Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC)

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Governance Committee Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2026, from 2:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Members Present (P) Not Present (NP)

Julianna Rodrigues (P) Julia Grant Barol (P) Passle Helminski (P)
Michelle Mitchell (P)

OVR Staff Present: Chris Harbert

Project Staff Present: Michelle Gerrick

CALL TO ORDER

- Ms. Julianna Rodrigues, 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. Passle Helminski to approve today's agenda and past meeting minutes. Ms. Julia Barol seconded the motion. All were in favor.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

New Member Orientation

- Ms. Julianna Rodrigues shared that she is still working to identify a mutually agreeable date for orientation for two of PaRC's newest members.
- Ms. Julia Barol suggested using a Doodle poll when scheduling orientation for Governance Committee members and new members to facilitate a more efficient and timely scheduling process.
- Members reviewed the new member orientation PowerPoint previously created by the committee and suggested the following updates:

    - Breaking down slides that contain too many words to help make it a more accessible tool
    - Ensure all font sizes are the same size
    - If using white text on black background, the text needs to be larger
- Ms. Barol provided a document on creating accessible documents, presentations, sheets, videos, etc. for the committee to reference as needed

Council Membership and Recruitment Initiatives

- The committee discussed an idea presented by another PaRC member regarding the recruitment of college students.
- Members expressed the importance of recruitment, especially at colleges and universities and attracting new faces on the Council
- Members also emphasized the importance of finding more engaging ways to interact with and attract younger individuals when staffing a resource table.
- One member shared her success using sensory stickers to attract younger individuals and suggested that PaRC consider a similar approach by adding the PaRC logo to stickers for use in recruitment efforts at universities and colleges.
- The committee will continue the discussion and explore ways to connect with colleges and universities to present information about PaRC and engage with students.

Schedule next meeting

- Members agreed to hold the next committee meeting on Wednesday, October 28, 2026 at 2:30 pm.

Adjourn

Members agreed to adjourn the meeting.