

PENNSYLVANIA STATE BOARD OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Zoom Virtual Platform

June 8, 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, Acting Secretary, Dept. of Labor & Industry
- Introduction of Board Members
 - **ACTION:** Approval of Agenda
 - **ACTION:** Approval of Minutes, March 2, 2023
- 10:15 – 11:05** **Executive Director’s Remarks**, Ryan Hyde, Executive Director, OVR
- **Public Comment will be taken prior to any official board action.****
- **ACTION:** Raise the FNT Income Allowance amount from \$38,640 to \$100,000 for the next 12-month period effective 7/1/2023 unless otherwise extended by recommendation by the OVR Executive Director and approval by the State Board.
 - **ACTION:** Exempt all HGAC services from the FNT requirement for the next 12-month period effective 7/1/2023 unless otherwise extended by recommendation by the OVR Executive Director and approval by the State Board.
 - **ACTION:** Exempt Expected Family Contribution (EFC) from the college policy formula for a 12-month period effective 7/1/2023 unless otherwise extended by recommendation of the OVR Executive Director and approval by the State Board.
 - **ACTION:** Exempt the first- and second-year formula from customers and allow them to access the third- and fourth-year formula for a 12-month period effective 7/1/2023 unless otherwise extended by recommendation of the OVR Executive Director and approval by the State Board.
 - **ACTION:** Exempt the pro-rated BTT formula for programs that are less than one year and allow up to the BTT maximum for those programs for a 12-month period effective 7/1/2023 unless otherwise extended by recommendation of the OVR Executive Director and approval by the State Board.
 - **ACTION:** Increase the College Policy maximum amount to the highest State System of Higher Education (SSHE) tuition rate (Shippensburg) of \$7,061 per semester or \$14,122 annually for the next 12-month period effective 7/1/2023 unless otherwise extended by recommendation of the OVR Executive Director and approval by the State Board.
 - **ACTION:** Increase the Small Business start-up maximum cost amount to \$30,000 per customer and reduce the customer’s contribution to the match requirement to 25% of start-up costs for non-SSI/SSDI customers. For SSI or SSDI customers, the matching portion will be waived entirely. These waivers to the small business policy will remain in effect until 6/30/2025, unless rescinded by the OVR Executive Director or extended by the OVR Board.
- 11:05 – 11:20** **State Board Task Force Committee Update**, Michael Kiel, Board Member

STAKEHOLDER REPORTS

- 11:20 – 11:30** **Office for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing**, Melissa Hawkins, Director
- 11:30 – 11:40** **Statewide Independent Living Council**, Matthew Seeley, Executive Director
- 11:40 – 11:50** **PA Rehabilitation Council**, Paul Fogle, Chair

11:50 – 12:00 **Client Assistance Program**, Steve Pennington, Director

12:00 – 12:30 **BREAK**

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

12:30 – 12:45 **Bureau Director Report Follow-Up**, Jill Moriconi, HGAC Director; Marci Katona, BVRSDirector; Dawn Sokol, BBVS Director; Mike Kirby, BCO Director

12:45 – 1:15 **OVR Policy Updates**

- **OVR Driving & Vehicle Services Policy**, Danielle Schmidgall, VR Specialist
- **OVR Employment Supports Policy**, Doug Rand, Business Services & Outreach Division Chief

1:15 – 1:30 **Update on the VR Portion of the Combined State Plan**, Jim Whitonis, VR Specialist

1:30 – 2:00 **Board Discussion/Debate**, Ryan Hyde & Board Members

- **Utilization of a Bachelor-level Position for the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Classification**
- **Utilizing On-the-Job Training for Supported Employment Cases as a Standard Practice**

2:00 – 2:30 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

2:30 **ADJOURNMENT**

NEXT MEETING: September 14, 2023 – Pittsburgh