



Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC)

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OVR Policy & State Plan / Customer Satisfaction Committee Minutes for April 11, 2023

Members Present (P)

Not Present (NP)

Lynn Heitz (P)
Julia Grant Barol (P)
Paul Fogle (P)
Jeanette Alexander (P)

Michelle Paonessa (P)
Susan Tomasic (P)
Michele Leahy (P)

Robert Wallington (P)
Jessica Keogh (NP)
Michelle Mitchell (P)

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Staff Present: James Whitonis, Cheryl Novak, Tracie Maille, Mike Kirby

Project Staff Present: Chris Todd, Michelle Gerrick

Interpreters Present: Laura Schupp

CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was conducted through Zoom. Ms. Lynn Heitz called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND PAST MINUTES

MOTION was made by Ms. Julia Barol to approve today's agenda and past meeting minutes. Mr. Rob Wallington seconded the motion. All were in favor.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

Discussion/Development of a Draft of Description (a) of the 2024-2028 State Plan

- Regarding Recommendation 1, members inquired about data collection and availability related to the 14(c) workshops.

- Ms. Tracie Maille reported that Section 511 Specialists record outreach data using a One Drive. If someone at a workshop were to state that they are interested in services/seeking employment, their information is entered into CWDS. A survey would need to be created to collect more data regarding why someone would elect to remain in a workshop. Data is collected for opened cases and the referral source. It is noted if individuals have not expressed interest in employment and were given information to meet regulations for Section 511. Referral source data is a recent enhancement to capture additional information for referrals. Data is captured for how many individuals are at each facility and how many have open cases.
- There were no changes for Recommendation 1 or 2.
- Regarding Recommendation 3, members inquired how many cases are on a waiting list, remain inactive, remain in referral status, are awaiting eligibility determination, etc.
 - Ms. Maille reported that no one remains on the waiting list. Currently, OVR is working on a 5-S project to ensure each individual has been contacted that is listed on an OVR caseload to ensure they are still interested in OVR services, progressing in services, and require revisions to IPE.
 - Members reported that they know of many cases that have submitted the application more than a year ago and are awaiting next steps to begin receiving services. Recommended removing the date range from Recommendation 3, state “any inactive cases since March 2020,” and receive a status update on the 5-S Project results.
- Regarding Recommendation 4, members discussed the importance of providing additional staff, services, programs, and resources for students. Members agreed to add language about cross training and an increase in staff for both Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (BVRS) and Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services (BBVS).
- Members inquired about the timing of Description (a).
- Mr. Jim Whitonis reported that if members can meet again early in May 2023 there should still be enough time to have it completed and finalized for a Full Council vote for approval in August 2023. OVR will need the Council to finish their draft and provide enough time for the Leadership Team to formulate responses.
- Ms. Heitz requested that staff poll for a Policy Committee meeting for May 2, 2023 from 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM.

Adjourn

MOTION was made by Ms. Julia Barol to adjourn. Ms. Jeanette Alexander seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.