

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

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WEEKLY UPDATE: January 15, 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 15, 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: To be Determined

OVR Policy and State Plan Committee / Customer Satisfaction Conference Call

Next Call: Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 10:00 AM

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 Aha Moment](#)

[PaRC Dream Partnership](#)

[PaRC Keystone Blind Association](#)

[PaRC Herr Foods Inc.](#)

[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.) National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research:

December nTIDE: Outlook Remains Optimistic Despite Dip in Job Numbers

- The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Employment Policy and Measurement \(EPM-RRTC\)](#) and the [RRTC on Disability Statistics and Demographics \(Stats RRTC\)](#) have published the [December National Trends in Disability Employment \(nTIDE\) Report](#), examining employment statistics for Americans with disabilities from the latest Bureau of Labor Statistics Jobs Report. The report finds that experts

remain optimistic for growth in 2019 despite a dip in job numbers for Americans with disabilities.

The [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine \(NASEM\)](#) have published [Improving Care to Prevent Suicide Among People with Serious Mental Illness](#), proceedings of a workshop held in September 2018 to discuss what is known, what is currently being done, and what needs to be done to identify and reduce suicide risk among people with serious mental illness in the US. The proceedings cover suicide prevention in healthcare systems, serious mental illness in special populations, and the future of prevention along the continuum of care.

2.) Mathematica Policy Research:

Targeting Early Interventions to Help Workers with Medical

Conditions Keep Their Jobs - A growing body of evidence shows that interventions targeted early to the right people are critical for keeping those with medical conditions working. A special section of the *Journal of Occupational Rehabilitation* called [Opportunities for Early Intervention to Avoid Prolonged Work Disability](#) examines how to efficiently identify and provide timely support to workers with medical conditions. Contributions by several Mathematica researchers and other experts explore employers' decisions to accommodate and retain workers as well as how disability insurance and workers' compensation claims data can serve to identify and target people for early interventions. [Read more.](#)

New Evidence of the ACA's Effect on People with Disabilities: Health Insurance, Employment, and Benefits -- Thursday, February 7, 2019, noon to 1:30 p.m. ET -- [Register for the webinar.](#)

3.) ABLE

WEBINAR: ABLE Accounts and Special Needs Trusts - Thursday, January 31, 2018 – 2:00-3:30 p.m. ET. This webinar will discuss the advantages and the limitations of ABLE accounts and SNTs, whether one might be preferred over the other or why someone might have both. To prepare for the webinar, we encourage you to review: [The ABLE Materials Toolkit](#) - A centralized location of printable ABLE-related information which will increase your awareness and understanding of ABLE accounts. ["ABLE Accounts and SNTs" How to Choose?"](#) - Explains the similarities and differences between ABLE accounts and SNTs. [Register for this webinar.](#)

4.) Policy Information Exchange (PIE):

PIE Info: Certified Peer Support Trainings / Supervisor Trainings / Webinars -- Facilitated by RI Consulting (formerly Recovery Opportunity Center) RI added six new Certified Peer Specialist and Certified Peer Specialist Supervisor training for 2019. **Check out the updated list of trainings.**

Switzer Research Fellowships Program -- The purpose of the Research Fellowships Program is to build research capacity by providing support to highly qualified individuals, including those who are individuals with disabilities, to conduct research on the rehabilitation of individuals with disabilities. The deadline to submit a proposal is **February 11, 2019**. [Click here](#) to learn more about this opportunity.

The Center for Independent Living is seeking qualified applicants for the following position: Living Well Specialist-Full Time -- To effectively provide advocacy, information and referral, peer support and independent living skills training to people with disabilities in Central PA. This position will also work with Youth with disabilities and provide pre-employment transition services. Qualifications: Team player with effective interpersonal skills. A demonstrated commitment to civil rights, including disability rights. Ability to work independently and cooperatively with staff and volunteers in a culturally diverse environment. Proficiency in another language other than English (including ASL) is a plus. Certified Employment Support Professional (CESP) a plus. Bachelor's Degree in a field of study relevant to the provision of Independent Living Services required; or High School diploma and two years' experience working with people with disabilities; or High School diploma and two years' experience working organizing for systems change for or as a person(s) with a disability; or a person with a disability with a high school diploma who has successfully transitioned to living independently and has one year work experience. Ability to travel is required. Interested persons please send an email with a copy of your resume to Director of Human Resources at mzarreii@cilcp.org. **Telephone:** [717-731-1900](tel:717-731-1900) - **Fax:** 717-731-8150.

Mental Health Association in PA is Hiring - External Advocate – Part time position (between 25 and 30 hours per week). External Advocate is an independent advocate who provides assistance and support to individuals receiving services at a state-operated mental health facility. This part time position is located at Danville State Hospital, Danville, PA. Position entails the following responsibilities: Ensure the fundamental rights of the individual receiving services in the state-operated facility. Help individuals and their families with questions, concerns, and complaints regarding hospital care and treatment. Help resolve concerns and complaints. Work with individuals and others, including local/regional mental health offices and county providers, to facilitate community living. Refer individuals to an attorney or agency that provides legal advocacy. Assist with questions about benefit programs and concerns regarding employment. Provide technical assistance and education regarding rights to individuals, their families and the hospital staff. **Qualifications:** Ideal candidate will have advocacy experience, knowledge about the PA mental health system, reporting, organizational and data entry skills. A college degree or a

combination of education and experience is required. We are an affirmative action employer—individuals of color, women, and individuals with lived experience are encouraged to apply. Please email resume and salary requirements to externaladvocacy@mhapa.org; Subject Line: **external advocate search**

5.) PA Mental Health Consumers' Association:

Sensory-friendly Sundays are coming to the National Constitution Center museum -- Sensory-Friendly Sunday dates for 2019 include March 24, June 23, August 25, and December 8. On **Sensory-Friendly Sundays**, we provide visitors with sensory processing challenges the opportunity to experience the museum in a secure and comfortable environment by providing emotionally safe spaces for families, modified programming for diverse sensory needs, and specialized staff training. Coming soon, the Center is also developing free pre-visit guides as a resource for visitors to access in advance of their trip to the Center. Learn more about the **National Constitution Center's accessibility opportunities for people with disabilities.**

6.) Linda Williams (PaRC Support Staff):

Save the date for the 2019 ODHH Hearing Loss Expo! -- Wednesday, November 13, 2019 & Thursday, November 14, 2019 at the Radisson Hotel Harrisburg.

7.) DisabilityScoop.com:

Report: Waiting Lists for Medicaid Waivers Up, Competitive Employment Down - More people are on waiting lists, fewer are competitively employed and access to services remains uneven, according to a new report that ranks states on developmental disability services. [Read More >](#)

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