

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

Office Location / Mailing Address: 55 Utley 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: March 11, 2020

If you no longer wish to receive this update, please contact Jill Kovalcik Weaver at 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 **March 11, 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 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

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) and fill out an application.

1.) From Governor Tom Wolf Newsroom Gov. Wolf Highlights Efforts to Improve Workforce Development in Pennsylvania, Cuts Ribbon on Northeast Philadelphia Workforce Development Center

March 05, 2020

Governor Tom Wolf today helped cut the ribbon on Toben Center, Northeast Philadelphia's first comprehensive workforce development center. He was joined by Sen. Christine Tartaglione, Rep. Jared Solomon and representatives from Toben Center tenants PhillyWorks, Harcum College, and Northeast Learning Center to celebrate this new piece of workforce development, which builds upon programs already established. To read the entire article visit: <https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/gov-wolf-highlights-efforts-to-improve-workforce-development-in-pennsylvania-cuts-ribbon-on-northeast-philadelphia-workforce-development-center/>

2.) From the Department of Labor and Industry PA 03/05/2020

Pennsylvania Supports Nearly 1,500 Internships in High Demand Careers

Harrisburg, PA – Continuing Governor Tom Wolf's strategic investments to prepare students and young adults for successful careers, Department of Labor & Industry (L&I) Secretary Jerry Oleksiak today announced more than \$4.7 million has been awarded to provide nearly 1,500 summer internships across Pennsylvania through the State/Local Internship Program (SLIP). "This program will help young people get the real-world work experience they need for a good career in Pennsylvania," said Secretary Oleksiak. "This investment strengthens our future workforce, in addition to creating a new, job-ready talent pool for employers across the commonwealth who need skilled workers." To read the entire article visit: <https://www.media.pa.gov/Pages/Labor-and-Industry-Details.aspx?newsid=439>

3.) From Disability Scoop Disability Representation On TV Sees Signs Of Progress

by Shaun Heasley | March 9, 2020

Television characters with disabilities are increasingly being played by actors who actually have the disabilities they're portraying, according to a new report.

Among top 10 Nielsen-rated television shows, 12 percent of all characters with disabilities in 2018 were depicted by actors with the same diagnoses in real life. By comparison, just 5 percent were authentically portrayed in 2016.

To read the entire article visit:

<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2020/03/09/disability-representation-on-tv-sees-signs-of-progress/27940/>

Twitter Prohibiting 'Dehumanizing' Disability Posts

by Shaun Heasley | March 6, 2020

Twitter is cracking down on posts that dehumanize people with disabilities, with a new policy pledging to remove such content.

The social media company said Thursday that it has expanded its [hateful conduct policy](#) "to include language that dehumanizes on the basis of age, disability or disease." To read the entire article visit:

<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2020/03/06/twitter-prohibiting-dehumanizing-disability-posts/27935/>

School District To Require Cameras In All Special Ed Classrooms

by Eva-Marie Ayala, The Dallas Morning News/TNS | March 6, 2020

DALLAS — The Dallas ISD will be among the first major school districts in the nation to require cameras in all special education classrooms to ensure student safety.

Children who don't have the ability to speak because of severe disabilities can't explain to parents or teachers what happened if they are hurt at school. That makes it difficult to determine if an injury was an accident or intentional or if anyone else was involved. To read the entire article visit:

<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2020/03/06/school-district-require-cameras-special-ed-classrooms/27931/>

4.) From Diana Fishlock

PA ABLE

Learn about the PA ABLE Savings Program!

A PA ABLE Savings Program account gives individuals with qualified disabilities (Eligible Individuals), and their families and friends, a tax-free way to save for a wide range of disability-related expenses, while maintaining government benefits. The state and federal tax-free investment options are offered to encourage Eligible Individuals and their families to save private funds to support health, independence, and quality of life.

To help you learn about the important features and benefits of PA ABLE, the Pennsylvania Treasury Department is hosting free webinars.

Some of the topics that we will discuss include: eligibility requirements for opening a PA ABLE account, the federal and state tax benefits of PA ABLE, and how PA ABLE account interacts with current benefits.

