



# 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 MEETING

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Zoom Virtual Platform

Zoom Meeting Moderator: Ms. Nichole Wade

### MEETING AGENDA

10:00 AM **WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS:** William Paz De Melo, Chair

- PaRC Mission Statement
- Roll Call of Council Members – Nichole Wade, moderator
- Discussion of Agenda

**ACTION: Approval of meeting Agenda, November 13, 2024**

**ACTION: Approval of meeting minutes, August 13, 2024**

**PaRC FISCAL REPORT (1st QUARTER):** Michelle Mitchell, Vice Chair

**ACTION: Approval of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter Fiscal Report**

**CHAIR REPORT –** William Paz De Melo

- Update on Council membership
- 2023-2024 Annual Report Update – Michelle Mitchell, Vice Chair / Julia Barol, Ex Officio

10:30 AM **NEW BUSINESS**

- **ACTION / SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE:** Joan Myers Goodman, Chair

**ACTION: Approval of Committee Goals for FY 2024-2025**

- **CAREERLINK COMMITTEE:** Andrew Pennington, Chair
- **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:** Susan Tomasic, Chair

➤ **Election of PaRC Member-at-Large for FY 2024 – 2025**

**ACTION:** *Approval of forwarding Julia Barol’s application, resume, and letters of reference to the Governor for consideration of appointment to the PaRC representing the category of Mental Health*

**ACTION:** *Approval of forwarding Elizabeth Bish’s application, resume, and letters of reference to the Governor for consideration of appointment to the PaRC representing the category of Young Adult*

**ACTION:** *Approval of forwarding Kadie Trauger’s application, resume, and letters of reference to the Governor for consideration of appointment to the PaRC representing the category of Sensory Disabilities*

**ACTION:** *Approval of merging CTI at HGAC Committee with the Transition/Education Committee*

- LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Passle Helminski, Chair

**ACTION:** *Approval of letter to Governor regarding importance of VR funding / OVR flat funding*

- POLICY COMMITTEE: Lynn Heitz, Chair

**ACTION:** *Approval of goal and objectives to increase Customer engagement and ensure Customer Satisfaction Surveys are fully accessible.*

**ACTION:** *Approval of Bender Consulting research project, with a budget not to exceed \$5,000, to identify 3 entities capable of conducting quality OVR Customer Satisfaction Surveys, focusing on enhancing customer engagement and ensuring full accessibility of the surveys.*

- TRANSITION COMMITTEE: Andrew Pennington, Acting Chair

- AD HOC COMMITTEE - OVR HEARING OFFICERS / MEDIATORS: Andrew Pennington, Chair

**ACTION:** *Approval of Committee Goal and Timeline*

- AD HOC COMMITTEE TO STUDY ROLES OF PaRC & STATE BOARD - Michelle Mitchell & Lynn Heitz, Co-Chairs

11:00 AM **BREAK** (10 minutes)

11:10 AM **OVR DIRECTOR’S REPORT** - Ryan Hyde, Executive Director, OVR

12:15 PM **LUNCH** (45 minutes)

1:00 PM

**OVR REPORTS**

- Update on Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) 2024-2028 State Plan amendments – Order of Selection addendum: Jim Whitonis, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist
- Financial Needs Test Policy update: Audrey O’Connor, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist
- Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (BVRS) New Castle District Office: Gail Steck, District Administrator
- OVeR and Above – An Employee Recognition Program – Chris Harbert, Administrative Officer

1:30 PM

**STAKEHOLDER UPDATES**

- Client Assistance Program - Steve Pennington, CEO / Andrew Pennington, Deputy Director
- Office for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing - Melissa Hawkins, Director
- State Workforce Development Board - James Martini, Executive Director
- Statewide Independent Living Council – Susan Tomasic, Chair
- Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education –

2:00 PM

**BREAK (10 minutes)**

2:10 PM

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

2:45 PM

**PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minutes each)**

3:00 PM

**ADJOURN**

**NEXT VIRTUAL FULL COUNCIL MEETING IS FEBRUARY 12, 2025**

All members of the public are welcome to join meetings by computer or phone. The Zoom meetings are also available for the public to attend at the following physical site location: UCP/PaRC business office at 55 Utley Dr. Camp Hill, PA 17011. Please contact PaRC staff at [parc@parehabilitationcouncil.org](mailto:parc@parehabilitationcouncil.org) or at 717-975-2004 at least three days prior to the meeting to confirm attendance. Accommodations are available upon a timely request to individuals with disabilities. Anyone who would like to make Public Comment prior to the meeting may submit comments to [parc@parehabilitationcouncil.org](mailto:parc@parehabilitationcouncil.org) or at (717) 975-2004.