



Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC)

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Full Council Quarterly Meeting May 17, 2023 Minutes

Council Members: Present (P) Not Present (NP)

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|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Jeanette Alexander (P) | Julia Barol (NP) | Lorie Brew (P) |
| Paul Fogle (P) | Lynn Heitz (P) | Jessica Keogh (NP) |
| Michele Leahy (NP) | Michelle Mitchell (P) | Michelle Paonessa (NP) |
| Andrew Pennington (P) | Kara Donatucci Pham (P) | Laura Princiotta (P) |
| Susan Tomasic (P) | William Del Toro Vargas (P) | Rob Wallington (NP) |
| Joan Myers Goodman (P) | | |

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Present: Ryan Hyde, Cheryl Novak, James Whitonis, Marci Katona, Danielle Schmidgall, Susan Storm, Deb Schwartz, Beth Ann Fanning, Ralph Roach, Dawn Sokol, Danielle Frascella, Tracie Maille, Mallory Ronan, Tammy Burke, Doug Rand, Mark Maurer, Jim France, Mike Kirby, Joe Attardo, Stacy Walter

Stakeholders Present: Melissa Hawkins, Office of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing (ODHH), Dale Verchick, Disability Rights, Matthew Seeley, Pennsylvania Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

Guest Speaker: Chris Zakraysek, Deputy Director of Operations, Christopher Miller, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist

Project Staff Present: Michelle Gerrick, Christopher Todd

Moderator of Zoom Present: Nichole Wade

CART: Max Body

Interpreters: Ashley Shenk, Kendra Bartlet

Guests: Angel Torres

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS:

- Mr. Paul Fogle called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM and asked Ms. Michelle Mitchell to read the PaRC Mission Statement.
- Mr. Fogle informed members that the next Full Council meeting scheduled for August 2, 2023, will be held in a hybrid format of both in-person at the Harrisburg Hilton and virtually on Zoom. More information about travel requirements and details about the meeting format will be provided in the coming weeks.
- Ms. Jeanette Alexander provided the Fiscal Report for the third quarter of FY 2022-2023. Reported expenses were January 2023 = \$1,645.57, February 2023 = \$2,335.24, and March 2023 = \$416.22 for a total of \$4,397.03. Travel accommodations are typically the Council's largest expense. The Council's expenses have been lower due to ongoing concerns with the impact COVID-19 has had on travel, availability of attendant care services, etc., however, members have started to attend conferences in person this quarter.

MOTION was made by Ms. Michelle Mitchell to approve today's agenda. Mr. Andrew Pennington seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MOTION was made by Ms. Susan Tomasic to approve past meeting minutes. Ms. Kara Donatucci Pham seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MOTION was made by Ms. Lynn Heitz to approve the Fiscal Report. Ms. Susan Tomasic seconded the motion. All were in favor.

CHAIR REPORT: Mr. Paul Fogle, Chair

Full Council meeting format – Hybrid meeting in August 2023

Recognition of new / outgoing PaRC members

- Mr. Fogle recognized the two outgoing Council members and their contributions to the PaRC. Mr. Rob Wallington was instrumental in leading the CareerLink/WIOA Committee and was a tireless advocate for the improvement of the Unemployment Compensation system and accessibility. His leadership during Full Council and Executive Committee meetings will be missed. Ms. Laura Princiotta has been a big help with the Social Media/Outreach Committee and has worked closely with Ms. Michele Leahy in development of the new PaRC website, PaRC newsletter, and expanding the PaRC's database and presence on social media.

PaRC COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Mr. Paul Fogle, Chair

Letter supporting OVR's grant application for the Rehabilitation Services Administration's (RSA) Disability Innovation Fund (DIF) - Pathways to Partnerships (PTP) Innovative Model Demonstration Project

Letter recommending Ms. Julia Barol as a Board Member on the National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils (NCSRC)

- Mr. Fogle asked members for a motion for the letter of support for the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry's Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (PA OVR) in its grant application for The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Disability Innovation Fund (DIF) - Pathways to Partnerships (PTP) Innovative Model Demonstration Project. The DIF grant is to support innovative activities aimed at increasing Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) for youth with disabilities.
- Ms. Michelle Mitchell inquired how much money is being requested for the grant.
- Mr. Ryan Hyde reported that the maximum amount for the grant is \$10 million and OVR will most likely be applying for approximately \$9.9 million.

