



# 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 Minutes for June 9, 2023

### Members Present (P)

### Not Present (NP)

William Del Toro Vargas (P)  
Lynn Heitz (NP)  
Michelle Mitchell (P)

Jeanette Alexander (P)  
Michele Leahy (NP)  
Jessica Keogh (P)

Julia Grant Barol (P)  
Paul Fogle (P)

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

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** None

### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND PAST MINUTES:

***MOTION was made by Ms. Jeanette Alexander to approve today's agenda and past meeting minutes. Ms. Michelle Mitchell seconded the motion. All were in favor.***

### AGENDA ITEMS:

#### Discussion of Committee Chair and Vice Chair for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

- Mr. William Del Toro Vargas nominated himself for Committee Chair. There were no other nominations.
- Mr. Paul Fogle declared Mr. William Del Toro Vargas Committee Chair for FY 2023-2024 by acclamation.
- Ms. Julia Barol and Ms. Jessica Keogh nominated themselves for Committee Vice Chair.
- Mr. Paul Fogle declared Ms. Keogh Committee Vice Chair for FY 2023-2024 after a roll call vote was held by the Committee.

#### Discussion of MYPLS Services

- Members requested that staff contact the MYPLS representative to follow up about questions regarding accessibility issues of their website application drop down lists to inquire about a possible trial demo subscription to test for members to test for screen reader accessibility before making any decisions.

## **Review State / Federal Position Papers and Watchlists**

- Members agreed that the legislation to be discussed relates to employment of people with disabilities.
- Mr. Fogle suggested members take time between meetings to review legislation to be discussed for the purpose of ranking by priority.
- Mr. Del Toro Vargas explained that today's discussion is to determine if each bill will be supported by the PaRC and included as such within the State and Federal Position Paper. Prioritization of bills to be discussed with Legislators during meetings will be determined during a future Committee meeting.
- Ms. Mitchell inquired about how many bills the Council should support.
- Mr. Del Toro Vargas explained there is not a specific amount or limit to how many pieces of legislation the Council should support and include within the Position Papers. Explained the importance of reviewing each piece of legislation, asked members to review the Bills included in the Watchlists for discussion prior to the next meeting, welcomed members to ask questions by email about this legislation prior to the next Committee meeting, asked staff to create an email chain with the documents, and postponed any votes on legislation to be included in the Position Papers until the next Committee meeting. Explained that State and Federal Position Paper language on each topic is reviewed and updated annually, is created in collaboration with each associated organization such as the CILS, and that the Legislative Committee typically is more demanding of member's time than some of the other Committees with a need for up to 5 hours a month to review legislation, documents, and holding meetings with State and Federal Legislators. Will be keeping meeting with Legislators virtual for now and will be scheduling a work session to further prepare for those meetings. Committee meetings will be monthly and meetings with Legislators could be held bi-monthly depending upon Committee member discussion.
- Members agreed to thoroughly review the State and Federal Bills for additional discussion and vote during the next Committee meeting.

## **Schedule next committee meetings**

- A quorum of members is available for June 30<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM. Mr. Del Toro Vargas requested staff to poll members not at the meeting today for that date and time.

## **Adjourn**

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