Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC)

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Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
September 30, 2026, 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

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

Michelle Mitchell (P)	Julia Barol (P)	Christie Cyktor (P)
Joan Myers Goodman (P)	Twana Jones (NP)	Andrew Pennington (P)
Julianna Rodrigues (P)		

PaRC Personnel Present: Michelle Gerrick, Christopher Todd

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

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

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

CHAIR REPORT
Planning and drafting the agenda for the Full Council Meeting scheduled November 18, 2026

- Members discussed the addition of a "Friendsgiving" theme to the Full Council meeting agenda which would include a forward explaining the intent of focusing on building community, increasing engagement, and sharing gratitude for collaboration across Council, Agency, and stakeholder group efforts.
- Members provided suggestions on OVR reports and presentations potentially including Bureau Director reports highlighting what is being planned for policies, guidance, timelines, Project InVEST, and the Pathways to Partnerships grant.
- Members suggested a presentation from providers of Project InVEST including success stories on the attainment of Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE).
- Members discussed potential presentations for the February Full Council meeting on Assistive Technology (AT), the TechOWL (Technology for Our Whole Lives) program, and other AT programs from across the Commonwealth including Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living (LVCIL).

- Members discussed potential presentations for the May Full council meeting on apprenticeship projects that could potentially include the Commonwealth Technical Institute at Hiram G Andrews Center (CTI at HGAC).

2025-2026 Annual Report – Christie Cyktor, Member at Large

- Ms. Christie Cyktor presented a potential theme of "Woven Together: Many Voices. Shared Purpose. Stronger Opportunities." for the PaRC 2025-2026 Annual Report. This concept illustrates different threads coming together to form the shape of Pennsylvania. Threads could represent people with disabilities, OVR, employers, advocates, families, providers, policymakers, and communities. Individually, each brings a different perspective or role, but together they create a stronger system of employment opportunities for Pennsylvanians with disabilities. The theme would emphasize partnerships while keeping people with disabilities and lived experience at the center and could be repeated throughout the report's infographics, accomplishments, advocacy efforts, and success stories highlighting the individual threads that come together to create something stronger.

MOTION was made by Mr. Andrew Pennington to approve the Woven Together concept for the PaRC 2025-2026 Annual Report. Ms. Julianna Rodrigues seconded the motion. All were in favor.

COMMITTEE UPDATES
Action/Social Media – Julianna Rodrigues, Vice Chair

- The Action / Social Media Committee discussed a potential recruitment card that would be designed and professionally printed. Members suggested that the card includes the PaRC's mission statement and information on how members can help effect change. The Committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM.

CareerLink

- There were no new updates. The next Committee meeting is to be determined.

Governance – Julianna Rodrigues, Chair

MOTION was made by Mr. Andrew Pennington to recommend forwarding David Goldstein's application materials to OVR for the Governor's consideration of appointment to the PaRC as a representative of Disability Advocacy Groups. Ms. Christie Cyktor seconded the motion. All were in favor.

- Ms. Julianna Rodrigues informed attendees that Ms. Cindy Duch resigned from the PaRC and Governance Committee will review an application from the PEAL Center once it is received.
- The Committee reviewed the member orientation presentation and recommended

revisions to improve readability. The Committee also discussed ideas to improve recruitment to the PaRC with college students.

Legislative – Christie Cyktor, Chair

- The next Legislative Committee meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2026, at 12:00 PM.

Policy – Andrew Pennington, Chair

- The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2026, from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Transition – Julia Barol, Chair

- The Transition Committee elected Ms. Christie Cyktor to serve as Committee Vice Chair for the remainder of the current Fiscal Year following Ms. Duch's resignation. The next meeting is scheduled for December 1, 2026, at 2:30 PM.

Ad Hoc Committee – Business Enterprise Program (BEP)

- The next BEP Ad Hoc Committee meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2026, at 11:00 AM.

Ad Hoc Committee – Citizens Advisory Committees (CACs) – Andrew Pennington

- The CAC Ad Hoc Committee has continued working on developing a preferred option and actionable recommendations. The next meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2026, at 2:00 PM.

Ad Hoc Committee – Impartial Hearing Officer (IHO) & Mediator – Andrew Pennington

- Members discussed the continued request for a written agreement regarding the PaRC's role in the process of screening and training for OVR Impartial Hearing Officers (IHO) and Mediators.

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.