

# **PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)**

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## **WEEKLY UPDATE: February 5, 2019**

\*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 **February 5, 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](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 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: – To be Determined.

### **Legislative and Public Awareness Conference Call**

Next Call: Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 10:00 AM

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

Next Call: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 10:00 AM

### **Social Media/Outreach Committee Conference Call**

Next Call: To be Determined

### **Transition & Education**

Next Call: – Thursday, April 11, 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](http://www.parac.org)) and fill out an application.

## **1.) DisabilityScoop.com:**

### **Trump Signs Extension of Program That Helps People Leave**

**Institutions** - With states on the brink of ending their services, lawmakers gave a three-month extension to a popular Medicaid program that moves people with disabilities from institutions to the community. [Read More >](#)

### **High Turnover, Stagnant Wages Plague Direct Support Professionals**

- Low pay is forcing some direct support professionals to find second and third jobs or leave the industry altogether and service providers are struggling to keep up with the turnover. [Read More >](#)

### **Even with Government Back Open, Contractors with Disabilities**

**Weary** – Thousands of people with disabilities throughout the country are employed through government contracts and many are still feeling the effects of the shutdown. [Read More >](#)

### **Graduation Rate for Students with Disabilities Shows Improvement –**

The high school graduation rate for students with disabilities across the nation is on the rise again, new federal figures indicate. [Read More >](#)

## **2.) National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders:**

**World Hearing Day, March 3** -- The World Health Organization (WHO) is promoting World Hearing Day on March 3 to draw attention to the importance of early identification and intervention for hearing loss. As part of the World Hearing Day campaign, WHO will also launch a free app, HearWHO, that allows people to check their hearing.

[How Does Noise Damage Your Hearing?](#) (also available in [Spanish](#)). Learn how your hearing works and how you can damage your hearing with sounds that are too loud. Discover activities that can cause NIHL, and ways to teach kids to protect their hearing.

## **3.) Passle Helminski (PaRC Council Member):**

Rep. Bizzarro, made the time to listen to my concerns and acted on them. [Bizzarro urges halt to changes in medical transportation program](#). This is the letter Ryan Bizzarro and other representatives sent to the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

[http://www.pahouse.com/files/Documents/2019-01-30\\_020224\\_NW%20Delegation%20MATP%20Letter%20signed.pdf](http://www.pahouse.com/files/Documents/2019-01-30_020224_NW%20Delegation%20MATP%20Letter%20signed.pdf)

## **4.) National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research:**

**Robotic Exoskeletons May Provide Health Benefits for People with Spinal Cord Injuries** -- Robotic exoskeletons are in limited use in rehabilitation clinics and research centers across the US. This week's

[Research In Focus](#) looks at the settings where therapists and patients work with this emerging technology, the perceived benefits and risks, and recommendations for the future.

**Webinar: Web Accessibility in a Nutshell** - The NIDILRR-funded [Southeast ADA Regional Center](#) will host the 65th episode of ADA Live!, [Web Accessibility in a Nutshell](#), February 6th, 1-1:30pm ET. Presenters will highlight the basics of web accessibility including why it is important, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other laws, the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), and common barriers to web access. Presenters will share tips and best practices for providing more accessible and usable web applications and digital materials to a diverse audience. No registration is required and [questions may be submitted in advance](#).

**Survey of Employees with Disabilities in the Workplace** - The NIDILRR-funded [Disability and Rehabilitation Research Project on Universal Design Practices to Enhance Work Outcomes](#) is [recruiting employees with motor impairments for a series of online surveys](#). The researchers seek to understand how workplace design and the work environment affect an employee's ability to take part in work activities and their sense of inclusion. Participants must be 18 years of age or older and currently employed at least 20 hours per week in a physical work setting, with additional inclusion criteria available from the study website. Only 1-2 employees per worksite will be enrolled and priority will be given to employees who work outside of the rehabilitation services/disability advocacy fields. Participants will complete three online surveys and will be compensated for their time.

#### **5.) Hearing Loss Association of America:**

[HLAA Position: National Chapter and Membership Coordinator](#) - Job Purpose: The national chapter and membership coordinator is responsible for providing the leaders of HLAA Chapters with the direction and support they need to effectively deliver the HLAA mission...Job Purpose: The national chapter and membership coordinator is responsible for providing the leaders of HLAA Chapters with the direction and support they need to effectively deliver the HLAA mission to their members and respective communities. The coordinator also looks for ways to grow HLAA Chapters and to analyze, engage, and grow membership for the ...[Read More >](#)

#### **6.) National Council for Independent Living – Advocacy Monitor: Apply for NCIL’s 2019 Summer Policy Internship Program by Monday, April 15!**

-- Each semester, the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) hosts up to 2 internship positions at our office in Washington, DC. The Policy Internship Program provides real Washington policy experience to participants at a highly respected national organization. Interns gain valuable experience in the nation’s capital and build skills

necessary to be ideal candidates for positions at NCIL, CILs, and other advocacy organizations around the country. [\[Read more...\]](#)

### **7.) National Federation of the Blind:**

[International Braille and Technology Center for the Blind](#) - The International Braille and Technology Center for the Blind is a comprehensive technology evaluation, demonstration, and training facility located at our national headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland. [Learn more about the IBTC](#)

If you have a service animal or travel with someone who does, please fill out this quick online survey. You can help us monitor Uber and Lyft and help prevent discrimination against people with service animals.

[Complete the survey](#)

### **8.) PA Society for the Advancement of the Deaf:**

"People with disabilities constitute 20 percent of the world's population. And still, rideshare companies like Uber and Lyft behave as though we are a minority undeserving of them instead of the customers keeping them afloat."

<https://rootedinrights.org/using-rideshare-services-isnt-easy-when-you-have-service-animal-that-needs-to-change/>

The Disability Integration Act was reintroduced by Congress this year. The bipartisan bill would strengthen the ability of seniors and people with disabilities to choose home- and community-based services as an alternative to institutionalization. <https://truthout.org/articles/congress-considers-bill-to-defend-freedom-of-people-with-disabilities/>

### **9.) National Rehabilitation Association:**

#### **Washington Alert - Transformation to Competitive Employment Act -**

Last week, Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) and Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) introduced the Transformation to Competitive Employment Act (S. 260). The Transformation to Competitive Employment Act would phase out Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act over a six-year period, at which point the authorization for subminimum wage payments would sunset. The Raise the Wage Act would end subminimum wage payments to people with disabilities as part of a larger effort to increase the federal minimum wage generally. The Raise the wage Act would increase the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$15.00 over five years; and would phase out Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act over a six-year period. Whether either of these bills will pass is anyone's guess; however, the pressure to end subminimum wages for people with disabilities continues to grow. This will be a central topic at the upcoming Disability Employment Summit. Please plan to attend the Summit and help shape the future of national disability policy.

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