

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

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WEEKLY UPDATE: April 16, 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 16, 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: Tentative Date: Monday, June 24, 2019 at 10:00 AM

Executive Committee Conference Call

Next Call: – Tentative Date: Tuesday April 23, 2019 either 2:00 or 3:00 PM

Legislative and Public Awareness Conference Call

Next Call: To be Determined.

OVR Policy and State Plan Committee / Customer Satisfaction Conference Call

Next Call: Friday, May 10, 2019 at 9:30 AM

Social Media/Outreach Committee Conference Call

Next Call: To be Determined

Transition & Education

Next Call: – Thursday, July 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:

Ultra-Accessible Camp in the Works – The man behind Morgan’s Wonderland – a fully accessible amusement park – is at it again with a camp featuring everything from a zip line to archery for those with and without special needs. [Read More >](#)

Ed Department Accused of Dragging Its Feet on IDEA Rule – More than a month after a federal court ruled against the U.S. Department of Education’s efforts to delay a special ed regulation, advocates are blasting the agency for continuing to stall. [Read More >](#)

TV Show to Profile Job Seekers with Disabilities – A new television series chronicling the experiences of people with autism and other special needs as they search for meaningful employment is set to debut. [Read More >](#)

2.) Hearing Loss Association of American Pittsburgh Chapter:

PUBLIC MEETING Saturday April 20, 2019 - The Hearing Loss Association of America Pittsburgh Chapter April 20 public meeting will feature Benjamin (Ben) Moonan, the Johnstown Representative with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. 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. Our May 18 meeting will focus on over the counter hearing aids presented by Dr Suzanne Yoder and Univ. of Pittsburgh Audiology graduate students. May is our last meeting until September 2019.

NEWS OF INTEREST - A Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) Task Force to meet April 26 in Harrisburg is being established to update the Telecommunications Relay Service (which includes captioned telephone service) and the TDDP program (which offers free distribution of items such as amplified and captioned phones, including wireless technology, to people who meet income guidelines). Hard of hearing, Deaf and deaf-blind PA residents, as well as someone with a hearing loss who has served in the military, are being sought for membership. See HLAA-pa.org for details. Contact aktyberg@gmail.com.

3.) PA Mental Health Consumers’ Association:

Pennsylvania Plans Vote On Cutting Assistance For Its Poorest Residents - General Assistance (GA) is under attack in the General Assembly. The bill that would end GA - HB 33 - is being considered now. The Pennsylvania state legislature is scheduled to vote on whether to continue funding a program that helps around 6,600 residents make ends meet. The program, called **General Assistance (HB 33)**, is being targeted by the majority-Republican legislature. If they succeed, General Assistance

will be eliminated effective July 1 of this year. GA is a small, targeted, and usually only temporary program; serves PA's most vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities, their caregivers and children being cared for by friends or neighbors; can function as a loan for people applying for SSI; the state is reimbursed for GA funds when people are approved for SSI; helps survivors of domestic violence; keeps people out of shelters; and helps people in treatment for substance abuse. **Contact your legislator.**

4.) Policy Information Exchange:

Now Seeking Summer Interns! - NASUAD is currently seeking applications for summer interns. We are recruiting for two positions: a policy/conference intern, and a marketing intern. Both internships are typically full-time and require a 10-week commitment with a start date in June 2019. A stipend is available for those students who do not receive outside funding. To learn more about the policy/conference internship, [click here](#). To learn more about the marketing internship, [click here](#).

Assistive Technology Act Programs: Improving Access to AT for

People of All Ages - The National I&R Support Center will host a webinar on Assistive Technology Act Programs: Improving Access to AT for People of All Ages. Assistive Technology Act Programs increase access to, and acquisition of, assistive technology (AT) devices and services for individuals with disabilities and older adults. Programs support a continuum of AT services, from public awareness and information and assistance to loans and reuse programs. Join this webinar to learn more about the Assistive Technology Act, state programs and services, and ways that AT can be useful to individuals across the lifespan. This webinar will take place **Tuesday, April 23, from 3:00-4:00 p.m. ET.** - [Click here](#) to register now.

Driverless Cars and Accessibility - This new report from the Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS America) highlights the potentially transformational power of autonomous vehicles (AVs). AVs have the opportunity to significantly benefit individuals with disabilities, but only if automakers work to ensure accessible design. This report states that key partners must work together on universal design now so that AVs can be developed to meet every potential driver's needs from the beginning, including wheelchair users. Additionally, according to ITS America, it is important that AV design be fully accessible not just for driving, but also with regards to how a vehicle is dispatched, how it parks or docks, and how it secures passengers and manages their entry and exit. This report stems from a July 2016 meeting at the White House National Council on Disability and was funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research and the Administration for Community Living. [Click here](#) to read the executive summary. [Click here](#) to read the full report.

PIE Info: Community HealthChoices: Third Thursday Webinar - April 18, 2019 -- Please join us for the next Community HealthChoices (CHC) Third Thursday Webinar on April 12 at 1:30 PM. To register for the webinar, please click on the following link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8632135343105284353>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. If you require captioning services, please click on the following link: <https://archivereporting.1capapp.com> and use the log in information: Username: OLL Password: OLL. If you have any questions, please contact the OLTL Bureau of Policy and Regulatory Management at 717-857-3280.

5.) ABLÉ National Resource Center:

New Webinar: Using an ABLÉ Account to Support Youth from Transition to Independent Living - April 25, 2019 - 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

ET - The purpose of this webinar is to educate individuals with disabilities, their families, providers and advocates on how establishing and using an ABLÉ account can provide options and choices to improve the life trajectory of transition age youth. [REGISTER NOW](#)

Advocate for the ABLÉ Age Adjustment Act (S. 651/H.R. 1814) - The ABLÉ Age Adjustment Act (S. 651/H.R. 1814) would amend Section 529A(e) of the Internal Revenue Code to increase the eligibility threshold for ABLÉ accounts for onset of disability from prior to age 26 to prior to age 46. ABLÉ (Achieving a Better Life Experience) accounts are tax-advantaged accounts that are designed to enable individuals with disabilities to save and pay for qualified disability expenses. Previously introduced in the 114th and 115th Congresses, the bipartisan ABLÉ Age Adjustment Act has been reintroduced in the 116th Congress by Senators Bob Casey (D-PA), Jerry Moran (R-KS), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and Pat Roberts (R-KS). A House version was also recently reintroduced by Representatives Tony Cardenas (D-CA) and Cathy McMorris-Rodgers (R-WA). [Advocate for the ABLÉ Age Adjustment Act.](#)

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