



# Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC)

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## Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2026

1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

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

Michelle Mitchell (P)

Julia Barol (P)

Christie Cyktor (P)

Joan Goodman (P)

Lynn Heitz (P)

Twana Jones (NP)

Julianna Rodrigues (P)

Susan Tomasic (NP)

**PaRC Personnel Present:** Michelle Gerrick, Christopher Todd

Ms. Michelle Mitchell called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

### ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

***MOTION was made by Ms. Lynn Heitz for approval of today's agenda and past meeting minutes. Ms. Christie Cyktor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

### CHAIR REPORT

**Establish draft agenda for Full Council meeting on February 11, 2026**

**Recommendation of speakers, reports, etc.**

- Members reviewed the draft Full Council meeting agenda and recommended requesting the following reports and presentations for the meeting scheduled for February 11, 2026.
- Members recommended a report on the Business Enterprise Program (BEP) regarding the status of its new training program being held in Johnstown and its participant waitlist.
- Members recommended a report from a member of the State Board of VR Executive Committee regarding Board member interest in collaboration with the Council and what specific Legislative initiatives they would like to partner with the PaRC.
- Members recommended a presentation from one of the State's Centers for Independent Living (CILs) including the Lehigh Valley CIL on their operations since

the passing of the state budget, what collaboration with the PaRC could be impactful, and number of individuals they have helped with employment.

- Members recommended asking for a report from Bureau of Special Education (BSE) regarding efforts to increase the teaching of Braille for students who are blind or have a visual impairment and the teaching of writing in proper English for students who are deaf and hard of hearing that use ASL. Members explained the importance of early education regarding these important communication skills and its impact on employment.

### **Discussion of potential on-site locations for May 2026 and August 2026 hybrid Full Council meetings**

- Members agreed to hold the May and August Hybrid Full Council meetings at the Hiram G Andrews Center in Johnstown and PaTTAN office in Harrisburg. Members emphasized researching accessible transportation for those locations. PaRC personnel agreed to research logistical considerations and availability for those locations.

### **Council activities from January 2026 – June 2026**

- Members discussed attending the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) Conference scheduled for late February in Hershey. 2 members of the PaRC Transition Committee have confirmed attendance and 2 confirmed that they will not be available.
- Members agreed to provide invitation for PaRC's newest member to attend the National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils (NCSRC) / Council of State Administrator for Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) conferences scheduled in April in Washington D.C. 2 additional members confirmed attendance. A member will be chosen at random and be provided with an invitation to attend, if the newest Council member is not available to attend.
- 1 member confirmed attendance of the Association of People Supporting Employment 1<sup>st</sup> (APSE) conference scheduled for early June in Dallas, Texas.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Ms. Joan Myers Goodman provided comment as a member of the public urging members to review and share comments regarding the success story documents recently shared by OVR.

### **ADJOURN**

- The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 PM.