



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 HYBRID MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 08, 2024

Hilton Harrisburg – York/Lebanon Room
Zoom Virtual Platform

AGENDA

- 10:00 AM **WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS:** Paul Fogle, Chair
- PaRC Mission Statement
 - Roll Call of Council Members – Nichole Wade, Meeting Moderator
 - **ACTION: Approval of today's Meeting Agenda**
 - **ACTION: Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 14, 2024**
- 10:10 AM **PaRC FISCAL REPORT (3rd QUARTER):** Michelle Mitchell, Member at Large
- ACTION: Approval of PaRC 3rd quarter Fiscal Report**
- 10:15 AM **ELECTION OF PaRC OFFICERS FOR FY 2024 – 2025:** Susan Tomasic, Governance Committee Chair
- 10:45 AM **NEW BUSINESS:** Committee Chairs
- **Executive Committee:** Paul Fogle, Chair
Recognition of Michelle Leahy and Michelle Paonessa
Resignation of Lorie Brew
Develop a workgroup to discuss roles of the PaRC in comparison to the State Board and ways to strengthen collaborative efforts involving the two
ACTION: Approval of Committee Goals for FY 2024-2025
 - **CareerLink Committee:** Andrew Pennington, Chair
 - **Governance Committee:** Susan Tomasic, Chair

ACTION: Approval of revised PaRC Bylaws

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

ACTION: Approval of Committee Goals for FY 2024-2025

ACTION: Approval of updated State Position Paper

ACTION: Approval of updated Federal Position Paper

ACTION: Approval of [S.3118](#) and [H.R.6296](#) Senate and House Bill Short Title as Introduced: Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Relief Act

ACTION: Approval of [S.2522](#) and [H.R. 5102](#) House and Senate Bill Short Title as Introduced: ABLE MATCH (Making Able a Tool to Combat Hardship) Act

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

Audiological Services Policy – Ms. Cheryl Novak

ACTION: Approval of OVR Audiological Services Policy

Appoint Ad Hoc Committee to research best practices for improving response rates on Customer Satisfaction Surveys

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

ACTION: Approval of updated PaRC Brochures targeting Businesses/Employers, and the general public

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

ACTION: Approval of Committee Goals for FY 2024-2025

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

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

11:05 AM **BREAK (10 minutes)**

11:15 AM **OVR DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ryan Hyde, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), Executive Director

BUSINESS SERVICES

Dana McKinney, Business Services Outreach Division (BSOD), Division Chief

12:20 PM **PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minutes each)**

12:30 PM **LUNCH** (1 hour)

1:30 PM **STAKEHOLDER UPDATES**

- **Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH)** - Melissa Hawkins, Director
- **Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)** – Susan Tomasic, Chair
- **Employment First Oversight Commission (EFOC)** – Michele Leahy, member

2:00 PM **OVR REPORTS**

- **Quarterly Progress Report 2020-2024 State Plan Goals**
Jim Whitonis, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist
- **Altoona District Office**
Andy Wagner, DA-BBVS
Craig Schield, DA-BVRS

2:30 PM **BREAK** (10 minutes)

2:40 PM **COUNCIL WORK**

- **Conference Reports:**
 - 2024 PA Department of Education (PDE) Annual Conference** – Jessica Keogh
 - National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Council (NCSRC) / Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) Spring 2024 Conference** – Julia Barol, Michelle Mitchell, Andrew Pennington, William Del Toro Vargas

3:20 PM **PUBLIC COMMENT** (3 minutes each)

3:30 PM **ADJOURN**

NEXT PaRC FULL COUNCIL MEETING: TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2024