



Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC)

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Legislative & Public Awareness Committee Minutes for January 15, 2025, from 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM

Members Present (P)

Not Present (NP)

Passle Helminski (P)
Sylenthia Dent (NP)
Michelle Mitchell (NP)

Lynn Heitz (P)
Joan Goodman (P)
Julia Barol (P)

Christie Cyktor (P)
Jessica Keogh (NP)
William Paz De Melo (NP)

PaRC Staff Present: Chris Todd, Michelle Gerrick

OVR Staff Present: Chris Harbert

CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was conducted through Zoom. Ms. Passle Helminski called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM once quorum was established.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND PAST MINUTES

MOTION was made by Ms. Lynn Heitz to approve the agenda and past meeting minutes. Ms. Joan Goodman seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Discussion of Draft VR Flat Funding / SRC Collaborative Letter

- Members reviewed the letter of support regarding VR flat funding that was provided by OVR and agreed to add state specific information to the end of the letter including links to the Annual Report.
- Mr. Chris Harbert will inquire with Labor and Industry and follow up regarding who the letter should be sent to.
- Ms. Lynn Heitz requested including the letter within packets that will be given to Federal Legislators during the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) seminar in Washington D.C. scheduled for early February.
- Mr. Harbert and members agreed the letter should be provided to Federal

Legislators and members of the Appropriations Committee.

- Members requested that PaRC Support Personnel inquire with the Chair if the letter / distribution of the letter could be approved by the Executive Committee or would require a Special Meeting for Full Council approval.

MOTION was made by Ms. Lynn Heitz for approval of including the VR funding letter of support for distribution to Legislators in the NFB seminar packet and for distribution to Federal Legislators including members of the Appropriations Committee. Ms. Joan Myers Goodman seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Review / Discussion of State and Federal Legislative Watchlists / Position Papers

- Members reviewed the State and Federal Legislative Watchlists and Position Papers and did not have any changes at this time.

Schedule next meeting

- Members agreed to meet on Friday, February 28, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

Public Comment

- Ms. Joan Myers Goodman provided Public Comment that Public Comment on the Department of Labor's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), Employment of Workers with Disabilities Under Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act is due by 2:00 PM on Friday, January 17, 2025.

Adjourn

MOTION was made by Ms. Christie Cyktor to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Julia Barol seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.