



# Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC)

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## **Executive Committee Meeting Minutes for June 30, 2025, from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM**

### **Committee Members (P = Present) (NP = Not Present)**

William Paz De Melo (P)	Susan Tomasic (P)	Michelle Mitchell (P)
Lynn Heitz (P)	Joan Goodman (P)	Christie Cyktor (P)
Andrew Pennington (P)	Julia Barol (P)	Twana Jones (P)
Julianna Rodrigues (P)		

**Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Present:** Chris Harbert

**Staff Present:** Michelle Gerrick, Christopher Todd

### **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no additions.

***MOTION was made by Mr. Andrew Pennington to approve today's agenda and past meeting minutes. Ms. Lynn Heitz seconded the motion. Ms. Julianna Rodrigues abstained. The motion passed.***

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **August Full Council Hybrid Meeting Potential Speakers**

- Members agreed with the recommendation to invite a speaker to update the Full Council on the Subminimum Wage To Competitive Integrated Employment (SWTCIE) grant. Mr. Andrew Pennington explained that update should include information about providers and action steps. Members requested that questions regarding the SWTCIE grant be provided to OVR in advance of the August Full Council meeting.
- Members agreed to request another update regarding the Business Enterprise Program (BEP) to an upcoming Full Council meeting. Ms. Lynn Heitz and Ms. Julia Barol volunteered to participate in the newly created BEP Ad Hoc Committee and recommended PaRC personnel send an email inviting additional members to join the Committee which should start meeting in September 2025.

## **Employment First Oversight Commission PaRC Representative**

- Members agreed it is important to have a PaRC Officer appointed to fill the PaRC's seat on the Employment First Oversight Commission (EFOC). Mr. William Paz De Melo nominated Ms. Julianna Rodrigues, PaRC Member-at-Large, to represent the PaRC on the EFOC. Ms. Rodrigues accepted the nomination and agreed to submit any documents that are required. Ms. Susan Tomasic agreed to forward the EFOC application information to Ms. Rodrigues.

## **PaRC Leadership Transition**

- Mr. William Paz De Melo provided discussion on the importance of continued efforts to collaborate with the State Board of VR, continued discussions from May 2025 Full Council meeting, and the importance of a united front with all stakeholders.

## **OVR UPDATES**

- Mr. Chris Harbert provided updates regarding PaRC membership, coordination and partnership efforts with the State Board of VR, federal fiscal discussions, and the OVR Summer Academies.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Ms. Lynn Heitz provided Public Comment as the President of the National Federal of the Blind Pennsylvania (NFB) regarding concerns with the speakers and presentations from the June 2025 State Board of VR meeting. Ms. Heitz explained that a video was played during the presentation that was only visual and did not understand what was being presented. Ms. Heitz recommended that all meeting materials be provided in accessible format such as Braille.

## **ADJOURN**

***MOTION was made by Ms. Susan Tomasic to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Joan Myers Goodman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.***