

# **PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)**

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## **WEEKLY UPDATE: February 26, 2020**

\*If you no longer wish to receive this update, please contact Jill Kovalcik Weaver at [jill.weaver@ucpcentralpa.org](mailto:jill.weaver@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 26, 2020**, 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 2019 Annual Report can be found on our webpage or by clicking on the following link**

<http://parac.org/reports/2019AnnualReport.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 2020 –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.

**May 13, 2020  
August 5, 2020  
November 18, 2020**

The agenda will be posted on the PaRC website.

[http://parac.org/council\\_mtgs.html](http://parac.org/council_mtgs.html)

**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: Friday, March 27, 2020 at 9:30 AM

**Social Media/Outreach Committee Conference Call**

Next Call: To be Determined

**Transition & Education**

Next Call: Thursday, April 9, 2020 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 a candidate to fill the veteran with a disability opening. The openings for Deaf and Hard of Hearing and General Advocacy are pending as candidates have been sent forward for the Governor’s approval. If interested, please go to our website ([www.parac.org](http://www.parac.org)) and fill out an application.

### **1). Forwarded from PA OVR**

**New Webinar: February 27, 2020, 2:00 – 3:30 PM EST**

**Get Empowered – Make the Most of Your Job  
and Improve Your Financial Security**

**Building Financial Solutions for People with Disabilities**

As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and America Saves Week, **join the U.S. Department of Labor, America Saves and the LEAD Center for a webcast to learn about ways to improve your financial security.** National experts from the National Disability Institute will discuss ABLE accounts that can help you save for some of your goals without threatening disability benefits. You will hear personal accounts from staff at the Department's Office of Disability Employment Policy about moving from disability benefits to employment and achieving financial independence.

The Department's Employee Benefits Security Administration will provide information and resources on financial planning to help achieve your goals. This includes budgeting, managing debt and determining a target retirement saving rate so you can make the most of your workplace-provided retirement plan. During the webinar, you will learn more about workplace-provided retirement saving plans which are the easiest way to save for a secure retirement. Lastly, America Saves will share how direct deposit can help with saving for your goals.

**[Register here to view this webinar!](#)**

### **2.) From Governor Tom Wolf Newsroom**

**Wolf Administration Awards \$1.5 Million in Grants for Opioid Use Disorder Criminal Justice Diversion Programs**

*February 18, 2020*

Governor Tom Wolf announced today that the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) is awarding nearly \$1.5 million in federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grants to seven local Single County Authorities (SCAs) to coordinate criminal justice diversion programs for individuals with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). To read the entire article visit: <https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/wolf-administration-awards-1-5-million-in-grants-for-opioid-use-disorder-criminal-justice-diversion-programs/>

### **3.) From Disability Scoop**

**CDC Finds Developmental Disabilities More Common In Rural Areas  
by Michelle Diament | February 21, 2020**

Children living in certain areas are more likely to have developmental disabilities, according to a new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and where a child lives significantly impacts how much help they receive. To read the entire article visit:

<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2020/02/21/cdc-finds-developmental-disabilities-more-common-in-rural-areas/27856/>

#### **4.) From the American Council of the Blind (ACB)**

##### **ADP Update: February 2020**

The [Audio Description Project \(ADP\)](#), an initiative of the American Council of the Blind (ACB), aims to bring more meaning and enjoyment to entertainment, cultural, and educational experiences for blind and visually impaired people.

ADP maintains a list of described DVDs, broadcast television, movies, performing arts, museums, and national parks on the ADP website, [www.acb.org/adp](http://www.acb.org/adp). As the only repository of all audio described titles on DVD and the three video streaming services (Amazon Prime Video, iTunes, and Netflix), the ADP decided to create an index of all the titles. To read the entire article visit: <https://www.acb.org/adp-update-february-2020>

#### **5.) From the New York Times**

##### **How an Amputee Dancer Spends His Sundays**

How to emphasize an atypical body? First, walk the dogs. Then a long day of rehearsal.

**By Kaya Laterman**

Feb. 21, 2020

Until three years ago, Donald Lee had no interest in dance. Now, he is an emerging force.

