

# **PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)**

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## **WEEKLY UPDATE: April 9, 2019**

\*If you no longer wish to receive this update, please contact Nancy Kershner at [nancy.kershner@ucpcentralpa.org](mailto: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 9, 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](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 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: Tentative Date: Monday, June 24, 2019 at 10:00 AM

### **Executive Committee Conference Call**

Next Call: – To be Determined.

### **Legislative and Public Awareness Conference Call**

Next Call: Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 10:30 AM

### **OVR Policy and State Plan Committee / Customer Satisfaction Conference Call**

Next Call: Friday, April 12, 2019 at 8:30 AM

### **Social Media/Outreach Committee Conference Call**

Next Call: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at 10:00 AM

### **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](http://www.parac.org)) and fill out an application.

#### **1.) DisabilityScoop.com:**

**Feds Clarify What Qualifies as “Community-Based”** – Federal officials have issued long-awaited guidance to help states determine what living

arrangements for people with disabilities are considered community-based rather than institutional. [Read More >](#)

**Lawmakers Look to Fully Fund IDEA** – Bipartisan legislation to substantially increase Uncle Sam’s investment in special education is back on the table. [Read More >](#)

**Special Olympics Uproar Draws Attention to Other Disability Program Cuts** – Recent outcry over a proposal to defund Special Olympics is helping put the spotlight on other potentially devastating cuts to programs for people with disabilities, advocates say. [Read More >](#)

**Dell Hiring Program Aims to Create Opportunity for Adults with ASD** – After a successful pilot, tech giant Dell Technologies is expanding its autism hiring program. [Read More >](#)

**2.) Passle Helminski (PaRC Council Member):**  
**McMorris Rodgers seeks higher eligibility age for ABLE accounts |**  
[ABLE National Resource Center](#)

**Fees to support wheelchair-accessible vehicles** - [Let’s do this in PA.](#)

### **3. Policy Information Exchange:**

**Money Follows the Person Extension** - This week Congress passed [H.R. 1839](#), the Medicaid Services Investment and Accountability Act of 2019. This bill extends the expired HCBS spousal impoverishment protections to Sept. 31, 2019 and provides an additional \$20 million to the \$120 million in the Money Follows the Person (MFP) program, for use by Sept. 31, 2019.

### **4.) PA Mental Health Consumers’ Association:**

**MOVE It Forward 2019 Youth Voice Meme Showdown - You could win a \$25 Amazon gift card!** -- In celebration of Children's Mental Health Awareness Day this year, Youth MOVE National is asking youth (29 and under) to submit memes that bring awareness to mental health. By submitting yours, you will enter for a chance to win a \$25 Amazon gift card. Youth are encouraged to submit memes in the following categories: General mental health awareness and education. Reducing stigma of living with a mental health challenge. Youth voice in the mental health system. Mental health in the workplace. You can use one of Youth MOVE National's example reaction images or Google one of your own. Then, either add the captions yourself or tell us what caption you'd like, and we'll do the work ourselves. Or you can bypass all that and use the linked meme template generator. **Find all that on website.** Faves will be posted during the week of May 6–10, 2019 (Mental Health Awareness Week) on Youth MOVE National social media. The top fave will receive the \$25 Amazon gift card. **Submit yours now.**

**5.) ABLÉ National Resource Center:**

**WEBINAR: Using an ABLÉ Account to Support Youth from Transition to Independent Living -- Thursday, April 25, 2019 from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. ET.** This webinar will address: How is transition age youth defined? How is transition defined? How can an ABLÉ account help? Best practices to consider. [Register for this webinar.](#) In order to prepare for the webinar, we recommend that you review the following: [The Road Map to Enrollment.](#) [The Road Map to Independence.](#)

**6.) Disabled-World.com:**

[eTrike Electric Assist All-terrain Wheelchair from Mountain Trike](#) -

The eTrike electric assist all terrain wheelchair is designed for those who need assistance to travel off road and those who want to go further, faster or tackle more challenging terrain.

**7.) Americans with Disabilities Act National Network:**

[Ask the EEOC: Open Question and Answer](#) - April 16, 2019

**8.) Hearing Loss Association of America:**

[Life Without Limits – No Barriers](#) –Webinar Apr 17 @ 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm

**9.) National Federation of the Blind:**

The National Federation of the Blind applauds the introduction of the Access Technology Affordability Act (ATAA) of 2019 (H.R. 2086) by Select Revenue Measures Subcommittee Chairman Mike Thompson (D-CA-5) and Representative Mike Kelly (R-PA-16). 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.

**10.) EARN:**

**April 16, 2019, 2:00 p.m. ET -- Webinar: Ask the EEOC: Open Question and Answer.** In this Great Lakes Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Center webinar, employers will have the opportunity to ask questions - and hear answers to others' questions - about the ADA's employment provisions from a representative from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). [Read more](#)

**Mental Health Toolkit** -- EARN is pleased to announce a new resource to help employers learn more about mental health issues and cultivate a welcoming and supportive work environment for employees with mental health conditions. [Read more](#)

**Updated Federal Agency Framework** -- On April 4, EARN, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy,

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and U.S. Office of Personnel Management, hosted the Federal Exchange on Employment and Disability (FEED) quarterly meeting. At the meeting, a newly updated resource - "Federal Agency Employment Strategies: A Framework for Disability Inclusion" - was unveiled. [Read more.](#)

**Updated Primer on Disability Inclusion** - If you're an employer who is new to the world of disability diversity and inclusion, you may be looking for general guidance and background on the what, why and how of making your organization more welcoming and accessible to applicants and employees with disabilities. [Read more.](#)

**Meet the Cast of the "Working Works" PSA** - Three new videos feature interviews with several of the people featured in the Campaign for Disability Employment's (CDE) "Working Works" public service announcement (PSA), including: Bruce Goebel, a cabinet maker who had a machinery accident that severed his right hand; Chanelle Houston, a research analyst who experienced a spinal cord injury; and Ish Escobar, a veteran with service-connected disabilities. [Read more.](#)

**OFCCP Corporate Scheduling Announcement List** - The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) has released its Fiscal Year 2019 Corporate Scheduling Announcement List (CSAL). For the first time, the CSAL includes focused reviews on Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act, per an OFCCP directive issued last year. [Read more.](#)

**VEVRAA Hiring Benchmark Update** - The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) announced its annual update to the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act (VEVRAA) hiring benchmark. [Read more](#)

**May 21, 2019, 1:00 p.m. ET - Webinar: Data Driven Inclusion - Findings from the 2019 Disability Employment Tracker** -- This National Organization on Disability (NOD) webinar will provide a first look at the results from the 2019 Disability Employment Tracker, NOD's free and confidential benchmarking survey. In this context, the webinar will address emerging trends in disability employment practices and how this year's findings compare to those of previous years. [Read more.](#)

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