

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

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WEEKLY UPDATE: February 12, 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 **February 12, 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 <http://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: – To be Determined

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, April 6, 2018 at 10:00 AM

Transition & Education

Next Call: – Thursday, April 19 2018 at 2:00 PM

This past year, 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 six videos](#). Please feel free to share.

1.) Passle Helminski (PaRC Council Member):

From the attorney heading up the legal settlement with Uber and

Lyft: (The following is an excerpt) -- Dear Uber and Lyft Riders with Service

Animals -- Thank you for your continued advocacy. Your reports of discrimination due to a service animal enable our legal team to ensure Uber and Lyft fulfill their settlement commitments. **Help the Driver Know It is Not a Pet:** Sending a text message a couple of minutes before your driver arrives may help clear up any uncertainty. **Tell Uber or Lyft That Your Driver Knew It Was a Service Animal:** Text messages or verbal conversations with drivers in which you tell the driver you have a service animal is strong evidence that the driver knew it was a service animal. You should still submit a detailed complaint even if you don't have an eyewitness or video footage, but the more evidence the better. **Report Problems:** Please continue to participate in NFB's testing program. To submit reports, visit the [ridesharing page on NFB's website](#). **Report non-service denial discrimination:** If you experience forms of discrimination other than being denied a ride, make sure to report these to Uber or Lyft and also to NFB. **Report Accessibility Issues:** Continue to let Uber and Lyft, as well as NFB, know about any technical/accessibility problems you experience using their apps or complaint forms. For more information about reporting, visit the [ridesharing page on NFB's website](#).

2.) Jill Kovalcik-Weaver (PaRC Support Staff):

Here is all the budget information for this year's proposed budget.

<http://www.budget.pa.gov/PublicationsAndReports/CommonwealthBudget/Pages/default.aspx>

3.) Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement of the Deaf:

Greater Pittsburgh Chapter of PSAD Quarterly Meeting -- March 17, 2018 at 7:00 PM. Updated Deaf/Blind Issues from Harrisburg and PSAD - To Protect your Deaf Rights. Please be there to show Support and Protect Your Deaf Rights. If Questions, please contact James C. Noschese, President of Greater Pittsburgh Chapter of PSAD at Noschese235@gmail.com.

The Center for Independent Living of Central Pennsylvania is committed to eliminating barriers that prohibit individuals with disabilities from living well. (The following is an excerpt) -- As one of our most recent efforts, the CILCP staff has been working with Pa. State Representative Dan Miller (42nd Legislative District) and Pa. State Representative Thomas Murt (152nd Legislative District) to introduce SSP legislation that will establish an ongoing statewide SSP program with appropriations for eligible individuals who are deafblind to access services such as Support Service Providers (SSPs) through Centers for Independent Living in Pennsylvania.

- [Learn more about deafblindness and SSP services](#)
- [Watch a video testimonial relating to deafblindness and SSP services](#)

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

January nTIDE: Americans with Disabilities Begin the New Year with Sharp Gains in the Labor Market -- The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Statistics and Demographics \(StatsRRTC\)](#) and the [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Employment Policy and Measurement \(EPM-RRTC\)](#) reported the largest increase in job gains for Americans with disabilities in the [National Trends In Disability Employment \(nTIDE\) January 2018 Jobs Report](#).

Webinar: Workplace Technologies and Vision Loss -- The [Partnership on Employment & Accessible Technology \(PEAT\)](#), funded by the [Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy \(ODEP\)](#), will host a webinar, [Emerging Workplace Technologies and Vision Loss](#), February 15th, 2-3pm ET. Presenters will discuss the development and implications of new technologies, such as access to remote, real time, human, and artificial intelligence assistance; smartphone apps; vision enhancement through electronic optical eyewear; and indoor wayfinding assistance. Registration is free and required.

5.) ABLER National Resource Center:

Changes on the Horizon for ABLER in 2018 -- (The following is an excerpt) -- 2018 promises to be another exciting year for ABLER. In addition to the expected launch of several more ABLER programs across the country, there are significant changes to ABLER that will occur over the course of this year. [read the news update](#).

ABLER National Resource Center Announces "ABLER Case Summary Series" -- The purpose of this series is to help ABLER-related stakeholders, including current and future account holders, better understand how an ABLER account can complement other strategies to improve health, independence and quality of life. ABLER Case Summaries will be released periodically throughout 2018. [Learn more](#). The first in this six-part Case Summary Series explores the impact of an ABLER account on Social Security and SSI Disability Benefits. [Read the first case summary](#).

Webinar Archive Now Available: Changes to ABLER -- A recording of January's webinar "Changes to ABLER in 2018" is now available. [Visit the webinar archive](#).

Upcoming Webinar: Understanding ABLER Program Disclosure Documents - With over 30 ABLER programs to choose from, it is important to fully understand the various characteristics of each program in order to be able to decide which program best meets your particular needs. Each ABLER

program is required to provide an ABLÉ Program Disclosure document that describes its ABLÉ program in great detail. This document provides a comprehensive description of the given program and will include important information such as fees associated with that program, investment options, inclusion of debit card option, possible state tax benefits, and other details that a potential ABLÉ account owner will want to be familiar with and understand. The purpose of this webinar is to help ABLÉ-related stakeholders become familiar and comfortable with ABLÉ Program Disclosure documents. This webinar will take place **Thursday, February 22** (2:00-3:30pm ET). [REGISTER NOW](#)

6.) American Association of People with Disabilities:

URGENT ACTION! -- [Don't Let Congress Chip Away at the ADA!](#) – (The following is an excerpt) -- The ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017 ([H.R. 620](#)) was passed out of the House Judiciary Committee last year, clearing the way for a vote on the floor of the House of Representatives, which is expected sometime next week (February 12-16, 2018). This bill would seriously weaken the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by delaying requirements that businesses be accessible to people with disabilities.

7.) Office of Disability Employment Policy:

What Employers Need to Know to Create a Technology-Accessible Workplace

-- In today's workplace, technology is one of the central drivers of productivity and success for all workers. But when workplace technology isn't accessible for everyone, it can cause employers to miss out on top talent. Join the Employer Assistance and Resource Network on Disability Inclusion and the Partnership on Employment & Accessible Technology on February 22 for a webinar on creating a technology-accessible workplace. Employers can learn about accessible workplace technology and how to ensure their organization's technology infrastructure is accessible for everyone, including employees with disabilities. [Register for the EARN/PEAT webinar](#)

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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