

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

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WEEKLY UPDATE: March 26, 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 26, 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: – Friday, March 29, 2019 at 10:00 AM

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.) National Federation of the Blind:

The National Federation of the Blind, the oldest and largest organization of blind Americans, applauds the introduction of the Access Technology Affordability Act (ATAA) of 2019 (S. 815) by Senators John Boozman (R-AR)

and Ben Cardin (D-MD). This bipartisan legislation removes an employment barrier commonly experienced by blind Americans who cannot afford the high cost of access technology by creating a refundable tax credit in the amount of \$2,000 to offset the cost of these technologies. Learn more about our many programs and initiatives at www.nfb.org

2.) PA Mental Health Consumers' Association:

FREE Train the Trainer Class for Mental Health Advance Directive Trainers -- The **FREE Train the Trainer class** is scheduled for **Friday, May 24, 2019** and will be held in **Westmoreland County at:**

Westmoreland Casemanagement Services Inc. || 770 East Pittsburgh Street, Greensburg, PA 15601. This training is intended for Certified Peer Specialists (CPS) and other mental health professionals who have completed the Mental Health Advance Directive (MHAD) Training and are interested in learning to facilitate and support individuals that want to develop a Mental Health Advanced Directive. Successful participants will be asked to facilitate the training at least once before the end of 2019. By submitting your application and completing the training, it is assumed that you make this commitment. **Requirement:** Certified Peer Specialists and other mental health professionals must have already completed the Mental Health Advance Directive Training. **Last Day to Apply: Friday, April 26, 2019.** **Register online** or **print paper registration form.** **Questions?** Contact Liz Woodley at Liz@pmhca.org or leave an email at pmhca@pmhca.org or call 717-564-4930.

Mental Health Awareness Days - Monday, May 6th, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. and Wednesday, May 8th, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, May 6th, 2:30 to 3:30 in the Pennsylvania State Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg. Wednesday, May 8th, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Strawberry Square in downtown Harrisburg. We are expecting over 40 different vendors who will be available to talk to us about services that are available to young people (youth through the age of 26), their families, professionals and service professionals. www.pmhca.org

Call for Change Project: Regional Listening Session - If you are a mental health consumer, or a family member of a mental health consumer, **OMHSAS wants to hear from you** about what has worked and what should change in the public mental health system. **Western Region** - March 29, 2019 || Time: 9:30am-12:30pm at Woodlands Foundation (The Lodge), Address: 134 Shenot Rd, Wexford, PA 15090. **Central Region** - April 2, 2019 || Time: 9:00am-3:00pm at OMHSAS Central Office-Clothestree, 303 Walnut Street, 12th Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17101. The assessment phase will include regional on-site listening sessions, intended to generate broad-based stakeholder input and dialogue. In addition, OMHSAS is posting an on-line survey to obtain input from stakeholders who are unable to attend a session. Any questions or comments related to the Call for Change Project can be directed to: jistemple@pa.gov. The survey can

be accessed through May 1, 2019 at this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CFCstakeholdersurvey>

3.) Arc of Pennsylvania:

Making Employment Work - The Arc of Pennsylvania's Making Employment Work is an ACRE Basic Certification training course that is done in a combination of both in-person and online training. Completing this certification course will qualify individuals to provide Supported Employment services with Pennsylvania's Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and Office of Developmental Programs. **When:** In person training takes place on May 21-23, 2019 from 8:30am to 4:30pm. 1.5 hour long online classes will be held on May 28, 31 June 3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21. Online courses are scheduled for 2:30pm-4pm. - **Where:** 711 Bingham St, Pittsburgh, PA 15203 - **Who is this for:** Providers of Supported Employment Services. **Price:** \$150 per person. **Technical Requirements:** Participants will need a computer with a webcam or headset, Google Chrome, Safari or Firefox for their internet browser, and an internet connection capable of streaming video (minimum of 300 kbps). **Registration:** Register for the training by emailing the following information to registration@includemepa.org. Limit to 3 people per agency. **Accommodations:** The Arc of Pennsylvania will do its best to fulfill reasonable requests for accommodations. Requests for accommodations must be made at least 30 days prior to the event. To request accommodations, please email registration@includemepa.org. **Reimbursement:** Upon successful completion of certification, attendees will be reimbursed for travel, up to \$25. The registration fee will be reimbursed to participants upon successful completion of the certification requirements. **Refunds:** Refunds will not be provided for registrants who fail to show up or for cancellations that occur after April 23rd, 2019. Registration is open until May 6th, 2019.

4.) DisabilityScoop.com:

Even with Bipartisan Support, Push to End Subminimum Wage

Remains Divisive – With record low unemployment, some lawmakers say the timing is ideal for a bill that would put an end to a provision that allows people with disabilities to be paid less than minimum wage. [Read More >](#)

5.) ABLE:

Learn about the PA ABLE Savings Program - The PA ABLE Savings Program 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. To help you learn about the important features and benefits of PA ABLE, the Pennsylvania Treasury Department hosts a free webinar each month. Register for a free webinar at: <https://www.paable.gov/webinar/>. Tuesday, April 16, 2019 [12:00 PM - 1:00 PM](#). Thursday, May 16, 2019 [12:00 PM - 1:00 PM](#)

6.) PA Statewide Independent Living Council (PA SILC):

PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT -- April 4, 2019 – 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Abilities in Motion (AIM) || 210 North Fifth Street, Reading, PA 19601 – 610-376-0010. It is ***our responsibility*** to hear from the people to plan for the development of the SPIL. *It is **your right** as a person with a disability in the Commonwealth to be provided with this opportunity to give input.* To request accommodations, call the SILC office at (717) 364-1732 by March 25, 2019. If you are unable to attend this hearing, you can submit your thoughts no later than May 1, 2019. By mail: PA SILC | 207 House Avenue, Suite 107 | Camp Hill, PA 17011. Email: spil@pasilc.org. Telephone: 717-364-1732. Fax: 717-236-8800

7.) Mathematica's Center for Studying Disability Policy:

Lombardo, Clare. "[Why the College Admissions Scandal Hurts Students with Disabilities](#)." NPR.

8.) Passle Helminski (PaRC Council Member):

General Assistance -- a small, targeted program that serves Pennsylvania's most vulnerable populations-- is under attack in the General Assembly. The bill that would end GA (HB 33) was passed by the PA House Health Committee and may move quickly to the House floor for a vote. **Can you take a minute today to call your Representative in the PA House in Harrisburg and let them know you oppose ending General Assistance?** Please reach out to [your local PA House member](#) and let them know that: GA serves PA's most vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities, their caregivers, people in treatment for a substance use disorder, people fleeing domestic violence, and children being cared for by friends or neighbors; GA is a small, targeted, and temporary program; GA keeps people out of shelters; and GA typically functions as a loan -- the state receives its money back when applicants receive Disability payments from the federal government. More information about the General Assistance program [can be found here](#).

9.) LEAD Center:

LEADing to Employment Brief -- Implementing the Equal Opportunity Provisions of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Section 188). There is no one pathway to ensuring equal opportunity and nondiscrimination in the workforce development system. However, there are a diversity of best practices that have been collected nationwide, as noted in this brief. Read the [Leading to Employment brief](#).

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