MOTION was made by Ms. Susan Tomasic to approve the Letter of Support for the Disability Innovation Fund (DIF) - Pathways to Partnerships (PTP) Innovative Model Demonstration Project grant application. Ms. Jeanette Alexander seconded the motion. All were in favor.

CSAVR Conference – Ms. Julia Barol & Ms. Michelle Mitchell

- Mr. Fogle reported that Ms. Julia Barol & Ms. Michelle Mitchell attended both the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) and National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils (NCSRC) Conferences. Ms. Barol expressed interest in joining the NCSRC Board and Mr. Fogle asked for a motion to approve her letter of reference.
- Ms. Mitchell provided a presentation on both conferences prepared by herself and Ms. Barol. Reported that the NCSRC Conference was attended by many states and focused on the importance of legislative advocacy, services for Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) for youth, and recruitment. Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) provided an update about their data dashboard which is accessed by VR centers and should be accessible to the Council. State Planning process was also discussed and should include specific, measurable, attainable, realistic time sensitive goals. CSAVR Conference was attended by all states' VR programs with a focus on best practices, comparison of different state VR activities, RSA technical assistance, professional development, budget planning, acquisition of funds, and DIF grants. \$224 million was returned to the Federal Government and those funds are placed into the DIF. Reinforced importance of advocacy with State Legislatures to ensure each state matches Federal monies. Other topics discussed were provision of services to consumers, public awareness, VR priorities and mission, rapid engagement for consumers, eligibility, and outcomes. A policy change could include language stating eligibility will be determined as soon as possible, but no later than 60 days to help speed up the determination process. Other topics included ways that long-term and high quality employment strategies work including apprenticeships, business engagement, career pathways, internships, rapid engagement, targeted outreach, work incentives, effective counseling, work-based learning, integrated career pathway from secondary to higher education, and third-party cooperative agreements.

MOTION was made by Ms. Michelle Mitchell to approve the NCSRC Letter of Reference for Ms. Julia Barol. Ms. Susan Tomasic seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: Ms. Susan Tomasic, Chair

PaRC Reappointments: Ms. Jeanette Alexander, Mr. Paul Fogle, Ms. Lynn Heitz, and Ms. Susan Tomasic

Ms. Passle Helminski's application for PaRC membership representing the category of Cognitive Disabilities

Recommendations / Discussion: revisions to the PaRC Bylaws

- Ms. Susan Tomasic reminded members that there is a new administration at the Governor's Office and the appointment and re-appointment processes may be delayed.
- Mr. Fogle mentioned that under the new administration the appointment process was completed in record speed with the most recent applicant appointed within two to three months.

MOTION was made by Ms. Lynn Heitz to approve the application of reappointment for Ms. Jeanette Alexander. Mr. William Del Toro Vargas seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MOTION was made by Ms. Lynn Heitz to approve the application of reappointment for Mr. Paul Fogle. Mr. William Del Toro Vargas seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MOTION was made by Mr. Andrew Pennington to approve the application of reappointment for Ms. Lynn Heitz. Ms. Lorie Brew seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MOTION was made by Ms. Michelle Mitchell to approve the application of reappointment for Ms. Susan Tomasic. Ms. Lynn Heitz seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MOTION was made by Ms. Jeanette Alexander to approve the application for membership for Ms. Passle Helminski. Ms. Lynn Heitz seconded the motion. Mr. William Del Toro Vargas abstained. The motion passed.

MOTION was made by Ms. Jeanette Alexander to approve the revisions to the Bylaws. Ms. Joan Goodman seconded the motion. All were in favor.

POLICY COMMITTEE: Ms. Lynn Heitz, Chair

Draft of Description (I) State Goals and Priorities of the Combined State Plan 2024-2028

- Mr. Fogle reported that there is new RSA guidance regarding the formatting of Description (l) of the 2024-2028 State Plan and explained that the Council may not want to provide approval of a draft that will need to be changed or redone.
- Mr. James Whitonis and Ms. Lynn Heitz agreed that makes sense and to look at the new guidance and discuss at a Policy Committee meeting.
- Mr. Whitonis explained that another goal will need to be added for Supported Employment, Description (l) will become Description (o), and that the timeline for an August approval should work as the draft will not have to go to public comment until September or October 2023.
- Ms. Heitz thanked everyone involved in the development of Description (a) and (l) drafts of the State Plan and committee review of recent OVR policy drafts.

**SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE: Ms. Michele Leahy, Chair
Committee Goals & Budget for fiscal year 2023-2024**

- Mr. Fogle reported that Social Media Committee has updated their goals.

MOTION was made by Mr. William Del Toro Vargas to approve Social Media Committee goals. Ms. Jeanette Alexander seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Mr. William Del Toro Vargas, Chair
Letter to Legislators highlighting PaRC Annual Report (Email and Printed)**

- Mr. Del Toro Vargas reported that members educated legislators about sheltered workshops and met with freshman legislators to educate them about OVR.

MOTION was made by Ms. Susan Tomasic to approve mailing and emailing of the letters highlighting the PaRC Annual Report for all State Legislators. Ms. Michelle Mitchell seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**TRANSITION COMMITTEE: Ms. Jeanette Alexander, Chair
Committee Goals & Budget for fiscal year 2023-2023**

MOTION was made by Mr. William Del Toro Vargas to approve the Transition Committee goals. Ms. Susan Tomasic seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**CAREERLINK COMMITTEE: Mr. Rob Wallington, Chair
Committee Goals & Budget for fiscal year 2023-2023
Andrew Pennington as Chair during fiscal year 2023-2024**

MOTION was made by Mr. William Del Toro Vargas to approve the CareerLink Committee goals. Ms. Michelle Mitchell seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MOTION was made by Ms. Michelle Mitchell to approve Mr. Andrew Pennington as Chair of the CareerLink Committee. Mr. William Del Toro Vargas seconded the motion. All were in favor.

AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATE - HIRAM G. ANDREWS CENTER: William Del Toro Vargas, Chair

Update: PaRC members touring Hiram G. Andrews Center on June 20, 2023

- Mr. Del Toro Vargas informed members that there is a scheduled tour of the Hiram G. Andrews Center (HGAC) on the morning of June 20, 2023, that members may attend, and to reach out to staff if interested.

AD HOC COMMITTEE - OVR HEARING OFFICERS / MEDIATORS: Mr. Andrew Pennington, Chair

Update: status of pending applications of Ms. Charlotte Andrews, Mr. Paul Stengle and Ms. Patricia Kennedy

- Mr. Pennington thanked Mr. Ralph Roach and Ms. Catherine Lantzy for attending the committee meetings during which discussion was continued from the last Full Council meeting regarding the potential conflict of interest of Impartial Hearing Officers/Mediators applicants and the Council's role in the determination of applicant's process. At this time, it was the opinion of the committee that the Council would not move forward with any of the three candidates, as discussed during committee meetings, due to specific conflicts of interest with regards to the law. Moving forward, the committee will hold further discussion in regard to the PaRC's role in the process of reviewing and being involved in the application process and approval process for IHO/Mediators.
- Ms. Mitchell inquired how these positions are advertised and marketing involved in finding suitable candidates. Suggested looking into lawyers from the Pennsylvania Education Agency. Thanked members that were willing to pause the process and voice their concerns.
- Mr. Pennington reported that as discussed during the committee meetings, an email blast is sent to OVR stakeholders. Further discussion is planned to determine how the Council may go about helping OVR in any way possible and understanding the PaRC's role.

OVR DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Ryan Hyde, OVR Executive Director

- Mr. Ryan Hyde reported that staffing remains an issue and was a huge topic of discussion at the CSAVR Conference. Minimum Education and Training (MET) requirements continue to be explored. Staffing in the Norristown and Philadelphia areas are struggling to attain and retain staff, but other areas are generally beginning to fill their complement and retain staff in accordance with the new MET requirements. Financing was also talked about a lot at the CSAVR Conference with a significant amount of money returned by states in the past several years

because it either was not spent or was not matched. Pennsylvania does not have any intention to return money for 2023 and is planning on matching the entire award. OVR is still working on spending money from 2022, as a larger amount of just over \$100 million was carried over from the 2022 grant into 2023.

