



# Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC)

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## Transition and Education Committee Meeting Minutes March 3, 2026, from 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM

### Members Present (P)

### Not Present (NP)

Julia Barol (P)  
Michelle Mitchell (NP)

Christie Cyktor (P)  
Andrew Pennington (P)

Cindy Duch (P)  
Joan Myers Goodman (P)

**Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Staff Present:** Chris Harbert, Kim Robinson, Krista Sloan, Jill Moriconi, Chris Zakraysek, Sara Hager

**Guests Present:** Deveah Rivera, OVR Youth Ambassador, Valkyrie Williams, Voices for Independence, Bryan Herr, Voices for Independence, Amy Rigal, Voices for Independence, Carole Clancy, Bureau of Special Education (BSE), Natasha Kara, Youth Advocate Programs, Kim McCurdy

**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

Ms. Julia Barol recommended the addition of Youth Ambassador updates to the agenda.

### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND PAST MINUTES

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

### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

#### Review and revise committee goals for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

- Members reviewed the current committee's goals and objectives.

***MOTION was made by Ms. Christie Cyktor to recommend the Transition Committee goals and objectives for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 as written. Mr. Andrew Pennington seconded the motion. All were in favor.***

## **OVR Updates**

### **Pre-Employment Transition Services**

### **OVR Youth Ambassador Updates**

- Ms. Kim Robinson, OVR, provided updates on the impacts of the State and Federal budgets, a memo regarding the strategic investments in Pre Employment Transition Services (Pre ETS), OVR's summer programs, My Work program, Project SEARCH, and provider agreements. Regarding the OVR Reprioritization Plan for Pre ETS, those restrictions have been discontinued, and students have access to multiple work experiences. Mr. Andrew Pennington suggested that OVR customers be informed of these changes.
- Members requested Project Search data on placement rates both statewide and the Philadelphia / Allegheny County areas.
- A member shared concerns regarding the Project SEARCH data being recorded correctly.
- Ms. Robinson provided additional updates regarding reprioritization, impacts of funding, developing relationship building with organizations, the Juvenile Justice Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), inter-agency MOU, OVR/BSE MOU, strategic planning, improving data integrity overall, and District Office goals.
- Ms. Cindy Duch shared concerns with Act 26 data for the Philadelphia area. Ms. Robinson explained they are looking at looking at data from all District Offices to improve provider density and staffing capacity.
- Ms. Deveah Rivera, OVR Youth Ambassador, shared an update on her experience as OVR Youth Ambassador. Ms. Rivera reported that she has provided presentations and advocacy for the deaf community. She understands the importance of ensuring accommodations and teaching others to advocate for themselves. Members emphasized the importance of advocacy and thanked Ms. Rivera for her work.

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

- Ms. Jill Moriconi, CTI at HGAC, provided updates regarding referral numbers, enrollees, programs, externships, accreditation, job shadowing, outreach, staff engagement experience, upcoming job fair, Autism Walk, and graduation.

## **Updates from the Bureau of Special Education**

- Dr. Carol Clancy informed members that she will be working to help fill the open position for State Department of Education on the PaRC. Dr. Clancy provided updates regarding the federal Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) and the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), impacts of

funding, state assessments and evaluations, staffing, state budget impacts, state task forces, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) conference, graduation rates, training and technical assistance, the Attract, Prepare, Retain initiatives, disability inclusive curriculum grant, TACE (Tactile and Components of Education) braille instruction, interpreter stipends, and federal grant for internships.

### **Work Experience for High School Students with Disabilities Act (Act 26) Report Conference Information**

- Members held discussion on improving processes and procedures regarding the Act 26 recorded data for the Philadelphia area.

### **Bridging Knowledge to Know-How: Empowering Pennsylvania Educators and Partners, scheduled for August 4-7, 2026, Location: The Lancaster County Convention Center, Lancaster, PA**

- Members reviewed the information about the upcoming Bridging Knowledge to Know-How Conference scheduled for August in Lancaster.

### **Public Comment**

- There was no Public Comment provided.

### **Adjourn**

***MOTION was made by Mr. Andrew Pennington to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Christie Cyktor seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.***