



Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC)

55 Utley Drive, Camp Hill, PA 17011

Voice: (717) 975-2004 or (888) 250-5175 TTY: (717) 737-0158 Fax: (888) 524-9282

Email: parc@parehabilitationcouncil.org Website: parehabilitationcouncil.org

Transition and Education Committee Meeting Minutes September 2, 2025, from 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM

Members Present (P)

Not Present (NP)

Julia Barol (P)
Cindy Duch (P)

Sylenthia Dent-Siebenlist (NP)
Michelle Mitchell (P)

Christie Cyktor (P)
Andrew Pennington (P)

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Staff Present: Chris Harbert, Kim Robinson, Jim Thomas, Krista Sloan

Guests Present: Tim Krushinski, Bureau of Special Education

PaRC Staff Present: Chris Todd, Michelle Gerrick

CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was conducted through Zoom. Ms. Julia Barol called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM after quorum was established.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND PAST MINUTES

MOTION was made by Mr. Andrew Pennington for approval of the meeting agenda and past meeting minutes. Ms. Christie Cyktor seconded the motion. All were in favor.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

OVR updates

Pre-Employment Transition Services

- Ms. Kim Robinson, OVR provided updates regarding Pre Employment Transition Services (Pre ETS) monitoring, Early Reach, Youth Ambassadors program, outreach data, Special Olympics, Juvenile Justice Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), conferences, Project Search, Charting a Life Course program, Pathways to

Partnership grant, and Work-Based Learning Experience. Outreach activities and staff training continue and include CWDS tracking and presentations, OVR 101s, engagement with families, schools, students, and provider organizations. Budgets continue to be developed with District Offices, and they predict that they will have funds for the Youth Ambassador programs to continue including in Philadelphia.

Updates from the Commonwealth Technical Institute at Hiram G Andrews Center (CTI at HGAC)

- Mr. Jim Thomas, Commonwealth Technical Institute at Hiram G Andrews Center (CTI at HGAC), provided updates on graduation, program increases, the Career and Transition Fair scheduled for October 20th, Leaders Exploration and Development (LEAD) program, mentorships, apprenticeships, MOUs and collaboration with the Iron Workers, operating engineers, electrical workers, and carpenters' unions and organizations.

Updates from the Bureau of Special Education

- Mr. Tim Krushinski, Bureau of Special Education provided updates regarding Federal monitoring, technical assistance, compliance, and task forces. A representative from PaTTAN will be providing a presentation during the next committee meeting on websites and accessibility.

Work Experience for High School Students with Disabilities Act (Act 26) Report

- Members provided concerns regarding the Act 26 Report data showing low numbers in the Southeast region of the Commonwealth regarding IEPs, student employment, and part time summer employment. Ms. Robinson, OVR, explained that bureau directors plan to review the data and activities to analyze and determine if the data is recorded correctly and to pinpoint areas that may need additional training, staffing, or other improvements. Members inquired about receiving a report for the next committee meeting, suggested a better MOU with school districts in the southeast region, and outreach with Legislators in that region to help create better outcomes. Data is used to determine priority regarding performance metrics and outcomes. Data validation improvements and efforts continue.

Conference Information

[Pennsylvania Department of Education 2026 PDE Conference, Making a Difference: Educational Practices that Work!, February 25-27, 2026 in Hershey, PA](#)

- Ms. Julia Barol provided information about the Pennsylvania Department of Education conference scheduled for February 2026.

Public Comment

- Ms. Michelle Mitchell provided comment as a member of the public informing attendees that it was brought to her attention that many of the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and non-profits will be closing due to the State Budget impasse. CILS are often the unsung heroes that ensure resources and tools are provided to individuals with disabilities so that they are not forced to live in institutions and have access to employment, housing, and independence. Advocacy for these organizations is needed because without the necessary funding many will not be able to re-open.

Adjourn

MOTION was made by Ms. Christie Cyktor to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Cindy Duch seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.