

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

Office Location / Mailing Address: 55 Utlely Drive, Camp Hill, PA 17011

Voice: (717) 975-2004 or (888) 250-5175 tty: (717) 737-0158 fax: (888) 524-9282

Email: racucpa@ucpcentralpa.org www. Parac.org

WEEKLY UPDATE: February 21, 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 **February 21, 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: – 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, 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) and fill out an application.

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

What's New at NARIC? - Every February, the [National Eye Institute](#) celebrates [Low Vision Awareness Month](#), highlighting the growing numbers of people with low vision in the US and the services and technologies which can support them at school, at work, and in the community. NIDILRR-funded research and development in blindness and low vision has ranged from developing and testing interventions to improve education and employment outcomes, to engineering technology to interact with the modern workplace. [Get to know some of the newest projects and their research, highlighted in our Spotlight blog!](#)

RTC: Rural Research Published in The Conversation The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Place-Based Solutions for Rural Community Participation, Health, and Employment \(RTC: Rural\)](#) published an article, [Rural people with disabilities are still struggling to recover from the recession](#), in the online magazine [The Conversation](#). The article discusses a [new analysis of employment disparity published by RTC: Rural](#). The analysis showed that people with disabilities, especially those in rural areas, have experienced a longer and deeper recession and a slower recovery than their peers without disabilities. The analysis also showed that employment decreased for rural people with disabilities, which indicates that people with disabilities in rural areas are being left behind. According to the authors, depressed employment rates can lead to less access to health insurance, retirement benefits, and more.

Job Numbers Hold Steady for Americans with Disabilities, nTIDE Reports - 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 [January National Trends in Disability Employment \(nTIDE\) report](#), examining employment statistics for Americans with disabilities from the latest Bureau of Labor Statistics Jobs Report. This month's nTIDE reports that economic indicators for Americans with disabilities were flat in January. This issue also looks at employment and representation of people with disabilities in the entertainment industry. This report was also discussed in the latest Lunch & Learn webcast, archived on the nTIDE website.

Webinar: Getting on Track to Employment & Self-Sufficiency - The NIDILRR-funded [Southeast ADA Regional Center](#) will host a webinar, [Getting on Track to Employment & Self-Sufficiency: Key Drivers of Inclusive Career Pathways](#), February 12th, 3-4pm ET. Presenters will discuss the new Inclusive Career Pathways Roadmap, a collection of information on inclusive workforce development from multiple states, including strategies collected nationally from Disability Employment Initiative projects and the LEAD Center's work on the Promising Practices in Achieving Nondiscrimination and

Equal Opportunity: A Section 188 Disability Reference Guide. Registration is free and required.

State of the Science and Compendium Release Spotlight Wealth of Disability Data - The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Employment Policy and Measurement \(EPM-RRTC\)](#) and the [RRTC on Disability Statistics and Demographics \(StatsRRTC\)](#) recently co-hosted a [two-day event](#). The first day featured the EPM-RRTC State of the Science with panel presentations on health insurance and employment among people with disabilities, employment trends, opportunities to increase employment, and lessons from the private sector and Veterans Administration on increasing employment. The second day focused on the release of the StatsRRTC's [2018 Annual Disability Statistics Compendium](#), a web-based tool that pools data from multiple federal sources. Panel presentations highlighted the many parts of the Compendium, the latest on federal data collection, indicators of community inclusion, and ways to improve data collection regarding people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Videos for both days are available from the event website. Search #EPMSOS and #Compendium18 on Facebook or Twitter for social media discussions.

2.) DisabilityScoop.com:

Inclusion Increasingly the Norm for Students with Disabilities – More students with disabilities are being educated alongside their typically-developing peers, according to new federal data. [Read More >](#)

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

Google launched two new accessibility apps for deaf and hard of hearing users: one transcribes speech in real-time while the other makes speech sound clearer in noisy environments.

[\(https://www.engadget.com/2019/02/04/google-android-accessibility-deaf/](https://www.engadget.com/2019/02/04/google-android-accessibility-deaf/)

In Pennsylvania, a state rule prevents cities from passing laws that would place duties, responsibilities, or requirements on businesses. This conflicts with Pittsburgh's source of income protection, which advocates argue many landlords are ignoring by refusing to accept housing vouchers.

<https://www.post-gazette.com/local/city/2019/02/10/Discrimination-law-regulation-court-case-Pittsburgh-income-Section-8-vouchers-landlords/stories/201902060107>

4.) National Institute on Deafness and other Communication Disorders:

World Hearing Day is March 3: Get your hearing checked - Do you enjoy listening to music, going to the movies, and talking to your friends and family? Hearing loss can significantly affect your ability to continue enjoying these and other daily activities. That's why it's important to both protect your hearing now and get your hearing checked! On March 3, 2019, during

World Hearing Day, the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) joins the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and others to bring attention to the importance of early identification of and intervention for hearing loss. [Read more »](#)

5.) PA Mental Health Consumers' Association:

Mental Health and Wellness Conference - May 20 and 21, 2019 at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey - Living a (Very) Public Life With Depression and Anxiety --Keynote speaker, State Representative Mike Schlossberg, has lived with depression and anxiety for most of his life. He had been open about his diagnosis with family and close friends, but he didn't share this information publicly until a few years ago. What changed? In Rep. Schlossberg's presentation, "Living a (Very) Public Life With Depression and Anxiety," he will explain the catalyst behind the decision to share his lived experience with colleagues and constituents and the powerful impact it has had on him as a state legislator. Room rates available through April 19, 2019 at \$114 per night plus tax. **Reserve your room.** Group Code: NAM. Phone Number: 717-469-0661. Go to pmhca.org/trainings/MH_Wellness.html for more information.

6.) Policy Information Exchange:

Help test a voting system for use in Pennsylvania - If you are a Pennsylvania voter with a perceptual, mobility or dexterity, or cognitive disability, we need your input. The Pennsylvania Department of State conducts examinations of all voting systems that are used for elections in the state — including all accessibility features. During the week of February 25, the Department of State will hold an examination of the Hart Verity Voting 2.3 voting system. **We need voters with disabilities to try out the accessibility features. Help us learn whether this voting system meets your access needs. You will:** Mark, verify, and cast a sample ballot with any assistive features you would normally use. Provide input about your experience and identify any issues you experienced. Suggest ways the system can be set up to be easier for you to use. We can schedule an appointment for the days and times listed below. We expect the test and your feedback to take 30 - 60 minutes. **When:** Wednesday, February 27 from 1 pm until 5pm; Thursday, February 28, from 9 am until 5 pm; Friday, March 1, from 9 am until 5 pm at the Capitol Complex - Finance building, G-24B - 613 North Street, Harrisburg PA 17120. Contact for questions or to schedule an appointment Sindhu Ramachandran sramachand@pa.gov 717-525-5743. Thank you for your help and look forward to seeing you

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