working with OVR on their summer internship program to hire individuals at the Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Harrisburg CareerLinks.
- Mr. Rob Hodapp stated that the WOTC is promoted by OVR quite often.

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Updates
Mr. Rob Hodapp, Western Business Services & Outreach Specialist, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

- Mr. Rob Hodapp reported that the ADA Comprehensive CareerLink Assessments have been completed for CareerLink sites and that they have moved on to begin reviews of affiliate sites. Implementation of Assistive Technology has been completed. Updates to some location's TTY continue to be reviewed by Mr. Russ Goddard as needed.

Adjourn

MOTION was made by Mr. Andrew Pennington adjourn. Mr. Rob Wallington seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.