- Referrals and spending continue to increase with almost \$19 million spent during the last Fall and Spring semesters for college expenditures. Efforts to invest Federal carryover include updates to business policy, Supported Employment, and On-the-Job Trainings (OJT) to allocate more resources.
- OVR is increasing outreach and partnership opportunities by providing presentations and holding meetings, requested each District Office create spring and fall outreach plans, and continue to remake connections lost during the pandemic.
- Pennsylvania implemented Rapid Engagement in July 2022 from a training and philosophical approach. OVR has seen improvements as a result of time frames of application to eligibility and eligibility up to planning. There are areas to improve upon and OVR will be reaffirming expectations and processes through the summer into fall.
- Significant updates to case management system went into effect in October 2022 in regard to Rapid Engagement. A monitoring unit was formed which will focus on case reviews, timeliness, and different aspects of compliance. Numbers regarding spending and statistics continue to increase in regard to performance indicators which is not just about Status 26 closures anymore. Career progression, measurable attainment, staying employed, and a focus on continuing to have services align with those expectations remain the focus.
- PaRC outreach with State Legislators to continue bipartisan support for VR is integral to ensure Pennsylvania has all of the match needed to draw the initial grant.
- Outreach efforts have increased with more social media planned, approvals of 10 success stories, and more are planned to be shared on a quarterly basis.
- Summer programs include My Works programs at 115 locations, 550 students statewide, with new locations in Erie and Pittston. Commonwealth program will have 28 students in Philadelphia, Johnstown, and Harrisburg. CIL partners will also be taking on summer interns. A new summer partnership with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources through their outdoor corps program will have 18 crew members at different state parks. OVR returns to Penn State for the Summer Academies for both the deaf and hard of hearing and the blind and visually impaired with a focus on Assistive Technology, navigating a campus, living with a roommate, asking for accommodations, study skills, note taking, and other skills important to transition of secondary to post-secondary education.
- Working with Unemployment Compensation (UC) OVR is finalizing a call center help desk support contract with a unique source in InspiriTec that will allow 20 to 40 individuals to earn a paying wage and teach them skills related to help desk and customer service. OVR is working on an embedded Supported Employment position where OVR would be supporting multiple customers at a facility 30 to 40 hours a week.

- Mr. Fogle inquired about the percentage of OVR customers that are in Transition age.
- Mr. Hyde reported about 40% of OVR customers are 24 years old and under which is a direct result of the implementation of Pre-Employment Transition Services (PreETS) under WIOA. Many of the programs reported on reflect that demographic which align with the goals of making sure students are directly connected with employment prior to or immediately following graduation.
- Mr. Pennington inquired how Central Office is addressing staffing issues in relation to Rapid Engagement, turnover, and customers waiting for services once a plan is developed.
- Mr. Hyde explained that staffing, outreach, and finances are all intertwined. OVR is pushing for more hiring actions, exploring recruitment, expanding MET requirements, and having more flexibilities with staff teleworking and located throughout the state.
- Mr. Del Toro Vargas thanked Mr. Hyde for their presentation at HUNE and inquired about collaboration between ODP and Office of Long-term Living (OLTL). Suggested that new leadership in those areas may help OVR bridge the gap for employment.
- Mr. Hyde reported that they have a meeting scheduled with OLTL. There has always been challenges because of the lack of ability to share data and information due to confidentiality related restrictions as they do not have a case management system. There is no way to share unique identifiers or know who customers are and coordinate services. OVR is always willing to come to the table and meet.
- Ms. Heitz inquired OVR's partnership with InspiriTec and if they have accessible screen reading software system.
- Mr. Hyde explained that he would have to follow up on that as OVR does not have the authority to enforce accessibility. If they are receiving Federal funding, they would have to be meeting the 508 compliance requirements, but OVR does not police that.

ELECTION: PaRC OFFICERS FOR FY 2023-2024

- Ms. Tomasic stated that there is one candidate nominated for Chair, Mr. Paul Fogle and opened the floor for additional nominations. Hearing none, Ms. Tomasic declared that Mr. Paul Fogle is elected Chair for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 by acclimation.
- Mr. Fogle stated that there is one candidate nominated for Vice Chair, Ms. Susan Tomasic and opened the floor for additional nominations. Hearing none, Mr. Fogle declared that Ms. Susan Tomasic is elected Vice Chair for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 by acclimation.
- Ms. Tomasic stated there are two candidates for Member-at-Large, Ms. Michelle Mitchell and Ms. Julia Barol and opened the floor for additional nominations. Hearing none, the floor was closed, and members were asked to give their vote by voice when their name was called.

