

# **PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)**

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## **WEEKLY UPDATE: January 8, 2018**

\*If you no longer wish to receive this update, please contact Nancy Kershner at [nancy.kershner@ucpcentralpa.org](mailto:nancy.kershner@ucpcentralpa.org) to have your name removed.\*

**NOTE:** This update is for informational purposes only. The PaRC and Support Staff are not responsible for the accuracy of this information. Some of the information found in this update you may have already received from another source. The PaRC or the Support Staff do not use this update as a vehicle to express their views and positions. As of **January 8, 2018**, all links have been verified. Please credit the PaRC Support Project for any information forwarded to others. Thank You.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** 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.

**The PaRC 2017 Annual Report and can be found on our webpage or by clicking on the following link** [www.parac.org/reports/](http://www.parac.org/reports/)

**Find Your Local CAC Meeting Dates:** Please go to our website [www.parac.org](http://www.parac.org) and click on the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) link to find dates, locations, times, etc. for information on the nearest CAC.

**\*\*\* PaRC Calendar Year 2018 –Please Mark your Calendars \*\*\***

### **FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS**

PaRC Full Council meetings will be held at the **Harrisburg Hilton** from 9:30 AM until 3:30 PM (unless otherwise noted). We will also have parking passes for those who park in the Strawberry Square Parking Garage. Please plan to stay for the entire meeting.

**March 7, 2018**

**May 2, 2018**  
**August 22, 2018**  
**October 24, 2018**

**PaRC Member Committee Conference Calls – Please Mark your Calendars**

**CAC / Executive Committee Conference Call**

Next Call: To be Determined

**CareerLink/WIOA**

Next Call: To be Determined

**Executive Committee Conference Call**

Next Call: – To be Determined

**Legislative and Public Awareness Conference Call**

Next Call: To be Determined

**OVR Policy and State Plan Committee / Customer Satisfaction Conference Call**

Next Call: Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 10:00 AM

**Social Media/Outreach Committee Conference Call**

Next Call: To be Determined.

**Transition & Education**

Next Call: – Thursday, February 1, 2018 at 2:00 PM

**1.) Linda Williams – PaRC Staff:**

The 2018 meetings of the **Governor’s Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities** will be one-day, face-to-face meetings, as follows: Friday, February 16, 2018 -- Friday, May 25, 2018 -- Friday, September 07, 2018 -- Thursday, November 29, 2018. All meetings are scheduled from **9:30 AM to 3:00 PM**, at the following location: **PA Department of Education’s Heritage Room, 333 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17126**. If you have any questions, please contact Devon Grant at 717-783-4287, [dgrant@pa.gov](mailto:dgrant@pa.gov), or Lisa Anastasi at 717-346-4381, [lanastasi@pa.gov](mailto:lanastasi@pa.gov).

**2.) American Council of the Blind:**

**2018 ACB Scholarships** – The American Council of the Blind has a great opportunity for students who are legally blind to earn a scholarship, whether you are going to a technical college, an entering freshman, undergraduate or a graduate student. The 2018 scholarship application is now open. To learn more, visit: <http://acb.org/scholarship>

**CCLVI Scheigert Scholarships 2018-2019:** The Council of Citizens with Low Vision International (CCLVI), an affiliate of the American Council of the Blind, annually awards three scholarships in the amount of \$3,000.00 each to full-time college students – an incoming freshman, an undergraduate and a graduate student – all of whom must be low vision, maintain a strong GPA and be involved in school/local community activities. Find out more at : <http://acb.org/cclvi-2018-scholarships>

### **3.) Disabled-World:**

[Research Shows Therapy Dogs Not Stressed When Visiting Pediatric Cancer Patients](#)

[Changing U.S. Tax Codes Impact Assistance Dog Services for People with Disabilities](#) -

[eSight Pledges to Make Blindness History by 2020](#)

**4.) Mathematica’s Center for Studying Disability Policy – Youth: Topical Webinar Five-Part Series on the Transition to Employment Among Youth Receiving SSI** -- Wednesday, January 17, at 2 p.m. (EST) 60 minutes -- Benefits Counseling as a Tool to Improve Employment Outcomes for Youth Who Receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Young people with disabilities, especially those who receive SSI, need policies, programs, and interventions that can help them make a smooth transition into adult life, particularly into employment. This session will highlight: The effect that benefits counseling has on employment outcomes; Best practices in benefits counseling, including strategies on when to provide benefits counseling to transition-age youth (such as before, during, or after employment); Lessons learned from large-scale studies on the provision of benefits counseling. **To register:** Register in advance by clicking on the link below.

<https://event.on24.com/wcc/r/1568036/23D1DC53C5D4CFCDE5FC6CF9F90AA315>

### **5.) Institute for Community Inclusion:**

The Family Engagement in Online Employment Planning Intervention is looking for parents of a student with an intellectual and/or developmental disability to participate in a study to see how Facebook Messenger might be

used as an effective tool to coach families on planning for employment. This study uses Facebook Messenger, as well as [The Arc's Build Your Plan tool](#), to see how a well-planned and individualized engagement strategy might improve families' beliefs about employment for their family member with IDD. Please share this flyer with anyone you know who might be interested.

**Substantial Gainful Activity a project of Explore VR:** The ICI implemented the [SGA Model Demonstration](#) rigorously testing a rapid engagement coordinated team approach in Kentucky and Minnesota to improve wage outcomes of vocational rehabilitation customers who received SSDI benefits. Read the [Mathematica Policy Research evaluation reports](#) and watch this [video](#) for a first person account.

**6.) National Technical Assistance Center on Transition: Engaging Families and Elevating Expectations: A Focus on Employment – Webinar - 01/11/2018 | 3:00 pm EST** -- Families of youth with significant disabilities may have difficulty thinking about the transition to adulthood and envisioning a future that includes competitive employment. This webinar will highlight strategies for engaging families of youth, including those with significant disabilities around planning for employment. Innovative parent training efforts will be discussed as will the need to engage around specific outcomes and ideas for working with families who are apprehensive about exploring employment options for their youth. [Register Now](#)

**7.) PA Disability News: Job Opening** -- Disability Rights Pennsylvania (DRP) seeks an Advocate / Project Lead in the Harrisburg office. [Click here](#) to view the job post.

*The PaRC is looking for a candidate to fill a veteran with a disability opening. Any interested candidates, please go to our website at [www.parac.org](http://www.parac.org) and fill out an application. Thank You.*

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