



Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC)

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Full Council Special Meeting Minutes January 8, 2024

Council Members: Present (P) Not Present (NP)

Julia Barol (NP)	Lorie Brew (P)	Paul Fogle (P)
Joan Goodman (NP)	Lynn Heitz (P)	Twana Jones (NP)
Jessica Keogh (NP)	Michele Leahy (P)	Michelle Mitchell (P)
Michelle Paonessa (P)	Andrew Pennington (P)	Kara Donatucci Pham (NP)
Susan Tomasic (P)	William Del Toro Vargas (P)	

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Present: Cheryl Novak, James Whitonis, Chris Harbert

Project Staff Present: Michelle Gerrick, Christopher Todd

Interpreters: Sharon Costa

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS: Mr. Paul Fogle, Chair

MOTION was made by Mr. William Del Toro Vargas to approve of today's agenda. Ms. Michele Leahy seconded the motion. All were in favor.

CHAIR REPORT: Mr. Paul Fogle, Chair

Recommendation / Discussion: Change Full Council hybrid meeting date from: Wednesday, August 14, 2024, to Tuesday, August 13, 2024

MOTION was made by Ms. Susan Tomasic to change the Full Council hybrid meeting date from Wednesday, August 14, 2024, to Tuesday, August 13, 2024. Mr. Del Toro Vargas seconded the motion. All were in favor.

2024-2028 STATE PLAN – Mr. Jim Whitonis, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist
Recommendation / Discussion of public comments and revisions to the final draft of OVR goals & priorities

- Mr. James Whitonis reported that there were not a lot of changes to the State Plan since the last update was provided to the Council. The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) released guidance requesting all states to leverage Legislative action including the Infrastructure Invest and Jobs Act, known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) and Science Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) in their State Plans. Language to address this was added to Description (k), which also now includes information about the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and Office of Administration (OA) collaboration with OVR.
- Members inquired if a vote could take place during today's meeting without adherence to the Sunshine Act.
- Mr. Fogle explained that today's meeting is a public meeting and that Public Notice was distributed in compliance with the Sunshine Act at least 48 hours prior to meeting taking place.
- Ms. Michelle Gerrick (staff) confirmed that a Public Notice Ad for today's meeting was placed December 28, 2023. The meeting was also advertised on the PaRC website and social media.

MOTION was made by Mr. Del Toro Vargas to approve the 2024-2028 State Plan. Mr. Andrew Pennington seconded the motion. All were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- There was not Public Comment.

ADJOURN

MOTION was made to adjourn by Mr. Del Toro Vargas. Ms. Tomasic seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.