- Upon the tallying of member votes, Ms. Tomasic declared Ms. Michelle Mitchell Member-at-Large for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 by unanimous vote, with two abstentions from Ms. Michelle Mitchell and Ms. Joan Goodman.

OVR REPORTS

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT STATE PLAN / WIOA COMMON PERFORMANCE MEASURES / COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE NEEDS ASSESSMENT (CSNA)

Ms. Cheryl Novak, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist

Mr. Jim Whitonis, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist

- Mr. Whitonis reported that they have received some last minute guidance from RSA regarding the Description (l) State Plan goals which will be combined with Description (o) and streamline the Plan. This guidance will not impact Description (a). As of May 8, 2023, the CSNA is now underway after significant delay in the procurement process. This will not have an impact on the next Plan but may need to compress the CSNA or delay the deadline for the month that was lost.
- Ms. Mitchell inquired about the delivery process of the CSNA in relation to OVR customers.
- Mr. Whitonis reported that in the past Temple University was able to use an incentive system to receive returns from customers. Due to feedback from RSA that is no longer allowed.

RSA-911

Mr. Mark Mauer, Program Analyst

- Mr. Hyde reported that the 911 is RSA's statistical report on all case management activities. There are approximately 400 data elements throughout the life of the case. Data is collected through the case management system, included in the 911, and includes demographic information, unique identifier for each customer, services received, money spent on cases, outcomes, goals, earnings, and much more. Counselors are responsible for collecting the information in collaboration with clerical staff and the customer. Mr. Mark Mauer and his team are then responsible for submitting, data checks, and special data evaluation. RSA uses that information to evaluate the success of each VR program across the nation. A collective report is also provided to Congress on the success of VR programs. This is OVR's largest report from a data perspective and is not just one shareable report but is a file made up of tens of thousands of records and comma delineated files. The RSA 911 is also required under WIOA.
- Mr. Mark Mauer reported that OVR receives a quarterly data feedback called the data dashboard which is publicly available. The data dashboard for the 2nd quarter of 2022 Excel document was shared on the screen and is accessible to screen readers. The document allows for comparison with other state agencies, allows for display of quarterly data for different categories such as service of participants, total exiting, number on waiting list, participants by age, barriers to employment, race of applicants, programs of involvement, services provided, aggregate groups for analysis, college and training information, work based services, PreETS, career

services, VR and guidance, diagnosis and treatments, assessments, transportation services, rehabilitative technologies, student information, outcomes, employment, self-employment, supportive employment, post exit outcomes, salaries, credential attainment, performance indicators, employers, positions of employment, and hourly wages.

- Mr. Fogle inquired about Council access to the data dashboard.
- Ms. Novak shared that the link to the information is included in the Executive Director quarterly report.
- Ms. Mitchell suggested that the Council have access to the data dashboard and receive similar reports on a quarterly basis and that include comparisons with other states.

OVR POLICY UPDATES

Driving and Vehicle Services Policy, Ms. Danielle Schmidgall, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist

Supported Employment Policy, Mr. Doug Rand, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist

- Ms. Danielle Schmidgall reported that due to public comments and questions the draft for the Driving and Vehicle Services policy is going to be out for public comment again from May 19, 2023, to June 2, 2023. OVR recently received comments from the groups certified driving rehabilitation specialists regarding the language in the policy. The hope is to have the policy ready for final approval for the August meeting.
- Mr. Doug Rand reported that the Supported Employment policy received over 160 public comments, received great feedback from vendors, stakeholders, State Board members, and others. OVR will be working on revising the policy and providing clarity based upon the feedback and if available in time will provide an updated draft for Council approval for the August FC meeting.
- Mr. Fogle stated that if it was not available for the August meeting the next opportunity for FC approval would be October 18, 2023.

