



# Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC)

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## Legislative & Public Awareness Committee Minutes for April 29, 2025, from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

### Members Present (P)

### Not Present (NP)

Christie Cyktor (P)

Lynn Heitz (P)

Julia Barol (P)

Joan Myers Goodman (P)

Passle Helminski (NP)

Michelle Mitchell (P)

William Paz De Melo (NP)

Rob Wallington (P)

Andrew Pennington (P)

Julianna Rodrigues (P)

**PaRC Staff Present:** Chris Todd, Michelle Gerrick

**OVR Staff Present:** Chris Harbert

**Guest Present:** Michael Kiel, Pennsylvania State Board of Vocational Rehabilitation,  
Theo Braddy, Pennsylvania State Board of Vocational Rehabilitation

### CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was conducted through Zoom. Ms. Christie Cyktor called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM 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 Myers Goodman seconded the motion. All were in favor.***

**Preparation and discussion of meetings with Legislators and/or their staff**  
**Review and discussion of background / reminders for PaRC meetings with Legislators and their staff**  
**Review and discussion of requested speaking points**

- Members and attendees have requested that information about the reopening of the Order of Selection (OOS) be included in the speaking points along with

information about the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) and the matching amount that is required by the State to receive the full federal grant for Vocational Rehabilitation funding.

- Members held discussions on additional accessibility options during the testing process for Civil Service and Non-Civil Service job applications. Mr. Chris Harbert, OVR explained that in general the application process is done online, positions are posted on the Commonwealth's website, and the application process includes answering questions online which are cross-referenced with the applicant's resume.
- Regarding the transportation accessibility speaking points, members suggested expanding upon the definition of programmatic accessibility. Members held discussions on the importance of transportation advisory committees providing oversight to ensure full accessibility of public transportation services.
- Attendees held discussion regarding the importance of informing Legislators about Attendant Care / the Direct Care Workers Crisis and how it relates to employment. Attendees agreed that it is important to inform and educate on the difference in rates provided through the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) and the Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL) as the ODP rate is higher due to receiving the COLA. Members shared that it is also important to share personal experiences regarding the speaking points and how it relates to employment.

### **Discussion of State Civil Service reform**

- Members reviewed previous Council work and recommendations regarding State Civil Service reform.

### **Schedule next meeting**

- Members agreed to hold the next Committee meeting on June 16, 2025, at 11:00 AM.

### **Adjourn**

***MOTION was made by Mr. Rob Wallington to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Lynn Heitz seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.***