



Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC)

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CareerLink / WIOA Committee Meeting Minutes for May 20, 2025, from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Members Present (P)

Andrew Pennington (P)
Joan Myers Goodman (P)
Twana Jones (NP)
William Paz De Melo (NP)

Not Present (NP)

Julia Barol (P)
Lynn Heitz (P)
Kara Donatucci Pham (P)

Kait Gillis (NP)
Passle Helminski (P)
Rob Wallington (P)

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Staff Present: Chris Harbert, Rob Hodapp, James Whitonis

State Workforce Development Staff Present: Christopher Manlove

PaRC Support Personnel Present: Christopher Todd

CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was conducted through Zoom. Mr. Andrew Pennington called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND PAST MINUTES

MOTION was made by Mr. Rob Wallington to approve the agenda. Ms. Lynn Heitz seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MOTION was made by Ms. Julia Barol to approve the past meeting minutes. Ms. Lynn Heitz seconded the motion. Mr. Rob Wallington abstained. The motion passed.

Agenda Items

PA Workforce Development Updates

Continued discussion regarding OFCCP and the availability of self-disclosure

data to be shared with hiring departments for their required reports within the CareerLink system

- Mr. Christopher Manlove provided updates from PA Workforce Development including rapid response efforts for closures referred to the Department of Health and Human Services, tools to help serve Veterans and employers that hire Veterans, federal priorities regarding improving the digital intake process, referrals provided to OVR, management of the CWDS, quarterly site visits with local Workforce Development Boards and CareerLinks, and a virtual rapid response meeting regarding federal workers for adaptive service models to meet evolving needs. The rapid response services unit provides warning notices of potential closures or layoffs, meets with employees, helps with the application process for Unemployment Compensation (UC), shares CareerLink information, assistance with job applications, workshops, other job search tools, in-person customized assistance, referrals to OVR and the Department of Human Services, information about Foodbanks, and other supports. Information is also provided through their press office to the public through non-paid marketing and social media.
- Members inquired about a recent Executive Order to cut Workforce programs that are deemed ineffective. Mr. Manlove explained the Executive Order provides 90 days for evaluation of programs and 120 days for developing 1 million apprenticeships nationwide. There are currently 25,000 apprenticeships in the Commonwealth. No baseline or value analysis were provided to determine what are considered effective programs. Mr. Pennington requested that follow up regarding the Executive Order be included within the next meeting agenda.

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Updates

- Mr. Rob Hodapp reported that OVR continues to partner with CareerLinks for disability trainings, accessibility checks, and ADA compliance assessments. OVR recently met with the Department of Corrections on how they can assist with employment for those with criminal records. OVR recently coordinated with District Offices in the northwest region of the state to conduct a walkthrough of a CareerLink facility that recently moved. Staff from the Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services (BBVS) are routinely present during CareerLink site visits to assess physical accessibility.

Updates on Accessibility of CareerLink Locations, Affiliate Sites and CareerLink Services

ADA Comprehensive CareerLink Assessments Implementation of Assistive Technology (AT) CareerLink Staff Trainings

- This topic was previously discussed.

Schedule meetings for FY 2025-2026

- Members requested PaRC Personnel poll the Committee via email for quarterly meetings for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Adjourn

MOTION was made by Ms. Joan Myers Goodman to adjourn. Mr. Rob Wallington seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.