



# 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)

## Transition and Education Committee Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2023

2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

### Members Present (P)

### Not Present (NP)

Jeanette Alexander (P)

Julia Grant Barol (P)

Andrew Pennington (P)

Lynn Heitz (P)

Michelle Mitchell (P)

Lorie Brew (P)

Jessica Keogh (P)

Paul Fogle (P)

**Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Staff Present:** Cheryl Novak, Melissa Wert-Thrush, James Whitonis, Hillary Hubbell, Mike Kirby, Kim Robinson, Carla Hill

**PaRC Staff Present:** Chris Todd

### CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was conducted through Zoom. Ms. Jeanette Alexander called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM after quorum was established.

### ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND PAST MINUTES

***MOTION was made by Ms. Julia Barol for approval of the agenda and past meeting minutes. Mr. Andrew Pennington seconded the motion. All were in favor.***

### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

#### Discussion of Committee Budget and Goals for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

- Members reviewed Goal #1 and agreed to remove the PADES Conference from step 2 which has not been held in a few years and replace it with the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) Conference held annually and attended by Bureau of Special Education (BSE) and PDE educators and administrators.
- Members agreed to remove step 3 from Goal #2 as the report mentioned is not part

of BSE collected data. This data is included in Goal #4 step 3 as part of the Act 26 Reports. There were no changes to Goals #3 and #4.

- Mr. Paul Fogle reported that the PaRC's Hiram G Andrews Center (HGAC) Ad hoc committee work may continue into the next Fiscal Year and Goal #5 could be removed from Transition's goals and be included in the Ad hoc Committee's objectives.
- Members requested that revisions of the goals be shared with the committee by staff and that a new goal regarding attendance of additional conferences / learning about best practices be provided by members after the revisions are reviewed.

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

- Ms. Julia Barol and Mr. Andrew Pennington volunteered to co-chair the committee for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Their information will be forwarded to Executive Committee and Full Council for review/approval.

### **Discussion of Grants for Innovative Demonstration Projects**

- Ms. Kim Robinson reported that the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) grant just came out about a week ago. Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) is discussing the grant with their Executive Team and will be meeting with BSE to share ideas and brainstorm how to move forward. Invited members to share their ideas for the grants.
- Ms. Julia Barol inquired if there is a way to work with local school districts that are determined to be the least innovative and help them transform their practices with transition age youth.
- Ms. Robinson reported that Transition Discoveries holds assessments that could be used to identify those schools.
- Members inquired about increasing collaboration between school districts and OVR.
- Ms. Robinson suggested holding an additional meeting with members after OVR meets with BSE and there are more concrete ideas on how to move forward with the grant. Reported that transportation would be an important topic and that the grant includes information/requirements regarding collaboration, work experience, job shadowing, and developing a website.
- Mr. Pennington shared that collaboration with school districts and OVR should be a very important part of the grant. A web video and/or tutorial that provides information about what OVR does and what school districts can expect to create a definitive definition of each other's roles would be very helpful in improving collaboration.

### **OVR Updates**

#### **Youth Ambassador Program**

#### **Transition Navigator**

#### **Early Reach Workgroup**

#### **Staffing / Rapid Response Implementation / Outreach Efforts**

- Ms. Cheryl Novak reported that the Early Reach Workgroup is on hold until June 2023 due to Union negotiations. Youth Ambassador Program, Transition Navigator, and Staffing / Rapid Response Implementation / Outreach Efforts updates will be provided at a later date.

## **Review and Discussion of Transition Customer Satisfaction Surveys and Act 26 Reports**

### **Survey Return Rate**

### **Act 26 Data Regarding Blindness and Visual Services for Students**

- Members inquired if Customer Satisfaction Survey response rates have improved and if it is possible to fill out the survey during the final team meeting when the customer and staff are all present. Members inquired if the surveys are being updated to be more user friendly and incorporate updated technology.
- Ms. Novak reported that there are multiple types of surveys 1 month, 6 month, 12 month, and unsuccessful closures / post closure. The other issue would be asking someone to fill out a survey while providers are present. OVR is in the process of working on the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA) contract with Temple University and ways to creatively work on the Customer Satisfaction Surveys will be worked on with Temple University as part of that project. Issues regarding the surveys can be further discussed at the next meeting and Mr. Ralph Roach could further report on those efforts at that time. Regarding Act 26 data regarding blindness and visual services for students, OVR does not create what type of data should be collected and submits data that is being requested of OVR. Including specific services and disability categories within that data has been a challenge. This request is being forwarded to OVR staff that collects this data for review.
- Ms. Alexander requested updates from OVR regarding the Transition Services, surveys, and Act 26 data for the next meeting in July 2023.

### **Updates from Bureau of Special Education**

- BSE has been focused on initiatives to improve staffing. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) curriculum legislation has been passed which includes grants that will allow schools to integrate their curriculum with education about contributions of people with disabilities.

### **2023 PA Community of Practice Transition Conference, Our Voice, Our Plan, Our Future – In-person or Virtual, August 9-10, 2023**

- Ms. Alexander informed members about the upcoming Transition Conference.

### **Adjourn**

***MOTION was made by Ms. Julia Barol to adjourn. Mr. Andrew Pennington seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.***