



Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC)

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OVR BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM (BEP)

Ad hoc Committee Meeting

Minutes for May 8, 2026

11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Members Present (P)

Not Present (NP)

Lynn Heitz (P)
Julia Barol (P)

Joan Myers Goodman (P)
Passle Helminski (NP)

Andrew Pennington (P)
Michelle Mitchell (NP)

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

PaRC Staff Present: Christopher Todd

Guest Present: Judy Schoenly, Tony Marrero, David Goldstein

CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was conducted through Zoom. Ms. Lynn Heitz called the meeting to order after quorum was established.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions.

MOTION was made by Ms. Passle Helminski for approval of the agenda and past meeting minutes. Ms. Joan Myers Goodman seconded the motion. All were in favor.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

DISCUSSION OF HIRAM G ANDREWS CENTER (HGAC) TOUR

- Mr. Wes Runnels, OVR, reported that preparations for the BEP training program are going well. 2 customers have completed their assessments for the BEP program and are awaiting the completion of paperwork before they begin the second step in the process, which is online training. 3 additional customers are

also very close to completing the first two steps prior to attending in person training at the Hiram G Andrews Center (HGAC).

- Members inquired about the vending machines that will be used at HGAC for training purposes and provided suggestions that they are fully accessible, including braille. Mr. Runnels confirmed that the vending machines used for training purposes will be fully accessible, some machines are being repaired, all machines used in the training program are the same type used by BEP vendors in the field, and that some machines may have been delivered and not yet installed at the time of the HGAC tour that members attended.
- Mr. Tony Marrero, BEP vendor, provided information about accessible kiosks, customer loyalty programs, customer payment options, and continued efforts to increase accessibility by a local manufacturer located in the Philadelphia area.
- Members provided suggestions to ensure shelving contains braille and large print signage, concerns about re-stocking, providing information such as pricing for customers, and having the State Licensing Agency review the training site. Ms. Judy Schoenly, Elected Committee, confirmed that the committee members plan to visit HGAC as a group to review the training sites.
- Attendees discussed ongoing efforts to ensure full accessibility for BEP vendors and customers, along with restocking, inventory, checkout processes, signage, café equipment, and theft prevention.
- The training program curriculum was developed in collaboration between the SLA and Elected Committee and will be provided to the Council members for review.

DISCUSSION OF BEP RECRUITMENT EFFORTS

- Mr. Marrero informed members of continued efforts to develop a mentorship program for the BEP vendors and trainees.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

- Members agreed to meet again on August 21, 2026, from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Adjourn

MOTION was made by Ms. Joan Myers Goodman to adjourn. Ms. Passle Helminski seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.