

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

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WEEKLY UPDATE: January 22, 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 22, 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 29, 2019 at 12:00 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 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 and a candidate to represent the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. If interested, please go to our website (www.parac.org) and fill out an application.

1.) DisabilityScoop.com:

Feds Weigh Changes to Work Rules for People with Disabilities – The Trump administration is planning to rethink existing regulations that radically altered the transition from school to work for people with disabilities. [Read More >](#)

2.) EARN:

Learn More About EARN in 2019! -- EARN recently developed a new animated video to introduce the many ways it stands at the ready to help employers recruit, hire, retain and advance qualified individuals with disabilities in the year ahead. [Read more.](#)

Workforce Recruitment Program - The 2019 Workforce Recruitment Program (WRP) database is now available! Managed by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Defense, the WRP is a recruitment and referral program that connects federal employers with highly qualified students and recent graduates with disabilities seeking internships or permanent jobs. [Read more.](#)

New OFCCP Directives - Recently, the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) - which enforces several federal laws that prohibit federal contractors from discriminating against people based on certain factors, including disability - issued three directives aimed at increasing accountability and efficiency. [Read more.](#)

Signature Employment Grants - The Kessler Foundation recently announced the opening of its Signature Employment Grant cycle for 2019. Awarded annually, these grants support new programs, demonstration projects or social ventures that reflect innovative approaches to improving employment opportunities and outcomes for people with disabilities. [Read more.](#)

3.) Jill Weaver (PaRC Support Staff):

The SFY18-19 Q1 report required by the Work Experience for High School Students with Disabilities Act (Act 26 of 2016) has been posted. This report and prior reports are available on [OVR's website](#).

4. ABLE:

New Webinar: ABLE Accounts and Special Needs Trusts - The purpose of this webinar is to educate individuals with disabilities, their families, providers and advocates on how ABLE accounts and Special Needs Trusts (SNT) can provide options and choices to maintain or improve an individual's health, independence and quality of life by supplementing services and/or benefits. The webinar will provide case scenarios and address questions such as: What are ABLE accounts and what are the various types of SNTS? Can I

have more than one account, and how can I decide if one or both types of accounts are right to meet my needs? What are some strategies or things I should consider? This webinar will take place on **Thursday, January 31, 2019, from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. ET**, and will be moderated by Miranda Kennedy, Director, ANRC. [REGISTER NOW](#)

IRS Issues New Guidance on ABLE Accounts - Last month, the IRS issued new guidance to further explain changes to the 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 ABLE account from \$14,000 to \$15,000, an approved amendment to the ABLE Act allows an ABLE account owner to contribute part or all of his or her income to their account above the \$15,000 contribution limit. [Read: IRS Issues New Guidance on ABLE Accounts.](#)

5.) LEAD Center:

New Joint System Innovation Brief - WIOA Section 188 & AJC Certification: A Window of Opportunity to Impact Equal Opportunity Policy & Practice to Better Serve Individuals with Disabilities - The LEAD Center, Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) and Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance Centers (WINTAC) joined forces in the new Joint System Innovation Brief. [Joint System Innovation Brief: WIOA Section 188 & AJC Certification](#)

Career Pathways Community of Practice Meeting - Getting on Track to Employment & Self-Sufficiency: Key Drivers of Inclusive Career Pathways -- TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2019 3:00 - 4:00 PM ET -- The road to Inclusive Career Pathways can be difficult for stakeholders and workforce professionals to navigate. The destination is achieving Employment and Economic Self-Sufficiency for people with disabilities. To guide you on your route, the LEAD Center has created an online tool that contains the questions to ask, the actions to take and the resources and examples that will lead the way. Join us on February 12 for an Inclusive Career Pathways Community of Practice meeting that will preview the LEAD Center's new Inclusive Career Pathways Roadmap. To register for the meeting on **February 12, 2019, from 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Eastern**, go to:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/f6ba326ae92982d7cde7dc3c8da9331e> -- For questions or additional information, please contact Nikki Powis at npowis@ndi-inc.org. This event will be captioned and presentation materials are available upon request. For additional accommodation requests, please contact Shannon Edam at sedam@ndi-inc.org

6.) Mathematica Policy Research:

[A study of Workforce Investment Act employment programs finds positive impacts of staff assistance but inconclusive evidence of training effectiveness.](#)

New Evidence of the ACA's Effect on People with Disabilities: Health Insurance, Employment, and Benefits -- Location: Online; Time: Noon to 1:30 p.m. EST – February 7 - Mathematica's Center for Studying Disability Policy will host a webinar to discuss new evidence that sheds light on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act's many effects on people with disabilities.

7.) Policy Information Exchange:

Disability Integration Act Reintroduced -- On January 15, 2019, Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI-05) and Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) reintroduced companion versions of the Disability Integration Act, which has been previously considered by Congress. This bill would mandate that community-based services be offered to individuals with disabilities prior to institutionalization. It would prohibit states or local governments from denying community-based services for individuals with disabilities who need long-term assistance and would also prohibit insurance providers that fund long-term services from denying community-based services. If passed, this bill would also prohibit states, local governments, or insurance providers from imposing eligibility criteria that limits individuals from receiving HCBS, cost caps, waiting lists, or payment structures. Additionally, this bill would prohibit states from requiring an individual to receive a service in a congregate or disability-specific setting. [Click here](#) to read more about this legislation.

8.) Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers' Association:

Mental Health Awareness Day - Harrisburg, PA - May 8th, 2019 9

a.m. to 1 p.m. Save the Date! The next Mental Health Awareness Day is being held in Harrisburg on Wednesday, May 8th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please mark your calendars for this important event. More information will be available in February through email and social media. Visit our Website

9.) Administration for Community Living:

[Harvard Study Finds Employers Underestimate Employees' Caregiving Burden.](#)

10.) National Technical Assistance Center on Transition:

Using Post-School Outcome (PSO) and Career & Technical Education (CTE) Data to Address Student Outcomes -- 02/14/2019 | 3:00 PM, EST

– Webinar. Presenters will share their successes in working across state agencies to improve outcomes for youth with disabilities accessing CTE in Oregon. The team will share examples from the field, process, data, lessons learned, and suggestions for implementation. [Register Now](#)

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