PRESENTATION: HIRAM G. ANDREWS CENTER

Ms. Jill Moriconi, Director

Mr. Chris Zakraysek, Deputy Director of Operations

Mr. Christopher Miller, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist

- Mr. Chris Zakraysek and Mr. Christopher Miller provided a presentation on the HGAC which is one of the 5 bureaus operating under OVR. The center was opened in Johnstown, PA in 1959, and operates under the Rehab Act as re-authorized under WIOA. Commonwealth Technical Institute (CTI) is the post-secondary school located at HGAC and is the entity that awards Associate Degrees and Diplomas. CTI runs 3 terms per year, each is 16 weeks in length. Programs vary in length with the longest lasting 4 terms. Upon completion of a program, students are expected to return home or to other living situations of their choice to pursue employment. Values and priorities include student success, person centered

approaches in an environment where students feel they can learn and grow, effective programs and operations that meets outcomes and expectations of customers, stakeholders, and accrediting bodies, and the collaboration and communication that promotes partnership and growth.

- Customers opportunities to provide input include satisfaction surveys and CTI surveys.
 - Surveys are conducted at the end of each 16-week term. Data is compiled to review outcomes and identify and provide areas of improvement.
- There are two Student Advisory Committees for students currently enrolled.
 - One that covers CTI / education related issues and one that covers student life related issues.
 - Each committee meets monthly with members of management and provide open discussion regarding their concerns, changes that they would like to see, and provide healthy dialogue to problem solve issues of concern.
 - Student membership is also included in a Code of Conduct Committee. A Code of Conduct is reviewed annually and includes types of infractions, discipline, and non-disciplinary actions. Each dormitory hall elects a representative that meets with management regularly to help problem solve issues with each dormitory.
- Social media has been used recently for outreach to graduates for success stories and to track outcomes.
- Students are also provided information and a handbook which includes steps to provide concerns to management and a chain of command.
- An anonymous tip line was created for students to report concerns that are directly provided to the security department.
- Blue light call stations have been installed throughout the campus with a direct line to security.
- Formal complaint processes include Title 9 process, CTI complaint process, and general complaint process outlined within the code of conduct.
- Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors are meeting with students daily and are always a student's advocate. Exit interviews are conducted by counselors for each student.
- Consideration for program development or program closure are multifaceted and consider data and trends regarding referrals, enrollment, graduation rates, placement/ employment rates, outcomes, job outlook, labor statistics, employment opportunities, wage rates, opportunities for advancement, student and counselor input, program cost, and instructor availability. Approval of the accreditation bodies are also required to open a program.
- Gathering employment rate data begins with collecting an employment survey and contact information from students a month before graduation. Employment rates averages for CTI between 2016 and 2020 for each term was between 73% to 84% which is much higher than the National and State averages of 38% and 36% respectively, according to the Department of Labor.
- Business Services and Outreach Departments have undergone several enhancements in an effort to see upward trends in employment. Career Services staff has been increased. An 8 to 16 week externship program has been established

with local employers to assist students with developing soft skills and On-the-Job Training. Other career services include portfolio development, professional photography, work readiness workshops, interview preparation expansion, and job placement determination during student orientation.

- Career Services Department continues to provide services to graduates including information on job leads, lifetime resume service, and maintain a partnership with OVR counselors.
- The HGAC Annual Autism Awareness Walk, and Resource Faire was held recently with more than 400 participants. HGAC is working with various post-secondary schools on articulation agreements that would enable HGAC students to transfer credits toward a 4-year bachelor's degree program. Mount Aloysius College entered into an articulation agreement that would allow HGAC graduates to transfer about 60 credits from the HGAC Network Technology program into a bachelor's degree program. HGAC recently came to an agreement with the Cambria County Assistance Processing Office to be housed on the HGAC campus. Currently working on a pilot program with three Intermediate Units statewide to conduct driver evaluations with customers. Looking to offer Driver's Education virtually and behind the wheel training in the customer's community.
- Mr. Fogle inquired if HGAC interfaces with the Client Assistance Program (CAP).
- Mr. Zakraysek reported that they do interface with CAP and include information about CAP as part of vocational counseling.
- Ms. Mitchell inquired about data in regard to student enrollment from the general community versus students that come for disability related needs.
- Mr. Zakraysek reported that specific data could be shared during an upcoming committee meeting and that HGAC has recently partnered with Milton Hershey and are receiving a lot of students who do not have a diagnosis or disability. The percentage of students without a disability is roughly 5% to 10%.
- Members thanked HGAC staff, attendees, interpreters, and the moderator for their participation and assistance with the meeting.

ADJOURN

MOTION was made by Ms. Mitchell to adjourn. Mr. Pennington seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.