



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, May 07, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Zoom Virtual Platform

On sight location: Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel
4650 Lindle Rd, Harrisburg, PA 17111

Zoom Meeting Moderator: 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, May 07, 2025**
- **ACTION: Approval of Full Council meeting minutes, February 12, 2025**
- **ACTION: Approval of Special meeting minutes, April 8, 2025**

FISCAL REPORT (3rd QUARTER): Julia Barol, Member at Large

ELECTION OF PaRC OFFICERS FOR FY 2025-2026: Susan Tomasic, Governance Committee Chair

CHAIR REPORT: William Paz De Melo

ACTION: Approval of Executive Committee goals for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

OVR DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Ryan Hyde, Director

11:15 AM

BREAK (10 minutes)

OVR DIRECTOR'S REPORT CONTINUED

11:45 AM

OVR REPORTS

- Business Enterprise Program (BEP): Wes Runnels, Director
- Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) 2024-2028 State Plan – Jim Whitonis, VR Specialist

12:15 PM **LUNCH (1 hour)**

1:15 PM **STAKEHOLDER UPDATES**

- Client Assistance Program: Andrew Pennington, Co-Director / Steve Pennington, Esq., CEO
- Department of Education: Timothy Krushinski, Bureau of Special Education, Policy Advisor
- Office for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing: Melissa Hawkins, Director
- Statewide Independent Living Council: Susan Tomasic, SILC Board Chair
- State Workforce Development Board: Kait Gillis, Board Member / James Martini, Executive Director

2:00 PM **NEW BUSINESS**

- ACTION / SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE: Joan Myers Goodman, Chair
ACTION: Approval of Committee goals for Fiscal Year 2025-2026
- CAREERLINK COMMITTEE: Andrew Pennington, Chair
ACTION: Approval of Committee goals for Fiscal Year 2025-2026
- GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: Susan Tomasic, Chair
ACTION: Approval of Committee goals for Fiscal Year 2025-2026
ACTION: Approval of revisions to PaRC Bylaws
ACTION: Approval of submitting Mr. Tim Krushinski's application to the Governor for consideration of appointment to the PaRC representing the category of State Department of Education

2:20 PM **BREAK (10 minutes)**

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

- LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Christie Cyktor, Chair
ACTION: Approval of Committee goals for Fiscal Year 2025-2026
ACTION: Approval of Supporting State Bills HB487 and HR10 and Federal Bills H.R.1175 and H.R.1529
- POLICY COMMITTEE: Lynn Heitz, Chair
ACTION: Approval of Committee goals for Fiscal Year 2025-2026
ACTION: Approval of revised OVR Customer Satisfaction Survey questions
- TRANSITION COMMITTEE: Julia Barol, Chair
ACTION: Approval of Committee goals for Fiscal Year 2025-2026
- AD HOC COMMITTEE: OVR HEARING OFFICERS / MEDIATORS: Andrew Pennington, Chair

- AD HOC COMMITTEE: BOARD / PaRC: Lynn Heitz and Michelle Mitchell, Co-Chairs

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

- CSAVR / NCSRC Spring 2025 Conferences Report: Julia Barol, Andrew Pennington, Julianna Rodrigues
- Public Comment regarding PDE's proposed grant application under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for FFY 2025

ACTION: Approval of submitting Public Comment to PDE

3:10 PM **PUBLIC COMMENT** (3 minutes each)

3:30 PM **ADJOURN**

**NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2025
ZOOM / SHERATON HARRISBURG/HERSHEY**