

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

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WEEKLY UPDATE: January 8, 2019

If you no longer wish to receive this update, please contact Nancy Kershner at 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, 2019**, 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 2018 Annual Report and can be found on our webpage or by clicking on the following link

<http://parac.org/reports/2018AnnualReport.pdf>

Find Your Local CAC Meeting Dates: Please go to our website 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 2019 –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 6, 2019

May 1, 2019

August 21, 2019

October 23, 2019

PaRC Member Committee Conference Calls – Please Mark your Calendars

CareerLink/WIOA

Next Call: To be Determined

Executive Committee Conference Call

Next Call: – Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 2:00 PM

Legislative and Public Awareness Conference Call

Next Call: Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 10:00 AM

OVR Policy and State Plan Committee / Customer Satisfaction Conference Call

Next Call: To be Determined

Social Media/Outreach Committee Conference Call

Next Call: To be Determined

Transition & Education

Next Call: – Thursday, January 24, 2019 at 2:00 PM

The PaRC Social Media and Outreach Committee in partnership with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) produced 6 videos, 5 of which are OVR individual and business success stories, as well as a PaRC Recruitment video. We want to thank both the individuals and companies that participated in making these videos and OVR for supporting the project. The PaRC is pleased to present the following 6 videos. Please feel free to share.

[PaRC Recruitment](#)

[PaRC Dream Partnership](#)

[PaRC Herr Foods Inc.](#)

[PaRC Aha Moment](#)

[PaRC Keystone Blind Association](#)

[PaRC Assistive Technology](#)

PaRC COUNCIL OPENINGS: The PaRC is looking for candidates to fill the following openings: A veteran with a disability, a Mental Health representative, a Business or Industry Representative, and an Intellectual Disability Representative. If interested please go to our website (www.parac.org) and fill out an application.

1.) The Governor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities:

At the November 29, 2018 meeting, the GAC reviewed the information and established the following four working groups for 2019: Budget / Funding; Education; Employment; Transportation. We believe that the work of the GAC can fall into these broad categories. The GAC is also prepared to address any important issue that requires more timely attention and does not fit into the work groups. Participation in the workgroups is open to anyone interested in the issues that fall into the broad topic of that workgroup. The workgroups will meet via teleconference to review information and develop recommendations for action by the full GAC. Please feel free to continue offering other items that the GAC should consider. We welcome your input. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Devon Grant at 717-783-4287 or dgrant@pa.gov, or Lisa Anastasi at 717-346-4381 or lanastasi@pa.gov.

2.) Policy Information Exchange (PIE):

February 6, 2019 Managed Long-Term Services and Supports

Subcommittee Meeting – Accommodation Request -- This email is to notify you that the next Managed Long-Term Services and Supports (MLTSS) Subcommittee meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 6, 2019**, in the Honor's Suite at 333 Market Street Tower in Harrisburg, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you plan to attend in person and need an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter and/or another accommodation, please send an email to Marilyn Yocum at myocum@pa.gov and Brandon Bennett at brandobenn@pa.gov by no later than January 17, 2018, so an ASL interpreter or other accommodation can be scheduled.

PIE Info: Peer Specialists Free Webinars Series – Peer-Run Crisis

Respite Homes: Tips for Rural Areas - Tuesday, January 29, 2019 –

2:00 PM ET -- The Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services offered start-up funds in 2018 for Peer Run Crisis Respite Services. To learn more about this service and to begin to prepare for any future start-up opportunities, check out this webinar. **[Register Online](#)**

3.) ABLÉ National Resource Center:

IRS Issues New Guidance on ABLÉ Accounts -- January 7, 2019 -- Last month, the IRS issued new guidance to further explain changes to the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act that resulted from amendments included last year in the major tax reform package: Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. In addition to increasing the amount of contributions annually to an ABLÉ account from \$14,000 to \$15,000, an approved amendment to the ABLÉ Act allows an ABLÉ account owner to contribute part or all of his or her income to their account above the \$15,000 contribution limit. The additional contribution is limited to the poverty line amount for a one-person household. For 2018, the amount is \$12,140 in the continental US, \$13,960 in Hawaii and \$15,1800 in Alaska. The designated

ABLE account beneficiary is not eligible for the additional contribution if their employer contributes to a workplace retirement plan on their behalf. The IRS news release reminds individuals with disabilities of new ABLE account benefits that, in addition to the opportunity to put more funds into their account from earned income, there is an opportunity to roll over funds from a 529 college savings plan; some individuals may be eligible to qualify for a Saver's Credit. [Read the full IRS release.](#)

4.) Administration for Community Living:

[CMS Highlights Opportunities for States to Better Serve Individuals Dually Eligible for Medicare and Medicaid](#) - January 7, 2019 - In a letter to state Medicaid directors, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has outlined 10 new and existing opportunities – none... [read more](#)

5.) American Association on Health & Disability:

AAHD–Disability & Health Journal, January 2019 issue [available here](#)

6.) Disabled-World.com:

[Acesight Electronic Glasses for Visually Impaired](#) - Acesight glasses use technology that assists people with severe low vision to regain visual independence electronic

7.) Hearing Loss Association of America:

[HLAA Greater Baltimore Chapter “Let’s Talk” Program @ The Hearing and Speech Agency \(HASA\) -- Jan 17 @ 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm](#)

8.) DisabilityScoop.com:

[Trump Administration Rescinds Guidance Amid Objections from Disability Advocates](#) – Guidance issued during the Obama administration, which was aimed at ensuring that minorities and students with disabilities weren't unfairly disciplined, is no more. [Read More >](#)

[Wearable Device May Be Able to Predict Autism Aggression](#) – A \$3.1 million national study is looking at whether a Fitbit-like device can predict aggression in those with autism, potentially offering caregivers time to intervene. [Read More >](#)

[Airlines Under New Mandate to Report on Wheelchairs They Break -](#)

For the first time, airlines are now required to publicly reveal how many wheelchairs or motorized scooters they lose, mishandle or break. [Read More >](#)

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