



# 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 March 5, 2024, from 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM

### Members Present (P)

### Not Present (NP)

Julia Grant Barol (P)  
Lorie Brew (P)  
Sylenthia Dent (P)

Andrew Pennington (P)  
Jessica Keogh (P)

Michelle Mitchell (NP)  
Paul Fogle (P)

**Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Staff Present:** Chris Harbert, Kim Robinson, Mara Wolfe, Melody Troup, Krista Sloan, Hillary Hubbell

**Guests Present:** Alyse Watson, Bureau of Special Education (BSE), Kathy Walton, Riverview Intermediate Unit #6, Elizabeth Bish, Youth Ambassador, Kylee Diaz, Youth Ambassador, Hunter Steinitz, Youth Engagement, PATTAN, Hayley Penn, Youth Engagement, PATTAN

**PaRC Staff Present:** Chris Todd, Michelle Gerrick

### CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was conducted through Zoom. Ms. Julia Barol called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM after quorum was established.

### ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions.

### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND PAST MINUTES

***MOTION was made by Ms. Lorie Brew for approval of the agenda and past meeting minutes with a correction. Mr. Andrew Pennington seconded the motion. All were in favor.***

### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

Updates from Bureau of Special Education (BSE)

- Ms. Alyse Watson reported that they had a wonderful turnout at the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) Conference, received great feedback and welcomed members to reach out with any additional input. Will continue to provide updates from BSE and will report to the Council Chair and staff once a decision is made regarding recommending someone from BSE to be appointed to the PaRC.

**OVR Updates**  
**Youth Ambassador Program**  
**Transition Navigator**  
**Early Reach Workgroup**

- Ms. Kim Robinson reported that Youth Ambassadors participated in the PDE Conference, attended work sessions, and engaged in networking and outreach during the Conference. The Youth Ambassador from Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 is focusing on different areas based upon their interests which includes student-led IEPs. The Youth Ambassadors from Riverview IU 6 have created a youth engagement group called Community of Riverview Engagement (CORE) that is engaging in many student projects. Youth Engagement Specialists are involved in outreach, networking, project development, and are exploring different ways to become more involved with the State Board and Council. Youth Ambassador (YA) programs are being developed in different locations throughout the Commonwealth including the York, Philadelphia, Reading, Pittsburgh, New Castle, and Washington areas. A focus on involving Community Rehabilitation agencies has resulted in the influx of additional YA programs due to their having more staffing and flexibility. Continued advocacy, education, and outreach have also contributed to the increase in YA programs.
- Members agreed that they appreciate the YA advocacy efforts and understand the great importance of this program.
- TEAM Navigator programs are in the works in school districts throughout the Commonwealth and will focus on students wanting to get involved in the comprehensive transition programs or inclusive post-secondary education programs.
- The OVR Early Reach Workgroup was put on hold during contract negotiations and determined that the workgroup will be revitalized when there is a need. OVR provided a clarification that the Early Reach program continues to exist and provide services to students. The workgroup was discussing ways to be more effective. Their plan is to move forward with the workgroup's suggestions.

**Review Committee Goals for Fiscal Year 24-25**

- Members reviewed the Committee goals document.
- Ms. Jessica Keogh inquired if specifics could be added to Goal #1 including turn around training for Council members that could not attend the Conference. Inquired how to share information gained from the conference with all stakeholders including PaRC members, OVR counselors, and others. Suggested adding a timeframe for members that attended the Conference to provide trainings to other Council

members within a feasible amount of time. This could include report outs or info sheets to maximize information that has been learned.

- Ms. Lorie Brew suggested a one sheet of resources that stakeholders and families could use. This could include QR codes.
- Ms. Hubbell inquired if PATTAN provides resources or information from the conference.
- Ms. Keogh reported they do provide recorded sessions and other resources from the conference through an app. This information could be overwhelming, and it may be beneficial to share the highlights.
- Mr. Andrew Pennington inquired how to determine what the highlights would be and to ensure all pertinent information is included for everyone. Members inquired if this information is already being compiled from the PDE and other PATTAN conferences to best disseminate the information as a resource to stakeholders and families.
- The PaTTAN Resources and Publications pages were shared with all attendees:
  - <https://www.pattan.net/publications/?pagesize=&sortby=4&searchmode=anyword&searchtext=&publicationstopicssmartsearchfilter=29;&publicationshardcopysmartsearchfilter=0>
  - <https://www.pattan.net/Training/Conferences/Pennsylvania-Department-of-Education-Conference/Session-Descriptions-1-1>
- Mr. Pennington reported that Full Council meeting reports have garnered an incredible amount of information from previous conferences and inquired if that would be the best time to share the highlights with the Council members. This included a 10 to 15 minute discussion during the last Full Council meeting.
- Ms. Keogh explained that more time would be needed during a Full Council meeting to share the large amount of information gained regarding Transition Services. Suggested looking into what PDE resources could be shared on the PaRC website.
- Mr. Paul Fogle explained that more time could be provided for these types of discussions during upcoming Full Council meetings.
- Ms. Barol recommended clarifying language for Goal #3 as, 2.) PaRC is to have continuing representation on the Employment First Oversight Commission (EFOC).
- Members suggested adding the EFOC to the list of stakeholders for the Full Council meetings and to receive a report out on the Transition pieces including BSE and Act 26 information from the EFOC Annual Reports.

***MOTION was made by Ms. Sylenthia Dent to approve the Committee goals as corrected for Fiscal Year 24-25. The motion was seconded by Ms. Brew. All were in favor.***

## **Conference Information**

### **PDE Conference Report**

#### **2024 PA Community of Practice Transition Conference, July 31-August 1, 2024**

- Ms. Barol requested that the PDE conference report be included during the next Committee meeting due to time constraints. Members are to let Ms. Barol know if they are planning on attending the Transition Conference scheduled in July.

## **Work Experience for High School Students with Disabilities Act (Act 26) Report October 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023**

- Ms. Barol requested the Act 26 report be included for discussion for the next meeting. PaRC's Policy Committee is polling to hold a meeting on March 26, 2024, at 2:30 PM to discuss improvements to the Customer Satisfaction Surveys to increase response rates. All members of the Transition Committee are encouraged to attend to provide input.

### **Adjourn**

***MOTION was made by Ms. Brew to adjourn. Ms. Dent seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.***