



Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC)

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Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

June 23, 2026

1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

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

Michelle Mitchell (P)

Julia Barol (NP)

Christie Cyktor (P)

Joan Goodman (P)

Lynn Heitz (P)

Twana Jones (P)

Julianna Rodrigues (P)

Susan Tomasic (P)

Andrew Pennington (NP)

PaRC Personnel Present: Michelle Gerrick, Christopher Todd

Ms. Michelle Mitchell called the meeting to order after quorum was established.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Ms. Twana Jones inquired about adjusting the agenda to provide the CareerLink/WIOA Committee update near the beginning of the meeting. Ms. Michelle suggested adding discussion of the Yes Learning Management System training to the end of the agenda.

MOTION was made by Ms. Susan Tomasic for approval of today's agenda with additions and past meeting minutes. Ms. Julianna Rodrigues seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

CareerLink – Twana Jones, Chair

- Ms. Twana Jones reported that she was reelected as Committee Chair and Ms. Passle Helminski was elected as Committee Vice Chair for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. The next quarterly committee meeting is to be determined.

Action/Social Media – Joan Myers Goodman, Chair

Recommendation of filming schedule on August 12, 2026

- Members discussed feedback received from OVR regarding the PaRC video draft script, including recommendations related to the video's focus and content. Members discussed the value of highlighting PaRC's role, partnerships, and resources available to individuals with disabilities, while also ensuring any

information included is accurate and current. Members agreed to continue reviewing the script, consider feedback received, verify the accuracy of referenced information, and make revisions as appropriate while moving forward with project development.

CHAIR REPORT

Discussion & Planning Full Council Meeting August 12, 2026

Year-end Budget Review

Date and format of 2027 Full Council Meetings

- Members reviewed the draft Full Council meeting agenda. Ms. Michelle Mitchell recommended that a discussion regarding the review of a recent Act 26 report that showed concerns regarding the impacts of fiscal reprioritization, community rehabilitation providers, and data sharing be considered as a topic of discussion for the November 2026 Full Council meeting.
- Members discussed potential presenters regarding the employment and services for Veterans with disabilities. PaRC staff will follow up with OVR to inquire about previously discussed agency personnel and Ms. Joan Myers Goodman will inquire with her contact at the York Veteran Administration center.
- Members agreed to hold Full Council meeting lunch after the Veteran presentation and move the committee and stakeholder reports and Public Comment after lunch. Members may choose to conduct interviews for the film project in a separate room when there is availability during the meeting or after the meeting is adjourned in the early afternoon.
- Members conducted a review of the FY 2025-2026 budget.
- Members will recommend dates and format for the 2027 Full Council meetings which will include February 17, May 12, September 1, and November 10. The Committee recommended that the September meeting be held in a hybrid format, and the other dates be virtual only.

COMMITTEE UPDATES CONTINUED

Governance – Susan Tomasic, Chair

- PaRC member orientation is scheduled for July 23, 2026, at 10:00 AM. Ms. Julia Barol will represent the PaRC at the Bridging Knowledge to Know How Conference scheduled for August 4 to 7, 2026 in Lancaster. Ms. Michelle Mitchell and Ms. Julianna Rodrigues will also attend the conference and will assist with the PaRC exhibit table. PaRC has reserved lodging for Ms. Mitchell. Ms. Barol will represent PaRC at the National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils (NCSRC) and Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) Fall Conference scheduled in Texas for November 2026. The next committee meeting is scheduled for July 30th at 11:00 AM.

Legislative – Christie Cyktor, Chair

- Ms. Christie Cyktor provided an update on a letter of support regarding the

additional \$1 million of funding being proposed for the Support Services Provider (SSP) program and the Specialized Services-Adult/Child (SS-A/C) program was provided to Legislators on June 1, 2026. The Committee will be discussing potential renewal of the MYPLS Communication Connection service during their upcoming meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 25th at 11:00 AM.

Policy – Lynn Heitz, Chair

- Ms. Lynn Heitz reported that the Committee Chair and Vice Chair will be determined during the upcoming meeting that is scheduled for June 25, 2026, from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Transition – Julia Barol, Chair

- Ms. Christie Cyktor reported that Ms. Julia Barol was reelected as Committee Chair and Ms. Cindy Duch was elected as Committee Vice Chair for FY 2026-2027. The next quarterly committee meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2026.

MOTION was made by Ms. Susan Tomasic to recommend inviting all PaRC members to attend Hiram G. Andrews Center (HGAC) graduation ceremonies on a rotating basis, ensuring each member is provided the opportunity to attend at least once during their term, if funding is available and that the Governance Committee be responsible for tracking those logistical considerations. Ms. Joan Myers Goodman seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Ad Hoc Committee – Business Enterprise Program (BEP) – Lynn Heitz & Joan Goodman

- Ms. Lynn Heitz and Ms. Joan Myers Goodman provided an update on their tour of the Business Enterprise Program (BEP) training facilities and café located at HGAC. Members provided recommendations to provide braille for vending machines and signage. A BEP vendor will be visiting the facility and providing additional updates to the committee. The next BEP Ad Hoc Committee meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2026, from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Ms. Lynn Heitz expressed her great appreciation to PaRC members and staff for their continued support throughout her time on the Council. Ms. Heitz also shared her appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the PaRC.

ADJOURN

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