

# PENNSYLVANIA STATE BOARD OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION QUARTERLY MEETING

The Best Western Premier  
800 East Park Dr, Harrisburg, PA 17111  
**December 19, 2024**

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

## PUBLIC AGENDA

- 10:00 - 10:45** **Welcome & Opening Remarks**, Bill Trusky, Executive Deputy Secretary, Dept. of Labor & Industry
- Paul Fogle Remembrance
  - Introduction to new Board Members
  - Roll Call of Board Members
  - **ACTION:** Approval of December 19 Meeting Agenda
  - **ACTION:** Approval of Minutes, **September 12, 2024**
  - **ACTION:** Approval of OOS Amendment to the State Plan
  - **ACTION:** Approval of Presumed Competence and the use of Trial Work Experience prior to Eligibility Determination under the Federal VR Act
  - **ACTION:** Discussion of State Workforce Board recommendations to CIE
  - **ACTION:** Approval of Employee Recognition Program
  - **ACTION:** Approval of 2025 Dates, Format & Locations
    - Tuesday March 11, 2025 – Pittsburgh Area
    - Tuesday June 10, 2025 – Harrisburg Area
    - Tuesday September 9, 2025 – Johnstown Area
    - Tuesday December 9, 2025 – Harrisburg Area
- 10:45 – 11:05** **Executive Director's Remarks**, Ryan Hyde, Executive Director, OVR
- 11:05 – 11:20** **State Board Task Force Committee Update**, Michael Kiel, Board Member

## STAKEHOLDER REPORTS

- 11:20 – 11:30** **PA Rehabilitation Council**, William Paz De Melo, Council Chair
- 11:30 – 11:40** **Statewide Independent Living Council**, Matt Seeley, Director of SILC & Jeff Iseman, Public Policy & Outreach Coordinator
- 11:40 – 11:50** **Office for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing**, Melissa Hawkins, Director of ODHH

**11:50 – 12:00** **Client Assistance Program**, Steve Pennington & Andrew Pennington, Directors of CAP

**12:00 – 1:00** **Lunch**

**BUREAU DIRECTOR REPORTS**

**1:05 – 1:15** **Bureau Director Report Follow-Up**, Jill Moriconi, HGAC Director; Marci Katona, BVRS Director; Dawn Sokol, BBVS Director; Denise Verchimak, BCO Director

**TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

**1:15 – 1:20** **Financial Needs Test (FNT) Policy Update**, Audrey O'Connor, VR Specialist

**1:20 – 1:45** **AgriBusiness Program Updates**, Danielle Schmidgall, VR Specialist & Abbie Spackman, AgrAbility Case Coordinator and Project Assistant, The Pennsylvania State University

**1:45 – 2:15** **UniqueSource Overview**, Lisa Biggica, President & CEO, UniqueSource Products & Services

**2:15 – 2:45** **ODP Interactions with Sheltered Employment**, Kristin Ahrens, ODP Deputy Secretary

**2:45 – 3:00** **Public Comment**

**3:00** **Adjournment**

**NEXT MEETING: TBD**