Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC)

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The mission of the Council is to inform and advise the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, the State Board of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Legislature, and the Governor on the diverse issues affecting employment of people with disabilities.

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, November 18, 2026 – Virtual via Zoom

MEETING AGENDA

10:00 AM **"OPENING SPREAD, THE SPIRIT OF FRIENDSGIVING" -** Michelle Mitchell, Chair

- Opening remarks and message of gratitude
- PaRC Mission Statement
- Roll Call of Council Members: Nichole Wade, Moderator
- ***ACTION ITEM:* Approve Meeting Agenda, November 18, 2026**
- ***ACTION ITEM:* Approve Full Council Meeting Minutes, August 12, 2026**
- Friendsgiving Warm-Up: "Pass the Pie"

10:20 AM **"GRATITUDE & GROWTH" - BUSINESS REPORTS**

- **10:20 am - Fiscal Report Q1 FY 2026-2027**: Julianna Rodrigues, Vice Chair
- **10:25 am - Chair Report:** Michelle Mitchell, Chair
    - **2025-2026 Annual Report** - Christie Cyktor, Member at Large

      ***ACTION ITEM:* Approve the draft PaRC Annual Report, as presented with current content, including recommendations for any necessary revisions, prior to final proofing by the Executive Committee.**
- **10:45 am - OVR Executive Director's Report:** Ryan Hyde, Executive Director
- **11:10 am - OVR Reports**
    - **Update on State Plan and Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment** - Jim Whitonis, VR Specialist
    - **Policy Updates** - Cheryl Novak, Section Administrator | Policy, Planning & Training; and Audrey O'Connor, VR Specialist
    - **Solicitation process for Impartial Hearing Officers** - Rebecca Gardner, Section Administrator | Contracts & Grantee Services

11:35 AM **"MAIN COURSE" – PRESENTATION: Project InVEST**

- Julia Blackwell, Executive Director, Community Integrated Services (CIS)
- Susan Schonfeld, Consultant, Community Integrated Services (CIS)
- Amber Westwood, Associate Director of Business Services, Achieva

12:15 PM **LUNCH (45 minutes)**

1:00 PM **"COMMUNITY HARVEST" - STAKEHOLDER REPORTS**

- **Department of Education:** Suzie St. Clair, Special Education Advisor | Bureau of Special Education
- **Client Assistance Program:** Andrew Pennington, Director
- **Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing:** Melissa Hawkins, Director
- **Statewide Independent Living Council:** Jeff Iseman, Public Policy & Outreach Coordinator
- **State Workforce Development Board:** James Martini, Executive Director

1:25 PM **"RECIPE SHARING" - COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Action / Social Media Committee -** Joan Myers Goodman, Chair
- **Ad Hoc Committee -** Business Enterprise Program (BEP): Joan Myers Goodman
- **CareerLink Committee -** Twana Jones, Chair
- **Governance Committee -** Julianna Rodrigues, Chair
- **Legislative Committee -** Christie Cyktor, Chair
  ***ACTION ITEM:* Approve support for the proposed Pennsylvania Family Care Act (SB906 and HB200) and its addition to PaRC's State Position Paper**
- **Ad Hoc Committee –** Citizen Advisory Committees (CAC): Christie Cyktor
- **Policy Committee:** Andrew Pennington, Chair
- **Ad Hoc Committee –** Impartial Hearing Officer & Mediator: Andrew Pennington
- **Transition Committee:** Julia Barol, Chair

- **CONFERENCE REPORT: NCSRC/CSAVR 2026 Fall Conference –** Julia Barol

1:45 PM **"COMMUNITY GRATITUDE" - PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minutes each)**

2:00 PM **"UNTIL WE GATHER AGAIN" - ADJOURNMENT**