



Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC)

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Legislative & Public Awareness Committee Minutes for March 25, 2026, from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Members Present (P)

Not Present (NP)

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

Lynn Heitz (NP)
Dorian Rhodes (P)

Julia Barol (P)
Julianna Rodrigues (P)

OVR Staff Present: Chris Harbert

PaRC Personnel Present: Chris Todd, Michelle Gerrick

CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was conducted through Zoom. Ms. Christie Cyktor called the meeting to order after quorum was established.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND PAST MINUTES

MOTION was made by Ms. Julianna Rodrigues to approve the agenda and past meeting minutes. Ms. Julia Barol seconded the motion. All were in favor.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

Committee Chair / Vice Chair for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-2027

- Ms. Christie Cyktor accepted nomination to serve as Committee Chair for FY 2026-2027. Ms. Julianna Rodrigues accepted nomination to serve as Committee Vice Chair for FY 2026-2027.

MOTION was made by Ms. Julia Barol to elect Ms. Christie Cyktor as Committee Chair for FY 2026-2027. Ms. Julianna Rodrigues seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MOTION was made by Ms. Christie Cyktor to elect Ms. Julianna Rodrigues as Committee Vice Chair for FY 2026-2027. Ms. Julia Barol seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Committee Goals for FY 2026-2027

- Members reviewed the committee goals document and had no revisions. Members agreed to make it a priority to pursue goals #2 and #3 during the upcoming FY. Members agreed to work on inviting veteran organizations and the PA CARES organization to the PaRC August Full Council meeting.

Review Talking Points, Materials, and Preparation for Spring Meetings with Legislators

- Members reviewed information, educational materials, and a schedule for virtual meetings with Legislators planned for April 2026.
- Members agreed to adjust talking point #1 to emphasize the importance of funding that allows the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) to provide services and supports for people with disabilities.

Review Letter of Support

- Members reviewed the letter of support which includes a list of organizations that have signed on to support those efforts. The letters will be shared with Legislative Offices during PaRC member visits in Washington, DC to inform and educate regarding the diverse issues affecting employment of people with disabilities scheduled for April 2026.

Schedule next meeting

- Members agreed to hold the next committee meeting on April 27, 2026, from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM.

Adjourn

MOTION was made by Ms. Julia Barol to adjourn. Ms. Julianna Rodrigues seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.