



# Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC)

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## **OVR Policy & State Plan / Customer Satisfaction Committee Minutes for July 25, 2023**

### **Members Present (P)**

### **Not Present (NP)**

Lynn Heitz (P)  
Susan Tomasic (P)  
Lorie Brew (P)

Michelle Paonessa (NP)  
Jessica Keogh (P)

Julia Grant Barol (P)  
Paul Fogle (P)

**Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Staff Present:** James Whitonis, Cheryl Novak, Danielle Schmidgall, Mike Kirby

**Project Staff Present:** Chris Todd

### **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 accept today's agenda and past meeting minutes. Ms. Susan Tomasic seconded the motion. All were in favor.***

### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **Review of Description A**

- Members reviewed a draft of Description A of the 2024-2028 State Plan and agreed that it looked good.
- Ms. Lynn Heitz suggested one correction as BVRS and BBVS should be followed by Bureau rather than office.

***MOTION was made by Ms. Julia Barol to forward the corrected draft of Description A to the Executive Committee. Ms. Susan Tomasic seconded the motion. All were in favor.***

### **Conversation and Recommendation for Description L**

- Members reviewed a draft of Description L of the 2024-2028 State Plan and provided a few suggestions.
  - Under **Goal 2: Increase Transition Services for Students with Disabilities** members would like to add: 3. Identify low performing schools and assist to increase positive outcomes during transition.
  - Under Goal 6: Increase Supported Employment/VR Outcomes members suggested adding to 3. a. work incentives / employment supports / tax credits.

***MOTION was made by Ms. Julia Barol to forward the draft of Description L with member suggestions to the Executive Committee. Ms. Susan Tomasic seconded the motion. All were in favor.***

### **Updates from OVR and Driving and Vehicle Services Policy**

- Ms. Danielle Schmidgall provided updates for the OVR Driving and Vehicle Services Policy draft. Changes based upon a second public comment period included the addition of Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA) to the Clinical Driving Assessments, Non-Adaptive Vehicle Services, and Adaptive Vehicle Services. Under section C. the following was removed:
  - This training is typically provided after the customer completes a non-adaptive driving evaluation; however, there may be times customers move directly into non-adaptive driver's training.
- Ms. Lynn Heitz inquired about an update for the Employment Supports Policy.
- Ms. Cheryl Novak reported that the policy is on hold until a comprehensive review is completed. Stakeholder and provider feedback was provided during public comment and a thorough review is currently in progress. Mr. Doug Rand and Ms. Beth Ann Fanning will be invited to provide an overview of their progress for the next Policy Committee meeting.
- Members agreed to hold the next Policy Committee meeting on August 29<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM.

***MOTION was made by Ms. Julia Barol to move the OVR Driving and Vehicle Services Policy forward to the Executive Committee. Ms. Susan Tomasic seconded the motion.***

### **Adjourn**

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