

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

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WEEKLY UPDATE: April 2, 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 **April 2, 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.) Policy Information Exchange:

NASUAD and Sage Squirrel Consulting, LLC Release Report on MLTSS
-- The **National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD)** is pleased to announce the release of a new report, *Collaborating on HCBS Workforce Challenges in MLTSS Programs*, co-authored with the **Sage Squirrel Consulting, LLC**. Read the report [here](#)

2.) PA Mental Health Consumers' Association:

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. **Southeast Region** - April 10 and 11, 2019 || Time: 9:00am-4:00pm at Norristown State Hospital Building 33 (Multipurpose Room), 1001 Sterigere St, Norristown, PA 19401. **Northeast Region** -- Lehigh Area- April 22, 2019 || Morning Session: 9:30-11:30am at St. Marks Evangelical Lutheran Church, 201 E. Juniata St, Allentown, PA 18103. Afternoon Session: 1:30-3:30pm at Northampton County DHS, 2801 Emrick Blvd, Bethlehem, PA 18020. Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Area- April 23, 2019 || Morning Session: 9:00-11:00am at Advocacy Alliance- Media Center, 841 Jefferson St, Scranton, PA 18510. Afternoon Session: 1:00-3:00pm at Luzerne County Human Services Bldg., 111 N. Pennsylvania Ave, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701. 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.) DisabilityScoop.com:

Pediatricians Urged to Coordinate Therapy for Kids with Disabilities
– Doctors are being told to do more to ensure that children with disabilities have access to needed therapies while steering clear of unproven treatments. [Read More >](#)

“Game-Changing” App Helps Police Interact with People with Special Needs – In the past, police might have had little information to help them navigate interactions with individuals who have disabilities, but one app could help change that. [Read More >](#)

Rising Costs Force Disability Programs to Shrink or Close –

Organizations providing in-home care, therapy and job training to client with disabilities in high-cost markets are struggling to keep their doors open. [Read More >](#)

Amazon Rolls Out Disability Hiring Initiative – Retail giant Amazon is quietly implementing a hiring initiative that has resulted in employment for several hundred people with disabilities across at least nine states. [Read More >](#)

Facebook Charged with Disability-Related Discrimination – The federal government is accusing Facebook of illegally using its advertising platform to discriminate against people with disabilities and other groups. [Read More >](#)

4.) Jill Kovalcik-Weaver (PaRC Support Staff):

Blind 6-Year-Old Teaches Himself to Play Piano and Performs for Hundreds: 'Music Is in His Body'

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/lifestyle/lifestyle-buzz/blind-6-year-old-teaches-himself-to-play-piano-and-performs-for-hundreds-music-is-in-his-body/ar-BBVgmqI?li=BBnbfcL>

5.) Youth Moves PA:

Young Adult Road Map Training - Young Adult Road Map helps people in their teens and twenties cope with the complications of everyday living and build a path to the future. **April 17, 2019 - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** at the Giant Community Center, 3301 E Trindle Rd., Camp Hill, PA 17011. Lunch provided. Free parking. Fee is \$10 to cover the cost for lunch and beverages. **Training is free.** Manuals will be offered free of charge at this training only. To **learn more** about Young Adult Road Map training visit **Young Adult Road Map web page**. **Register online** now. Have questions? Contact Zack Karenchak, zack@youthmovepa.org, Policy and Program Development Coordinator, 717-564-4930

6.) Association of People with Disabilities:

Why companies who hire people with disabilities outperformed their peers - "The Disability Equality Index has become the leading corporate benchmarking tool for disability equality and inclusion," says AAPD board chair Ted Kennedy Jr. "What the Accenture report did is take the companies that participate in the DEI and compared them with their peers."

Principles for School Safety, Privacy, and Equity - AAPD joined 39 other education, privacy, disability rights, and civil rights organizations to release ten principles to protect all students' safety, privacy, and right to an equal education. The principles are meant to serve as a starting point for conversations with policymakers and school officials about how to keep students safe while respecting their dignity and encouraging their individual growth.

GettingHired.com Online Career Expo - May 2019 - Job seekers with disabilities are exclusively invited to connect directly with GettingHired's

employer partner companies, who are actively hiring talented individuals with disabilities. The Getting Hired Online Career Expo will be held on May 2, 2019 from 12:00pm to 3:00pm Eastern.

Persons with a Disability: Labor Force Characteristics - 2018 - The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) released the "Persons with a Disability: Labor Force Characteristics - 2018" report. The data on persons with a disability are collected as part of the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly sample survey of about 60,000 households that provides statistics on employment and unemployment in the United States.

Flying Tips for Wheelchair Users, From Wheelchair Users - In this piece for The New York Times, Barbara and Jim Twardowski share tried and true travel tips for wheelchair users.

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin introduces legislation to protect rights of disabled airplane passengers - U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin reintroduced the Air Carrier Access Amendments Act to protect the rights of disabled airplane passengers, improve air travel safety, and close service gaps that passengers with disabilities frequently encounter in air travel.

The State of the U.S. Labor Market: Pre-February 2019 Jobs Day Release - "...a closer look at the economic reality for those who face systematic disadvantages in the labor market serves as a reminder of the critical need for investments in programs that provide basic living standards nearly three decades after the passage of the ADA. And though robust overall growth should be hoped for, policymakers should bear in mind which workers are still being disproportionately left behind in today's labor market."

Equality Act Introduced in Congress - The Equality Act would update federal civil rights law to ban discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, jury service, education, federal programs and credit on the basis of "race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, or disability."

#AbleDsAreWeird: People with Disabilities Share Uncomfortable Encounters - "Barbarin hopes the hashtag gives people a window into behavior that they don't realize is rude or offensive. More importantly, she hopes it gives disabled people the strength and empowerment to call this type of behavior out next time they experience it."

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