



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 Website: parehabilitationcouncil.org

Transition and Education Committee Meeting Minutes June 13, 2024, from 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM

Members Present (P)

Not Present (NP)

Julia Grant Barol (P)

Andrew Pennington (P)

Michelle Mitchell (NP)

Jessica Keogh (NP)

Paul Fogle (P)

Sylenthia Dent (P)

Kara Donatucci Pham (P)

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Staff Present: Chris Harbert, Kim Robinson, Melody Troup, Krista Sloan, James Whitonis, Sharon Silverman, Shari Brightful, Bret Glavey

Guests Present: Kathy Walton, Riverview Intermediate Unit #6, Elizabeth Bish, Youth Ambassador, Kylee Diaz, Youth Ambassador, Hunter Steinitz, Youth Engagement, PATTAN, Hayley Penn, Youth Engagement, PATTAN, Mallory Irwin, Youth Ambassador, Natasha Fletcher, Youth Engagement, PATTAN, Jenn Jones-Bauer, Colonial Intermediate Unit #20

PaRC Staff Present: Chris Todd

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. Sylenthia Dent for approval of the agenda and past meeting minutes. Mr. Andrew Pennington seconded the motion. All were in favor.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

Committee Chair / Vice Chair for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

- Mr. Andrew Pennington nominated Ms. Julia Barol for Committee Chair for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Ms. Barol accepted the nomination. There were no additional nominations.

MOTION was made by Ms. Kara Donatucci Pham to approve Ms. Julia Barol for Transition & Education Committee Chair for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Mr. Andrew Pennington seconded the motion. All were in favor.

- Mr. Andrew Pennington inquired if Mr. Paul Fogle would be interested in the Committee Vice Chair position. Mr. Fogle declined. Ms. Barol nominated Mr. Pennington for Vice Chair. Mr. Pennington accepted the nomination.

MOTION was made by Ms. Kara Donatucci Pham to approve Mr. Andrew Pennington for Transition & Education Committee Vice Chair for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Ms. Barol seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Report from Youth Ambassadors on their experiences

- Ms. Kiley Diaz, Youth Ambassador (YA) for Colonial Intermediate Unit (IU) 20 reported that she has been involved in various speaking engagements providing information on her role as Youth Ambassador. She was also involved with the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) Conference, development of a Tips and Tools document on student-led Individual Education Plans (IEPs), Transition Fair presentations, outreach and recruitment efforts for the YA program, OVR and Youth Engagement Specialist collaborative meetings, presented at a Life Skills class on their student-led IEP booklet and self-advocacy, presentations for Special Olympics and other events, and continual meetings with YAs and OVR staff. Ms. Diaz plans to continue working on the finalizing of the student-led IEP booklet to be published in the new year.
- Ms. Elizabeth Bish and Ms. Mallory Irwin, YAs for Riverview IU 6 reported that they have continued working on their Community of Riverview Engagement (CORE) project which provides activities and events for the community and school districts. They also participated in the PDE Conference, toured the Hiram G Andrews Center (HGAC), presented to students regarding self-advocacy and disability awareness, provided outreach for the YA program at various community events, and participated in many job shadowing opportunities.
- Ms. Sylenthia Dent inquired how School Districts are selected to provide activities and events. Ms. Elizabeth Bish reported that events are chosen with consideration to the availability of transportation. A teacher had requested that the YA come to speak peer-to-peer with their students about the YA program. Outreach was well received by students. Ms. Elizabeth Bish and Ms. Mallory Irwin reported that the YA program has helped beyond high school and to maintain carryover with OVR services. Ms. Kiley Diaz agreed that they have continued with OVR services. Their role with the YA program continues. Ms. Krista Sloan reported that the program can last for up to a year and additional extensions have been authorized to meet their

- goals. The Tools and Tips document will be available on the PATTAN Hub website.
- Members commended the Youth Ambassadors (YA) for all the great work they are doing and inquired about the success of YA outreach efforts. Ms. Jenn Jones-Bauer reported that Ms. Kiley Diaz has been successful in increasing engagement between students, families, and OVR through presentations, attendance of IEP meetings, and conversations with students. Ms. Diaz’s outreach has made an impact on students and families because of her experience receiving services and sharing her success from participating in the YA program and other OVR programs.
 - Members inquired if there is a plan in place to have active YA programs within all OVR District Offices. Ms. Kim Robinson reported that is the goal to have YAs in all District Offices. The program has grown significantly with 3 in Riverside IU 6, 1 in Colonial IU 20, and more planned for Washington County, Philadelphia County, Berks County, and New Castle or Pittsburgh in the near future.
 - Ms. Krista Sloan shared that a chat group was started and welcomed attendees interested in joining to visit the Youth Ambassador forum link: PA Secondary Transition - Public Square || Connect, Collect, Contribute
<https://portal.pasecondarytransition.com/auth/sign-in>
 - In response to questions regarding the YA curriculum Ms. Sloan explained that they use the Transition Discoveries curriculum which provides learning tools and tutorials. They are also provided individualized training on OVR services and information relating to the students vocational and educational goals. Public speaking is encouraged for students interested in that skill, but it is not a requirement.

OVR updates

- Ms. Robinson provided updates regarding Summer Programs, My Work program, and professional connections experience. Several hundred students are expected in those programs. BBVS and ODHH Academies are scheduled for June and July. There is a kickoff event scheduled for the Pathways to Partnership program during the Transition Conference in July.
- Mr. Pennington inquired about impending changes due to the flat funding. Ms. Robinson reported they had surplus funds which enabled them to invest in new programs and they are looking more at stability and growth now to ensure the best results. They will need to discuss prioritization which will be part of the provider agreement development.

Conference Information

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

- Mr. Chris Todd, PaRC staff reported that the Transition Expo PaRC resource table has been reserved and more details on that will be shared by PATTAN in early July, one member has volunteered to represent PaRC at the conference, and another has volunteered to set up the PaRC resource table. Invited any members interested in assisting with the table to contact staff and/or the other PaRC members attending.

Work Experience for High School Students with Disabilities Act (Act 26) Report

Addition to Committee Goals Act 26 Information

- Ms. Robinson reported that all of their numbers continue to climb. IEP numbers have been improved.
- Members explained that some of the numbers included in the Act 26 report for the Philadelphia District Office could be better and inquired if they had any comments to share on that. Members inquired about the numbers regarding "Job Referrals Made to Employers on Behalf of Students with Disabilities While Still in High School."
- Ms. Shari Brightful reported they have a great working relationship and engagement with the school district, team, and staff in Philadelphia. The number of individuals that might be interested in their services is more than the staff they have in place. Their team continues to work on tracking who they have come into contact with. Numbers for each quarter may differ depending upon student activity and involvement with OVR. Numbers in the summer or early fall may be lower due to staff participating in outreach events and other meetings. Referrals are for work based learning experiences which includes paid work experiences. Ms. Brightful reported that she has attended meetings with providers and explained difficulties with convincing students to sign up for work experiences.

Schedule next meetings

- Members requested that staff poll committee members by email for upcoming quarterly Committee meeting dates.

Adjourn

MOTION was made by Mr. Andrew Pennington to adjourn. Ms. Sylenthia Dent seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.