



Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC)

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

Members Present (P)

Not Present (NP)

Julia Barol (P)
Jessica Keogh (P)
William Paz De Melo (NP)

Andrew Pennington (NP)
Sylenthia Dent (P)

Michelle Mitchell (P)
Kara Donatucci Pham (P)

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Staff Present: Chris Harbert, Kim Robinson, Krista Sloan, Mara Wolfe, Hillary Hubbell, Jill Moriconi, Chris Zakraysek

Guests Present: Mallory Irwin, OVR Youth Ambassador of Erie District Office, Gabe Davis, OVR Youth Ambassador of New Castle District Office, Kathy Walton, Riverview Intermediate Unit #6, Andrew Fee, Special Olympics of Beaver County

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. Sylenthia Dent-Siebenlist for approval of the agenda and past meeting minutes. Ms. Kara Donatucci Pham seconded the motion. All were in favor.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

Youth Ambassador Program

- Ms. Krista Sloan explained that the Youth Ambassador (YA) program is a

collaborative effort between OVR and the Bureau of Special Education (BSE) with the goal of helping students successfully transition from High School to post-secondary education or employment. Mr. Gabe Davis reported on his experiences as YA for the New Castle District Office including participating in the Special Olympics torch run for the Law Enforcement outreach event in Philadelphia, public speaking training, Special Olympics events, Governor's Residence outreach event, Youth Employment Skills events, and has many other outreach and speaking events scheduled in the new year. Ms. Mallory Irwin reported on her experiences as YA for the Riverview Intermediate Unit including CORE for Youth outreach events and community service events, coding Finch Robots, disability awareness presentations, and the Steelers STEM event. Ms. Krista Sloan reported on the activities of several other YAs from Washington District Office and Berks County. There are currently 7 YAs.

Commonwealth Technical Institute at Hiram G Andrews Center (CTI at HGAC) Revise Committee goals to include CTI at HGAC Updates from CTI at HGAC

- Ms. Jill Moriconi reported on several events held at Commonwealth Technical Institute at Hiram G Andrews Center (CTI at HGAC) including the Career and Transition Fair. The Fall term will soon be coming to an end with over 60 graduates and 7 paid externships. The Fall 2023 term resulted in a 76% employment rate for graduates and this number continues to fluctuate each term. Activities for students include Spirit Week, Winter Formal event, and graduate luncheons. Several programs for the Spring term are at or near capacity with a new program offered in Early Childhood Education with a one-year diploma and preparation for Child Development Associate credential. Students will be partnering with local childcare agencies to complete their clinical hours with various employers they have partnered with. Ms. Moriconi also reported on their Essential Workplace Skills programs, re-accreditations efforts, outreach events, externship programs, career services and job placement programs for graduates.

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

- This item was tabled for the next meeting agenda.

Pre-Employment Transition Services

- Ms. Kim Robinson provided updates on the Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre ETS) including the re-prioritization plan, budgets, targeted case reviews, intensive training plans, standardized training modules and materials, outreach efforts, Youth Engagement Specialists collaboration, Juvenile Justice program efforts, Project SEARCH, Pathways to Partnership grant, and Charting Life Skills course. Standardized Modules are focused on internal staff with the tentative start date of early 2025. Standardized Modules for provider agencies will come after the internal

program is completed.

Conference Information

Pennsylvania Department of Education Conference, February 5-7, 2025, at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center

- Attendees were provided information about the Pennsylvania Department of Education Conference.

Adjourn

MOTION was made by Ms. Sylenthia Dent-Siebenlist to adjourn. Ms. Michelle Mitchell seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.