

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

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WEEKLY UPDATE: April 30, 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 30, 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: – 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: 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 2:00PM

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 Aha Moment](#)
[PaRC Dream Partnership](#) [PaRC Keystone Blind Association](#)
[PaRC Herr Foods Inc.](#) [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:

Wide Disparities Found in Special Ed Enrollment – A new government report indicates that students who qualify for special education services in one state might be considered ineligible in another. [Read More >](#)

Remote Monitoring Offering Adults with Disabilities More Independence – With the help of video cameras, sensors and other

devices, people with developmental disabilities who once needed 24-hour supervision are now able to get some alone time at home. [Read More >](#)

Trump Administration Pushing States to Make Medicaid Changes – Medicaid funding for people with disabilities could be jeopardized if a handful of states succeed in their efforts to overhaul how they receive federal dollars, advocates say. [Read More >](#)

College Students with Intellectual Disabilities Want Inclusive Graduation – Thousands have signed an online petition supporting students with intellectual disabilities at a postsecondary program who want to be included in their university's commencement ceremonies. [Read More >](#)

Program for Various-abled Adults Working to End Social Isolation – Through sessions twice a month, a hangout for those with developmental disabilities – including many with limited communication – is promoting social interaction alongside crafts and games. [Read More >](#)

2.) Office of Disability Employment Policy:

The U.S. Department of Labor announced the availability of approximately \$2 million in funds for the first year of a cooperative agreement for an employer-focused disability policy development and technical assistance center. The solicitation is a re-competition of an existing cooperative agreement. The deadline to apply is June 24, 2019. Seeking to build upon the prior work of ODEP's Employer Assistance and Resource Network on Disability Inclusion (EARN), the new center will conduct research; engage with the business community; identify effective policies and practices that support business needs; and provide resources, technical assistance, and training to help public- and private-sector employers (including federal contractors) recruit, hire, retain, and advance individuals with disabilities. The full announcement will be available at www.grants.gov. Visit ODEP's website for more information. Direct link on grants.gov: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=315140>
Email Gamble.Bennett@dol.gov

3.) Policy Information Exchange:

See related ABLÉ links here: PA Treasury & ABLÉ Accounts:

https://www.paable.gov/?utm_medium=search&utm_source=google&utm_campaign=pa_able.

IRS & ABLÉ Accounts-2019: <https://www.irs.gov/publications/p907>

This publication includes guidance for veterans with disabilities and how ABLÉ Accounts work for them with other veterans' benefits.

<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-prior/i1099qa--2019.pdf> IRS ABLE Booklet
<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f5498qa.pdf> ABLE Contribution Form

ABLE Age Adjustment Act Legislation: S 651-
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/651?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22s.+651%22%5D%7D&s=4&r=1>
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HR 1814. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1814?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22hr+1814%22%5D%7D&s=1&r=1>

Articles: - National State Treasurers Association support for increasing ABLE Age from 26 to 46: [https://morningconsult.com/opinions/expanding-able-act-will-help-those-who-need-it-most/.](https://morningconsult.com/opinions/expanding-able-act-will-help-those-who-need-it-most/)

ANCOR, includes number of veterans with disabilities (1M) that could be helped by raising age: <https://ancor.org/newsroom/news/senate-re-introduces-bill-expand-able-savings-accounts-more-people>

The Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers' Association (PMHCA) and Mental Health Association of Pennsylvania (MHAPA) are now accepting applications for the 2019 Glenn Koons Scholarship. Each year, we award the **\$1,000 scholarship** to a promising Pennsylvania candidate for CPS training who demonstrates the ability to engage people, share life experiences in recovery, provide leadership, and teach others these skills. To apply for the 2019 scholarship, complete the **online application** or use the **paper application** and mail it to the address on the application. The **deadline for submitting applications is May 24, 2019.**

The Policy Information Exchange brings you the **Slice of PIE**, an ongoing publication keeping our readers informed about important public policy issues. [Read a Slice of Pie](#), which includes a [printable version](#); [state news and bills of interest](#); and [national news](#).

4.) Linda Williams (PaRC Support Staff):

The SFY18-19 Q2 report required by the Work Experience for High School Students with Disabilities Act (Act 26 of 2016) has been posted. This report and prior reports are available on OVR's website, [Act 26 Information](#).

CSAVR In Focus April 2019 - Earlier this month, CSAVR held its annual Spring meeting in Washington, D.C., during which our members had the opportunity to discuss how they are addressing focus areas with each other and policymakers. As part of this, we distributed our annual publication,

[Investing in America](#), which includes these as well as additional examples of our profession's successes over the past year.

5.) American Association of People with Disabilities:

[National Disability Voter Registration Call](#) - On May 15th, AAPD will bring together local, state, and national leaders to discuss the disability vote and how to get folks registered. This call is for anyone interested in community organizing, voting, and political/civic engagement of people with disabilities. Please RSVP by May 13, 2019. The NDVRW Organization Call will take place on May 15, 2019 at 2pm EST.

[NBCUniversal Tony Coelho Media Scholarship](#) - Applications for the 2019 NBCUniversal Tony Coelho Media Scholarship are now open! College students with disabilities who are pursuing a career in media, communications, or entertainment are encouraged to apply. Deadline to apply is June 6, 2019.

[M-Enabling Summit 2019](#) - Registration is now open for the M-Enabling Summit, the leading conference and showcase promoting accessible technology and environments for seniors and people with disabilities. The M-Enabling Summit will be held on June 17-19, 2019 at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel, in Washington, D.C.

[Designing the Future of Transportation for People with Disabilities](#) - A report that promotes accessibility for automated vehicles. For individuals who cannot legally obtain a driver's license, fully automated "driverless" vehicles offer the opportunity to become more mobile and independent.

[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.

[Why Hiring People With Disabilities Is Good for Business](#) - There has been a significant increase in conversation and activism concerning fair representation and opportunity for people with disabilities in the workforce.

[Senators Casey's and Brown's letter on President Trump's Budget](#) - The letter calls for a restoration of funds in the President's budget to scores of disability programs.

[Trump's Budget Is Full of Cuts Aimed at People With Disabilities](#) Former Governor and Secretary of Homeland Security, Tom Ridge, writes an Opinion Editorial for The New York Times discussing President Trump's proposed budget cuts that will affect individuals with disabilities.

[It's Time to Help States Build Capacity to Provide Competitive Employment for All People with Disabilities](#) - This article is written by David Mank, a professor at Indiana University and past chair of the Advisory Committee for Increasing Competitive Integrated Employment for Individuals with Disabilities established by Congress in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014.

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