



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, August 13, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Zoom Virtual Platform – meeting moderator: Nichole Wade

On-site location: Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel

4650 Lindle Rd, Harrisburg, PA 17111

MEETING AGENDA

10:00 AM

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS: Michelle Mitchell, Chair

- PaRC Mission Statement
- Roll Call of Council Members: Nichole Wade, Moderator
- Discussion of Agenda
- **ACTION: Approval of meeting Agenda, August 13, 2025**
- **ACTION: Approval of Full Council meeting minutes, May 07, 2025**

FISCAL REPORT (4th QUARTER): Julianna Rodrigues, Member at Large

CHAIR REPORT: Michelle Mitchell

- 2026 Full Council meeting dates
 - Wednesday, February 11, 2026 - Virtual
 - Wednesday, May 06, 2026 - Hybrid (zoom & in person)
 - Wednesday, August 12, 2026 - Hybrid (zoom & in person)
 - November 2026 – Virtual
- PaRC 2024-2025 Annual Report - Julianna Rodrigues, Member at Large
- Business Enterprise Program (BEP) Ad Hoc Committee

OVR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Ryan Hyde, Executive Director

11:15 AM

BREAK (10 minutes)

OVR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT CONTINUED

- 11:45 AM **OVR REPORT**
- Update on the 2024-2028 Combined State Plan 2-year Modification – Jim Whitonis, VR Specialist
 - Overview of Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment – Jim Whitonis, VR Specialist
- 12:15 PM **LUNCH (1 hour)**
- 1:15 PM **STAKEHOLDER UPDATES**
- **Client Assistance Program:** Andrew Pennington, Co-Director
 - **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:** James Martini, Executive Director
- 2:00 PM **NEW BUSINESS**
- **ACTION / SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE:** Joan Myers Goodman, Chair
 - PaRC Video Project/Documentary
 - **CAREERLINK COMMITTEE:** Twana Jones, Chair
 - **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:** Susan Tomasic, Chair
 - ***ACTION: Approval of submitting Ms. Ashley Norkus’ application to the Governor for consideration of appointment to the PaRC, representing the category of Sensory disabilities***
- 2:20 PM **BREAK (10 minutes)**
- NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED**
- **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:** Christie Cyktor, Chair
 - ***ACTION: Approval of draft letter regarding VR funding***
 - ***ACTION: Approval of draft letter regarding accessible transportation and SEPTA audits***
 - ***ACTION: Approval of draft letter regarding withdrawal of proposed rulemaking for phase out of 14(c) subminimum wages***
 - ***ACTION: Approval of supporting State House Bill HB485: An Act amending Title 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in boards and offices, providing for Office of Information Technology.***
 - ***ACTION: Approval of renewing annual subscription to PA Legislative Services (PLS) Communication Connection***
 - **POLICY COMMITTEE:** Lynn Heitz, Chair

- ***ACTION: Approval of description (a) for the 2-year modification of the 2024-2028 Combined State Plan***
- ***ACTION: Approval of description (c) for the 2-year modification of the 2024-2028 Combined State Plan***
- ***ACTION: Approval of Targeted Goals for the next cycle of the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA) beginning January 1, 2026***
- ***ACTION: Approval of expanding the search of state certified Small Diverse Businesses to provide the Statement of Work for the Customer Satisfaction Survey Project***

- TRANSITION COMMITTEE: Julia Barol, Chair
- AD HOC COMMITTEE: OVR HEARING OFFICERS / MEDIATORS: Andrew Pennington, Chair
- AD HOC COMMITTEE: PaRC / State Board: Lynn Heitz & Michelle Mitchell, Co-Chairs

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

- Bridging Knowledge to Know-How Conference – Julia Barol & Michelle Mitchell

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

3:30 PM **ADJOURN**

**NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2025
VIRTUAL - ZOOM**