



Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC)

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OVR Policy & State Plan / Customer Satisfaction Committee Minutes for November 13, 2023

Members Present (P)

Not Present (NP)

Lynn Heitz (NP)
Susan Tomasic (NP)

Michelle Paonessa (NP)
Jessica Keogh (NP)

Julia Grant Barol (P)
Paul Fogle (P)

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Staff Present: James Whitonis, Cheryl Novak, Chris Harbert, Audrey O'Connor

Project Staff Present: Chris Todd

CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was conducted through Zoom. Ms. Julia Barol called the meeting to order at 2:35 PM.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND PAST MINUTES

Quorum was not met for this meeting.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

OVR Updates

- Mr. James Whitonis provided an update on the State Plan which was reviewed by Workforce Development, Governor's Office, and their legal department. Upon review the draft is now open to Public Comment scheduled from today, November 13th thru December 8th, 2023. Public meetings are scheduled for November 14th and 16th. A link to the draft and Public Comment information is available on the OVR Publications webpage. Public Comment responses will be formulated and finalized prior to the State Board special session scheduled for January 2024 to provide final vote on The Plan.

- Ms. Audrey O'Connor reported that the Audiological Services policy State Board review and approval process has been pushed back to June 2024. A 2nd draft of the Audiological Services policy is being reviewed by the OVR Executive team. The Financial Needs Test (FNT) policy draft is planned to be submitted to the OVR Executive team in the coming weeks with a plan for a June 2024 approval.
- Mr. Paul Fogle inquired if OVR would need another Council vote on the State Plan in February.
- Ms. Cheryl Novak explained OVR may provide an update on the FNT policy during the February Full Council meeting. Ms. Novak explained that she thought there would be an Executive Committee meeting held in early January prior to the State Board special session scheduled for January 10th. This would be for a final vote of the State Plan including the Public Comment responses.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 PM.