



Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC)

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Legislative & Public Awareness Committee Minutes for October 9, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Members Present (P)

Not Present (NP)

Christie Cyktor (P)
Passle Helminski (P)
Michelle Mitchell (P)

Lynn Heitz (P)
Dorian Rhodes (P)
Rob Wallington (P)

Julia Barol (NP)
Julianna Rodrigues (P)

PaRC Staff Present: Chris Todd

OVR Staff Present: Chris Harbert

CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was conducted through Zoom. Ms. Christie Cyktor called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM once quorum was established.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND PAST MINUTES

MOTION was made by Ms. Lynn Heitz to approve the agenda and past meeting minutes. Ms. Passle Helminski seconded the motion. All were in favor.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

Preparation for October 2025 Meetings with Legislators and / or their Staff

- Members reviewed the meeting background document and schedule of upcoming meetings with Legislators and / or their staff. Members discussed the importance of all attendees having the opportunity to speak, providing a concise message in as few words as possible, and focusing on topics that impact the employment of people with disabilities. Members requested that talking points be focused on each Legislator's work within their committees to ensure that the information provided

will be most impactful. As preparation for the meetings with Legislators, members requested those topics be numbered and listed within the schedule of meetings.

Review State and Federal Legislative Watchlists

MOTION was made by Ms. Passle Helminski to recommend support of Pennsylvania Senate Bill SB575. Ms. Lynn Heitz seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Schedule next meeting

- Members agreed to meet again on November 7, 2025, at 10:00 AM.

Public Comment

- Ms. Lynn Heitz provided comment as a member of the public and asked attendees to share any resources they may have regarding a concern that was brought to the attention of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB). Ms. Heitz explained that the children of a family were separated from their father who is blind and their mother who is sighted. A determination for the reason of the separation was not officially provided by the entity that relocated the children.
- Ms. Julianna Rodrigues provided comment as a member of the public and explained that she was connected with a candidate that is running for Congress with an interest in learning and hearing from the disability community. Attendees were encouraged to inform Ms. Rodrigues if they would be interested in participating in that meeting.

Adjourn

MOTION was made by Mr. Rob Wallington to adjourn. Ms. Julianna Rodrigues seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.