- [Wednesday, March 18, 2020 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM](#)
- [Wednesday, May 20, 2020 12:00 PM- 1 PM](#)

Learn more at www.paable.gov

5.) From MSN

Children who don't get enough sleep may have a higher risk of mental health problems

Relaxnews 4 days ago

New European research has found that children who don't get enough sleep may be at a higher risk of developing mental health problems such as ADHD,

anxiety and depression. To read the entire article visit:

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/health/health-news/children-who-dont-get-enough-sleep-may-have-a-higher-risk-of-mental-health-problems/ar-BB10N229>

6.) From Administration for Community Living COVID-19 Updates: CDC Recommendations for People with Increased Risk of Complications

March 6, 2020

Early data suggest older people are twice as likely to have serious COVID-19 illness. In addition, people of all ages, with or without disabilities, seem to be at higher risk for more serious COVID-19 illness if they have severe chronic medical conditions like heart, lung, or kidney disease.

See [ACL.gov/COVID-19](https://acl.gov/COVID-19) for CDC's latest recommendations for people at higher risk and other updates. To read the entire article visit:

<https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/covid-19-updates-cdc-recommendations-people-increased-risk>

New Funding Opportunity for RERC on Physical Access and Transportation

March 6, 2020

The [National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research](#) (NIDILRR) at ACL has opened a new funding opportunity for the [Rehabilitation Engineering and Research Centers \(RERC\) Program](#) on Physical Access and Transportation.

The purpose of the [RERC](#) program is to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act by conducting advanced engineering research on and development of innovative technologies that are designed to solve particular rehabilitation problems or to remove environmental barriers. RERCs also demonstrate and evaluate such technologies, facilitate service delivery system changes, stimulate the production and distribution of new technologies and equipment in the private sector, and provide training opportunities. To read the entire article visit: <https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/new-funding-opportunity-rerc-physical-access-and-transportation>

Kicking off #DDawareness2020

March 5, 2020

This week marks the start of [Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month!](#)

As in previous years, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities is partnering with the Association for University Centers on Disabilities and the National Disabilities Rights Network on a DD Awareness Month [social media campaign](#). The campaign seeks to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all areas of community life and the barriers that people with disabilities still sometimes face in connecting to the communities in which they live. To read the entire article visit: <https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/kicking-ddawareness2020-0>

Lyft And Uber Launching Services with Medical Care Providers, Insurers to Address Social Determinants Of Health.

March 5, 2020

[Forbes](#) (3/5) contributor Bruce Japsen reports, "Ride share giants Uber and Lyft are rolling out an array of new products and services as medical care providers and health insurers look to improve health outcomes and increase patient satisfaction by addressing social determinants of health." The article says, "On Thursday, Lyft said it was partnering with the a fast-growing 'social care coordination platform' called Unite Us that uses its technology to connect healthcare and providers of social services." Furthermore, "Uber Health this week said it was rolling out several new 'patient-centric' product features that include 'direct driver messaging' that allows healthcare providers to message drivers directly on their driver app in what the ride-share company hopes will make pickup easier." To read the entire article visit: <https://acl.gov/news-and-events/news/lyft-and-uber-launching-services-medical-care-providers-insurers-address>

7.) From the American Association on Health & Disabilities

March 6, 2020 by [NDNRC](#)

THE ACA IS TURNING 10

This month represents the 10-year anniversary of the signing of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) into law. Throughout the month we will be highlighting opportunities for you to celebrate what the ACA means for consumers and especially people with disabilities. Included in this celebration will be a Twitter chat on March 23 which represents the actual anniversary date of the ACA. Stay tuned to the NDNRC Update for opportunities to celebrate with us!

Earlier this week, the US Supreme Court agreed to hear the *Texas vs US* case which addresses the constitutionality of the ACA. It is important to remember that this case does not have any legal effect on the current marketplace and people who receive their health insurance coverage will continue to be covered and receive any premium assistance to which they

are entitled while this case is pending before the Supreme Court. To learn more about this case and the timeline for when a decision could come out, check out our [news item](#). To read the entire article visit:

<https://nationaldisabilitynavigator.org/2020/03/06/march-6-2020/>

8.) From PA Department of Human Services

03/09/2020

Human Services Highlights Research in Service Delivery for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Dual Diagnoses

Harrisburg, PA - The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) today released the fourth edition of The Pennsylvania Journal on Positive Approaches. DHS' Office of Developmental Programs and Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services recently began publishing the journal again for the first time in more than 20 years.

People with the dual diagnoses of an intellectual disability/autism and a co-occurring mental illness often face challenges for true inclusion in their communities and require appropriate services and supports. The Pennsylvania Journal on Positive Approaches aims to improve lives by providing supports and services to people with dual diagnosis and communicating timely resources and advancements to professionals and supporters. To read the entire article visit:

https://www.media.pa.gov/Pages/DHS_details.aspx?newsid=490

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