



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, February 12, 2025
Zoom Virtual Platform
Zoom Meeting Moderator: Nichole Wade

MEETING AGENDA

****The meeting was slated to begin at 10:00 AM but was delayed due to an Executive Session that was held from 9:40 AM to 10:33 AM. This will be reflected in the meeting minutes.***

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, February 12, 2025

ACTION: Approval of Full Council meeting minutes, November 13, 2024

ACTION: Approval of Special meeting minutes, January 14, 2025

PaRC FISCAL REPORT (2nd QUARTER): Julia Barol, Member at Large

ACTION: Approval of 2nd quarter Fiscal Report

CHAIR REPORT – William Paz De Melo

- Public Comment Requested on Proposed Rulemaking for State-Registered Interpreter and Transliterator Regulations

10:30 AM **OVR DIRECTOR'S REPORT –** Ryan Hyde, Director

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

11:10 AM **OVR DIRECTOR'S REPORT CONT.**

11:30 AM **NEW BUSINESS**

- ACTION / SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE: Joan Myers Goodman, Chair
- CAREERLINK COMMITTEE: Andrew Pennington, Chair
- GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: Susan Tomasic, Chair

ACTION: Approval of submitting Cindy Duch's resume to the Governor for reappointment of a 2nd term on the Council.

ACTION: Approval of submitting Passle Helminski's resume to the Governor for reappointment of a 2nd term on the Council.

ACTION: Approval of submitting Michelle Mitchell's resume to the Governor for reappointment of a 2nd term on the Council.

ACTION: Approval of submitting Rob Wallington's resume to the Governor for reappointment of a 2nd term on the Council.

ACTION: Approval of submitting Mr. Dorian Rhodes application to the Governor for consideration of appointment to the PaRC representing the category of Veteran

ACTION: Approval of Member Handbook Revisions

ACTION: Approval of Draft PaRC Mentoring Program Policy and Procedures

- LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Passle Helminski, Chair

ACTION: Approval of funding letter with state specific language.

ACTION: Approval of sharing the template of funding letter with other State Rehabilitation Councils and VR Programs.

- POLICY COMMITTEE: Lynn Heitz, Chair

Financial Needs Test (FNT) Policy revision update: Audrey O'Connor, VR Specialist

ACTION: Approval of Draft FNT Policy

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) 2024-2028 State Plan 2-year modification – Jim Whitonis, VR Specialist

- TRANSITION COMMITTEE: Julia Barol, Chair
- AD HOC COMMITTEE - OVR HEARING OFFICERS / MEDIATORS: Andrew Pennington, Chair
- AD HOC COMMITTEE - STUDY ROLES OF PaRC & STATE BOARD - Michelle Mitchell & Lynn Heitz, Co-Chairs

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

1:00 PM **OVR REPORTS**

- Bureau Director Reports: Marci Katona, BVRS Director and Dawn Sokol, BBVS Director

1:30 PM **STAKEHOLDER UPDATES**

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

2:00 PM **BREAK** (10 minutes)

2:10 PM **COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

- PDE 2025 Conference Report – William Paz De Melo, Julia Barol, Michelle Mitchell

2:45 PM **PUBLIC COMMENT** (3 minutes each)

3:00 PM **ADJOURN**

**NEXT FULL COUNCIL HYBRID MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 07, 2025
ZOOM & SHERATON HARRISBURG/HERSHEY**

