



Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC)

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CareerLink / WIOA Committee Meeting Minutes for May 23, 2023

Members Present (P)

Rob Wallington (P)
Paul Fogle (P)

Not Present (NP)

Andrew Pennington (P)

Kara Donatucci Pham (P)

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

State Workforce Development Staff Present: Daniel Kuba, James Martini

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 1:00 PM

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. Ms. Kara Donatucci Pham seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Agenda items:

PA Workforce Development Updates

Mr. Dan Kuba, Deputy Secretary, Workforce Development

- Mr. Dan Kuba provided information about available grant opportunities including the PAsmart Supporting Broadband Infrastructure through Apprenticeships Grant which

provides \$800,000 in grant funding to expand and support existing Registered Apprenticeship and/or Pre-Apprenticeship Programs in broadband-related occupations with a specific focus on diverse talent pipelines and underserved populations.

- The Nursing Pathway Apprenticeship Programs Grant is offering training for nursing occupations including home health aides, certified nursing assistants, and licensed practical nurses and is specifically designed for and targeting underserved populations.
- The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in the Building and Construction Trades Grant through apprenticeships is designed to provide access to occupational opportunities for women, minorities, veterans, and people with disabilities.
- The Building and Supporting a Certified Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program provides guidance and support for those seeking teaching certifications through partnerships between the Apprenticeship Training Office (ATO), Bureau of Workforce Development Administration (BWDA), and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE).
- Workforce Development is in the early planning stages for a grant to provide support for Childcare Apprenticeships in partnership with Governor Shapiro and Acting Secretary of PA Department of Labor and Industry (L&I), Nancy Walker.
- Beginning in June and July 2023, an L&I campaign will begin addressing the more than 380,000 Pennsylvanian Unemployment claimants that have not returned to work. Goals for this campaign include providing information about readily available PA CareerLink Social Services and identifying barriers and implementing solutions for returning to the workforce. A contractor will be selected to help gather necessary data from the PA CareerLinks. L&I will focus on and provide solutions to two key issues, childcare and transportation. SkillUp™ PA is an online job skills training Metrix Learning Portal accessed through the PA CareerLink website. Statewide Layoff Aversion Program (SLAP) Grant helps businesses identify and provide solutions before layoffs occur. Workforce Development is glad to have increased the grant amount and aid with identifying Information Technology (IT) solutions for the business sector as a whole.

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Updates

Mr. Rob Hodapp, Western Business Services & Outreach Specialist, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

- Mr. Rob Hodapp reported that he and Ms. Bridget Frascella have completed the ADA Comprehensive Assessments of almost all of the PA CareerLink sites. There are two sites remaining in Adams County and Chambersburg area. As requested by Mr. Mike White they have also been providing assessments at the CareerLink affiliate sites which are located in rural areas where CareerLinks are located further apart. CareerLink comprehensive sites have not had any major issues with physical accessibility, most computers have been updated with FUSION software, portable CC TVs, and up to date TTYs. Affiliate sites are partnering with local business partners and are working together to get up to speed with physical accessibility. Recently visited an affiliate site that has already installed a fully accessible ramp

and widened their doorways. Progress is being made at affiliate sites as they begin installation of updated accessible computers.

- CareerLink staff trainings that provide information regarding working with people with disabilities are ongoing. High Intensity Interval Trainings are being planned, will provide a lot of information in a short time frame, and are scheduled for August 2023. Business Outreach staff will be talking to CareerLink staff during these trainings about disability related services, legal obligations relating to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), accommodations, accessibility, interacting with people with disabilities whether they are connected with OVR or not, interviewing, how to disclose a disability, and onboarding processes.
- Mr. Wallington inquired if the committee will have access to those meetings/trainings.
- Mr. Pennington stated that even just providing the PowerPoint or meeting materials would also be helpful. Inquired if CareerLink sites and affiliates normally have OVR staff or OVR counselors on site. Has received numerous inquiries about CareerLink staff immediately ushering CareerLink customers with disabilities to OVR whether the customer is affiliated in any way with OVR or not. Members agreed that individuals at CareerLinks do not have to go through OVR to receive services from CareerLink and inquired if there is a potential for training on this topic.
- Mr. Hodapp will report to Mr. Doug Rand to inquire about the training invitations and availability. One component of the training includes information that not everyone wants or needs OVR services.
- Mr. Kuba thanked Mr. Hodapp for his follow up and partnership in providing training not just for CareerLink staff but other community and state partnerships.
- Mr. James Martini reported that Mr. Kuba did a great job covering the many activities of Workforce Development. Committees of the Workforce Development Board have been covering specific topics of healthcare and teachers. The Board continues to collaborate with Mr. Kuba and his team, talk with different stakeholders within the community, along with businesses. Collaboration continues to increase between the State and Local Workforce Boards.
- Mr. Pennington inquired if disability is part of the inclusivity of the DEI grants and how. Inquired if the teacher grant is solely for certification of elementary and secondary schools or if it also covers childcare. Inquired if apprenticeships may become available for OVR customers that have come from childcare programs. Inquired about the status of the Apprenticeship Navigator Program.
- Mr. Kuba reported Workforce would like to ensure that all Labor partners have policies in place regarding disability. The DEI grants help to put those policies in place and help with recruitment of those who are part of minority groups, women, veterans, and accessible to people with disabilities. Businesses are also asked to provide information about limitations of certain trades and what training aspects are necessary and required to be developed for OVR staff or potential employees. The teacher certification grant is primarily for grades K thru 12. The childcare crisis is being looked at through an existing model and also through looking at labor opportunities that exist for potential apprenticeships, certifications, and services. Believes childcare apprenticeships will be available to OVR customers as they have had meetings with Hiram G Andrews Center (HGAC) regarding a childcare

apprenticeship model.

- Mr. Hodapp reported that he and Mr. Jeff Seabury have continued to work on the Apprenticeship Navigator Program to expand apprenticeship opportunities for everybody especially people with disabilities.
- Mr. Paul Fogle thanked Mr. Wallington for all of his leadership and contributions over his many years on the Council and as Chair of the CareerLink Committee. As previously mentioned during the last Full Council meeting, Mr. Wallington has done a lot of great work especially in regard to the Unemployment Compensation, Workforce Development, and CareerLink realms.
- Mr. Wallington thanked all attendees for their contributions, partnerships, and allowing him to support Pennsylvanians with disabilities and our most vulnerable populations.

Accessibility Review of CareerLink Locations, Affiliate Sites and CareerLink Services

ADA Comprehensive CareerLink Assessments Implementation of Assistive Technology (AT) CareerLink Staff Trainings

- This topic was previously discussed.

Adjourn

MOTION was made by Mr. Andrew Pennington to adjourn. Ms. Kara Donatucci Pham seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.