



Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC)

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Governance Committee Meeting Minutes January 14, 2026, from 2:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Members Present (P) Not Present (NP)

Susan Tomasic (P)
Julianna Rodrigues (P)

Julia Grant Barol (P)
Rob Wallington (NP)

Passle Helminski (P)
Michelle Mitchell (P)

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

Project Staff Present: Michelle Gerrick, Christopher Todd

CALL TO ORDER

- Ms. Susan Tomasic, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order after quorum was established.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- There were no additions to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND PAST MEETING MINUTES

MOTION was made by Ms. Julia Barol to approve today's agenda and past meeting minutes. Ms. Passle Helminski seconded the motion. All were in favor.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Member Reappointments for FY 2026-2027

- Members agreed to table this discussion until first speaking with each member whose 1st term ends on July 12, 2026.

Planning for Attendance of Upcoming Conferences

- Members held discussion regarding the National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils (NCSRC) Spring Conference scheduled for March 28 - 29, 2026 and the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) Spring

Conference scheduled for March 28 - April 3, 2026, in Washington DC. Members agreed that it would be important to align members' attendance of the conference with visiting Legislators on Capitol Hill to inform and educate about the importance of the VR program.

- Ms. Michelle Mitchell explained that the PaRC Executive Committee recommended that new members be invited to attend first and if unavailable there be a raffle system to determine a third member to attend the conferences. Members discussed having additional members attend that are experienced and knowledgeable with informing and educating about the VR program.

MOTION was made by Ms. Passle Helminski for approval of Ms. Michelle Mitchell, Ms. Julianna Rodrigues, and eliminating the raffle system regarding attendance of the NCSRC and CSAVR Spring Conferences. Ms. Julia Barol seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Membership / Committees

- Members reviewed current and upcoming vacant positions on the Council. Mr. Chris Harbert shared update on Council applications and OVR recruitment efforts. Members discussed outreach efforts through inviting the public to join PaRC committees and during member attendance of conferences.

Schedule next meeting

- The next meeting date is to be determined.

ADJOURN

MOTION was made by Ms. Passle Helminski to adjourn. Ms. Julia Barol seconded the motion. All were in favor.