Mr. Lee, who lost parts of his legs after a car accident more than 20 years ago, performs with and without his wheelchair for the [Heidi Latsky Dance Company](#). He has also become outspoken on accessible artistic practices; his next [lecture](#) on the subject will be at the South by Southwest Education conference on March 10. To read the entire article visit: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/21/nyregion/donald-lee-bilateral-amputee-dancer.html>

#### **6.) From the TribLIVE**

##### **Help for disabilities, mental illness available at Pittsburgh convention center event**

[Bob Bauder](#)

Wed., February 19, 2020 4:02 p.m. | Wednesday, February 19, 2020 4:02 p.m

People with disabilities or mental health problems can access support organizations and attend informational seminars during a summit in March at Pittsburgh's David L. Lawrence Convention Center.

Admission to the [Disability and Mental Health Summit](#) on March 3 is free. It runs from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and features more than 40 informational sessions on topics of interest and a resource fair with more than 230 service providers and advocacy and support groups. To read the entire article visit:

<https://triblive.com/local/pittsburgh-allegheeny/disabled-mentally-ill-can-find-help-during-pittsburgh-convention-center-event/>

### **7.) From northjersey.com**

#### **Mom starts nonprofit working to redefine air travel for wheelchair users like her son**

Jayne Fraser and Gene Myers, USA TODAY Network Published 5:06 a.m. ET Feb. 21, 2020 | Updated 4:28 p.m. ET Feb. 22, 2020

#### **Mom, fashion executive became national expert on airplane safety standards to ensure a better flying future for her son**

When Michele Erwin and her son with spinal muscular atrophy flew to Disney World in 2011, she had to disassemble his electric wheelchair on the jetway so that it could be stored in the cargo hold.

As she took apart the medical device that Greyson lived in, she wondered, "Why can't he roll onto the plane and strap down his chair just as we do on buses, trains and the family minivan?" To read the entire article visit:

<https://www.northjersey.com/story/news/2020/02/21/all-wheels-up-nonprofit-works-air-travel-accessible-wheelchair-users/4819605002/>

### **8). From CBS News 60 Minutes**

#### **Meet the blind piano player who's so good, scientists are studying him**

Matthew Whitaker has been rocking crowds with his improvisational piano playing for most of his short life. He may be blind, but a neuroscientist has found Whitaker's visual cortex goes into overdrive when he plays.

Feb 23 2020

CORRESPONDENT

Sharyn Alfonsi

Every so often, someone so young does something so amazing you can't help but wonder, how do they do that? That's what happened the first time we heard Matthew Whitaker play piano. Matthew is a jazz pianist who is blind, and since the age of 11, he's been performing around the world. He's been called a prodigy and his talent is so extraordinary he's also caught the attention of scientists who are now studying his brain and trying to understand his vision of music. To read the entire article visit:

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/matthew-whitaker-blind-jazz-pianist-18-years-old-60-minutes-2020-02-23/>

### **9.) From PA Pressroom NEWS**

02/24/2020

#### **Pennsylvania Launches Webpages to Educate Voters on County Voting Systems**

**Harrisburg, PA** — Secretary of State Kathy Boockvar announced today that Pennsylvania voters have a new resource to count on as they prepare to go to the polls. The Department of State has launched [67 new webpages](#) [Opens In A New Window](#) – one for each county – where voters can learn specifics

about their county's voting system and how to use it. To read the entire article visit: <https://www.media.pa.gov/pages/State-details.aspx?newsid=371>

**10.) From The U.S. Department of Education  
Department submits the 41st Annual Report to Congress on nation's  
progress related to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act  
By the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services**

WASHINGTON (Feb. 19, 2020)—The U.S. Department of Education submitted its 2019 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) annual report to Congress last week.

The 41st Annual Report to Congress focuses on children and student with disabilities who received services specific to IDEA Part C for infants and toddlers or IDEA Part B for children and youth.

The report summarizes U.S. progress in:

1. providing a free appropriate public education (FAPE) for children with disabilities under IDEA, Part B and early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families under IDEA, Part C,
2. ensuring that the rights of these children with disabilities and their parents are protected,
3. assisting states and localities in providing for the education of all children with disabilities, and
4. assessing the effectiveness of efforts to educate children with disabilities.

Read the 41st Annual Report to Congress [preface](#) or [view the full report](#).

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