

PENNSYLVANIA STATE BOARD OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square

September 14, 2023

MISSION STATEMENT: To assist Pennsylvanians with disabilities to secure and maintain employment and independence

PUBLIC AGENDA

10:00 – 10:15 **Welcome & Opening Remarks**, Nancy Walker, Secretary, Dept. of Labor & Industry

- Introduction of Board Members
- **ACTION:** Approval of Agenda
- **ACTION:** Approval of Minutes, June 8, 2023

10:15 – 10:45 **Executive Director's Remarks**, Ryan Hyde, Executive Director, OVR

10:45 – 11:00 **State Board Task Force Committee Update**, Michael Kiel, Board Member

STAKEHOLDER REPORTS

11:00 – 11:10 **PA Rehabilitation Council**, Paul Fogle, Chair

11:10 – 11:20 **Statewide Independent Living Council**, Matthew Seeley, Executive Director

11:20 – 11:30 **Office for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing**, Melissa Hawkins, Director

11:30 – 11:40 **Client Assistance Program**, Steve Pennington, Director

BUREAU DIRECTOR REPORTS

11:40 – 12:00 **Bureau Director Report Follow-Up**, Jim Marker, HGAC Deputy Director; Marci Katona, BVRS Director; Dawn Sokol, BBVS Director; Mike Kirby, BCO Director

12:00 – 1:00

LUNCH

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1:00 – 1:10 **Update on the VR Portion of the Combined State Plan**, Jim Whitonis, VR Specialist

1:10 – 1:30 **OVR Driving & Vehicle Services Policy**, Danielle Schmidgall, VR Specialist

- **ACTION:** Approval of Policy

1:30 – 1:45 **OVR Policy Update**

- **OVR Audiological Services Policy**, Russ Goddard, VR Specialist

1:45 – 2:15 **Commonwealth Recruitment & Hiring Initiatives for People with Disabilities**, Shelly Forte, Director, Bureau of Enterprise Recruitment, Office of Administration

2:15 – 2:45 **Board Discussion/Debate,** Ryan Hyde & Board Members

- **Possible elimination of Status 06**
- **Addition of weight loss surgery as a service**

2:45 – 3:00 **Public Comment**

2:30

ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING: December 7, 2023 - Harrisburg