

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

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WEEKLY UPDATE: January 15, 2018

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 15, 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

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 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: – Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at 2:00 PM

Legislative and Public Awareness Conference Call

Next Call: To be Determined

OVR Policy and State Plan Committee / Customer Satisfaction Conference Call

Next Call: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 10:00 AM

Social Media/Outreach Committee Conference Call

Next Call: Friday, January 26, 2018 at 10:00 AM

Transition & Education

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

1.) Policy Information Exchange:

Governor Wolf Announces Expansion of Services to People with Disabilities to Reduce Waiting List -- [View online](#)

2.) Special Needs Answers.com:

New Tax Law Makes Changes to ABLE Accounts – (the following is an excerpt) -- Families taking advantage of ABLE savings accounts will have a little more flexibility in planning for special needs as a result of the new Tax Cuts and Jobs Act signed into law by President Trump on December 22, 2017. To read the text of the final bill, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, [click here](#).

3.) DisabilityScoop.com:

Are Schools Doing Enough to Prepare Students for Life After Special Ed?: Schools are legally obligated to create meaningful post-school plans for students with disabilities, but the experiences of many young people show how hard it is to get the process right. [Read More >](#)

4.) Heidi Tuszynski –PaRC Council Member:

National Rehabilitation Association –37th Annual Government Affairs Disability Employment Summit -- March 25-27, 2018 -- Our Summit will begin on Sunday, March 25 and will wrap-up on Tuesday, March 27, 2018. While you are in Washington, you are encouraged to schedule appointments with your U.S. Senators and House Representative to make them aware of the needs people with disabilities have for employment training and supports and the vital role rehabilitation professionals play in helping people with disabilities become productive integrated members of society. [REGISTER HERE](#) -- Register before March 2, 2018 and take advantage of the early bird discounted rate. Requests for accommodations should be sent to the NRA national office at: info@nationalrehab.org as soon as possible and not later than March 16, 2018. The Summit will be held at the King Street Hilton Hotel in Old Town, Alexandria, Virginia: Toll Free: (800) 445-8667. You will need the group code to get the special discounted rate. The group code is "MRG". Please note: To get the special NRA discounted group rate, reservations must be made no later than March 2, 2018.

National Rehabilitation Association - Pre-Summit Webinar Training - February 15, 2018 -- Take Advantage of our Summit Prep Webinar. To make sure your message is heard, on Thursday, February 15, 2018, we will be holding a webinar to prepare attendees for their day on the Hill. The webinar will begin at 1:00 PM EST, 12:00 PM CST, 11:00 AM MST and 10:00 AM PST. The webinar is free to individuals who have registered for the Government Affairs Disability Employment Summit. For all others, the webinar is \$25 for NRA members and \$35 for nonmembers. While the webinar training is geared to national advocacy, the information provided will help you become a more effective advocate at the local and state levels. [REGISTER HERE](#)

5.) ABLE National Resource Center:

Webinar: Changes to ABLE in 2018 -- 2018 promises to be another exciting year for ABLE. In addition to the expected launch of several more ABLE programs across the country, there will also be other significant changes to ABLE that have either already taken place as of January 1, 2018, or that will be implemented over the course of this year. The purpose of this webinar is to summarize and explain these changes. Specifically, the

webinar will touch on: 2018 Increased Annual Contribution Limit; Ability to Rollover Funds from a 529 College Savings Account into an ABLE Account; Additional Allowable Contributions by the Beneficiary as a Result of Employment; Access to the Retirement Savings Contributions Credit (Saver's Credit). This webinar will take place **Thursday, January 25th (2:00-3:30 p.m. ET)**. Moderator Chris Rodriguez, Director, ABLE National Resource Center, will also be joined by a group of expert panelists, comprised of national disability-related policy experts, as well as leaders in the ABLE industry. [You can register for this webinar.](#) Also, [a brief summary of the 2018 changes](#) that will be discussed.

Please note: Real time captioning will be provided for this webinar. For other accommodation requests, questions about the webinar, or the registration process, please contact Chris Rodriguez at crodriguez@ndi-inc.org.

6.) Mathematica's Center for Studying Disability Policy: Topical Webinar Five-Part Series on the Transition to Employment Among Youth Receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) -- Wednesday, January 17, at 2 p.m. EST; 60 minutes -- **Topic:** (Part 1) Benefits Counseling as a Tool to Improve Employment Outcomes for Youth Who Receive SSI – sponsored by the Office of Disability Employment Policy, U.S. Department of Labor. 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 webinar will explore issues related to SSI benefits and benefits counseling. **To register:** Register in advance by clicking on the link below. <https://event.on24.com/wcc/r/1568036/23D1DC53C5D4CFCDE5FC6CF9F90AA315>

7.) American Association of People with Disabilities: [Where we've failed to live up to the promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act](#) -- AAPD Board Chair Ted Kennedy, Jr. writes for **CNN** on the employment of people with disabilities and the potential of the Disability Equality Index (DEI) to help corporations improve their disability inclusion policies and practices.

[February nTIDE Lunch & Learn Webinar](#) -- February 2, 2018 | 12pm ET -- On the first Friday of every month, corresponding with the Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs report, the National Trends in Disability Employment (or nTIDE) Lunch & Learn series will offer a live broadcast to share the results of the latest nTIDE findings as well as news and updates from the field of disability employment.

Disability Community Day of Mourning -- March 1, 2018 -- Every year on March 1st, the disability community gathers across the nation to remember disabled victims of filicide—disabled people murdered by their family members or caregivers.

Statement of Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Rights Task Force and Collaboration to Promote Self-Determination on Withdrawal of Justice Department Guidance on the ADA's Integration Mandate and Employment Services -- On December 21, the U.S. Department of Justice rescinded its Statement on Application of the Integration Mandate of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and *Olmstead v. L.C. to State and local Governments' Employment Service Systems for Individuals with Disabilities*. The statement, which was issued last year, described the obligations of states to administer their employment services for people with disabilities in the most integrated setting appropriate. [The withdrawal statement from the Department of Justice is available here.](#)

Bob Casey and Tom Ridge: Don't disempower fellow citizens -- "The tax bill being considered for final passage does not value people with disabilities and certainly does not prioritize them. The most worrisome aspects for those with disabilities is the plan to raise the budget deficit by at least \$1 trillion, triggering required reductions in spending that will gut or eliminate critical programs that allow people with disabilities to gain or maintain jobs."

How to Protect Disability Rights in 2018 -- "If you're disabled and feeling helpless — or nondisabled and wanting to work in solidarity with the disability community — there are lots of actions you can take that will make a big difference."

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 and fill out an application. Thank You.

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