

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

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WEEKLY UPDATE: March 12, 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 **March 12, 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: To be Determined.

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.) DisabilityScoop.com:

Renewed Push Underway to Extend Program that Helps People

Leave Institutions – Lawmakers are pressing ahead with efforts to renew a federal program that helps people with disabilities move from institutions to community-based settings. [Read More>](#)

Large Study Confirms No Association Between Autism, MMR Vaccine

– A study looking at more than 650,000 kids is further debunking any link between autism and the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine. [Read More>](#)

With Proposal, State Considers Apartments Over Costly Group

Homes – Recognizing that many people with intellectual disabilities can function well in more independent settings, one state is set to consider a proposal to support individuals in apartments. [Read More>](#)

Trump Administration Ordered to Reinstate Special Ed Rule - The U.S. Department of Education can't delay implementation of a regulation aimed at preventing certain students from being wrongly placed in special education, a federal judge has ruled. [Read More >](#)

Senators Look to Expand ABLE Program - A proposal in the U.S. Senate would dramatically increase access to a newly-established program that allows people with disabilities a way to save without jeopardizing government benefits. [Read More >](#)

2.) EARN:

Upcoming webinar! - "Ensuring Productivity: Developing Effective Reasonable Accommodations Programs" -- March 20, 2019 || 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. ET - Join the Employer Assistance and Resource Network on Disability Inclusion (EARN) for a webinar that will explore strategies organizations can use to develop comprehensive and effective reasonable accommodations programs in order to attract job applicants with disabilities and retain workers who may acquire disabilities due to injury or illness. Anyone involved in their company's reasonable accommodations process, including human resources and diversity and inclusion staff members, is encouraged to participate. Participation is free, but space is limited, so be sure to [register](#) today!

3.) Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers' Association:

The **FREE Refresher Course for current MHAD trainers** is scheduled for **April 15, 2019** and will be held in **Cumberland County at:** [Read more](#). If interested, contact Liz Woodley at Liz@pmhca.org or call 717-564-4930, or leave an email at pmhca@pmhca.org. The Statewide Consumer Network Grant provided by SAMHSA allows us to offer this MHAD Refresher Course **free of charge**.

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

March is [Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month \(#DDAwareness19\)](#). The campaign seeks to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all areas of community life, as well as the barriers they sometimes face in connecting to the communities in which they live. These first two weeks of DDAwareness19 focus on education and employment, and [we've highlighted research and resources from the NIDILRR community and elsewhere](#) in our Spotlight blog for the occasion.

Mothers with Physical Disabilities Share Strategies to Care for their Young Children - In this week's [Research In Focus](#), mothers with physical disabilities share some of the techniques, technologies, and adaptations they use to care for their infants and toddlers.

Customized Employment Case Study #3: Betsy's Case Study - The NIDILRR-funded [Disability and Rehabilitation Research Center on Customized Employment](#) has published [Betsy's Case Study](#), the latest in the [Customized Employment Case Study](#) series. The case study follows Betsy, a young woman with a disability who worked with employment counselors to find a job in the community that matched with her work preferences and interests. The case study highlights the discovery phase of customized employment, where activities focus on learning about a job seeker's strengths, rather than what they cannot do.

BLS Reports on Labor Force Characteristics of People with Disabilities - The [Bureau of Labor Statistics \(BLS\)](#) at the Department of Labor (DOL) has released a report, [Persons with a Disability: Labor Force Characteristics - 2018](#) (PDF), showing positive increases in employment numbers for people with disabilities in the US. The report shows that the annual unemployment rate for persons with a disability dropped to a record low of 8.0% in 2018, down from 9.2% the previous year.

5.) Hearing Loss Association of Pittsburgh:
HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA PITTSBURGH CHAPTER PUBLIC MEETING Saturday March 16, 2019 - The Hearing Loss Association of America Pittsburgh Chapter March 16 public meeting will focus on communication breakdowns, solutions, and advocacy. The meeting held at DePaul School for Hearing and Speech 6202 Alder St., Shadyside, begins with refreshments at ten am. Free and open to the public. Captioning and hearing loop are provided. FMI: HLAP.news@gmail.com. The topic for our upcoming April meeting is unknown but our May meeting will focus on over the counter hearing aids.

June 20 to 23 HLAA convention - At the Convention you will meet other people with hearing loss and see the latest technology for people with hearing loss. Regular rates are until May 15. Chapter leaders can register at a discount.

The **PA Diana Bender HLAA National Convention Scholarship** is for a person who is currently involved with hearing loss issues. The HLAA-PA Advisory Council's Scholarship Committee selects the qualifying applicant. For application form: <http://hlaa-pa.org/docs/Scholarship2019a.pdf>. For printed form: scholarship@hlaa-pa.org. Application deadline is 04-30-19.

6.) ABLE National Resource Center:

WEBINAR: ABLE Program Spotlight: Making the Most of Your ABLE Account with the National ABLE Alliance -- Wednesday, March 20, 2019 – 2:00-3:15 p.m. ET. This presentation will cover: What the NAA is; NAA program features and investment options; Assessing your needs to get the most out of your NAA account; Testimony from NAA account owners and authorized representatives. In order to prepare for the webinar, we recommend that you review the following:

[The Road Map to Enrollment](#)

[The Road Map to Independence](#)

[Register for this webinar.](#)

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

Robert Probst and Lynn Stroud discuss details about the 2019 PSAD Conference that will occur this upcoming August. This includes information on registration, where the conference is being held, the schedule of events and much more. The conference flyer and forms can be found on the PSAD Conference tab of the PSAD website, or here:

<https://www.psadweb.org/psad-conference-2019/>

8.) Policy Information Exchange:

April 4, 2019 Managed Long-Term Services and Supports

Subcommittee Meeting – Accommodation Request - This email is to notify you that the next Managed Long-Term Services and Supports (MLTSS) Subcommittee meeting will be held on **Thursday, April 4, 2019**, in the Honor's Suite at 333 Market Street Tower in Harrisburg, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you plan to attend in person and need an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter and/or another accommodation, please send an email to Marilyn Yocum at myocum@pa.gov and Brandon Bennett at brandobenn@pa.gov by no later than March 21, 2019 so an ASL interpreter or other accommodation can be scheduled.

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