



Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC)

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The mission of the Council is to inform and advise the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, the State Board of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Legislature, and the Governor on the diverse issues affecting employment of people with disabilities.

**FULL COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2023
10:00 am – 3:00 pm**

ZOOM MEETING MODERATOR: MS. NICHOLE WADE

CAPTIONS Viewing Link: <https://2020archive.1capapp.com/event/parc>

MEETING AGENDA

10:00 AM **WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS:** Mr. Paul Fogle, Chair

- PaRC Mission Statement
- Roll Call of Council Members – Ms. Nichole Wade, moderator
- Discussion of Agenda Additions – Mr. Russ Goddard, VR Specialist, OVR Audiological Policy Update following the OVR Erie District Office Updates

ACTION: Approval of today's Meeting Agenda

ACTION: Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 02, 2023

PaRC FISCAL REPORT (1st QUARTER): Ms. Michelle Mitchell, Member at Large

ACTION: Approval of PaRC 1st quarter Fiscal Report

CHAIR REPORT: Mr. Paul Fogle, Chair

- Welcome new PaRC member, Ms. Twana Jones
- Introduction of Ms. Joyce Bender, Founder and CEO of Bender Consulting Services

10:30 AM **NEW BUSINESS:** PaRC Committee Chairs

- **Executive Committee:** Mr. Paul Fogle, Chair
 - Recommendation / Discussion: Full Council Meeting dates in 2024
 - Wednesday, February 14, 2024
 - Wednesday, May 15, 2024
 - Wednesday, August 14, 2024
 - Wednesday, November 13, 2024

ACTION: Approval of the 2024 Full Council meeting dates

- Recommendation / Discussion: Virtual Full Council meetings on February 14, 2024 and November 13, 2024 and Hybrid Full Council meetings on May 15, 2024 and August 14, 2024.

ACTION: Approval of a virtual Full Council meeting on February 14, 2024 and November 13, 2024 and a hybrid Full Council meeting on May 15, 2024 and August 14, 2024.

- Recommendation / Discussion: PaRC member story to feature in the 2022-2023 Annual Report

- **CareerLink Committee:** Mr. Andrew Pennington, Chair

- **Governance Committee:** Ms. Susan Tomasic, Chair

- Recommendation / Discussion: Ms. Sylenthia Dent-Siebenlist's application for PaRC membership representing category of General Advocacy

ACTION: Approval of forwarding Ms. Sylenthia Dent-Siebenlist's application, resume, and letters of reference to the Governor for consideration of appointment to the PaRC representing the category of General Advocacy

- **Legislative Committee:** Mr. William Del Toro Vargas, Chair

- Recommendation / Discussion: Support of SB746: An Act amending the act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225), known as the Dog Law

ACTION: Approval of supporting SB746 An Act amending the act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225), known as the Dog Law

- **Policy Committee:** Ms. Lynn Heitz, Chair

- **Social Media Committee:** Ms. Michele Leahy, Chair

- **Transition Committee:** Ms. Julia Barol, Chair

- **Ad Hoc Committee - Hiram G. Andrews Center:** Mr. William Del Toro Vargas, Chair

- **Ad Hoc Committee - OVR Hearing Officers / Mediators:** Mr. Andrew Pennington, Chair

11:00 AM

OVR QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT STATE PLAN

Mr. Jim Whitonis, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist

OVR ERIE DISTRICT OFFICE

Mr. Jack Hewitt, District Administrator, Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (BVRS)

Ms. Cassandra Falkenhagen, District Administrator, Bureau of Blind and Visual Services (BBVS)

OVR AUDIOLOGICAL POLICY UPDATE

Mr. Russ Goddard, VR Specialist

- 11:30 AM **BREAK**
- 11:40 AM **OVR DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
Mr. Ryan Hyde, OVR Executive Director
- 12:35 PM **PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 12:45 PM **LUNCH**
- 1:30 PM **STAKEHOLDER UPDATES**
- 2:00 PM **PRESENTATION / Q & A** - Mr. Michael Gamel - McCormick, Senate Special Committee on Aging, Disability Policy Director, Senator Bob Casey
- 2:30 PM **PRESENTATION / Q & A** - Ms. Kristin Ahrens, Deputy Secretary for Pennsylvania's Office of Developmental Programs (ODP)
- 3:00 PM **ADJOURN**

All members of the public are welcome to join meetings by computer or phone. The Zoom meetings are also available for the public to attend at the following physical site location: UCP/PaRC business office at 55 Utleigh Dr. Camp Hill, PA 17011. Please contact PaRC staff at parc@parehabilitationcouncil.org or at 717-975-2004 at least three days prior to the meeting to confirm attendance. Accommodations are available upon a timely request to individuals with disabilities. Anyone who would like to make Public Comment prior to the meeting may submit comments to parc@parehabilitationcouncil.org or at (717) 975-2004.