

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

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WEEKLY UPDATE: May 7, 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 **May 7, 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 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:

Feds Urged to Give Disability Employment Rules a Second Look –

Republican lawmakers are pushing the U.S. Department of Education to reconsider regulations that transformed the transition from school to work for people with disabilities. [Read More >](#)

Are Managed Care Providers Wrongly Denying Services to People with Disabilities –

As more states turn to managed care to administer Medicaid, federal investigators are set to examine whether these companies are offering people with disabilities the care they're entitled. [Read More >](#)

2.) Policy Information Exchange:

PIE Info: 26th Annual Mid-Atlantic ADA Update Conference -

Thursday, November 14 - Friday, November 15, 2019 -- Pre-Conference: Wednesday, November 13. Philadelphia 201 Hotel (Formerly Sheraton) - 201 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The 2019 Mid-Atlantic ADA Update will provide a wide range of up-to-date information on ADA regulations and guidelines, as well as strategies and best practices for successful implementation of the law. More information and conference agenda will be available in Summer, 2019. To receive advanced notice of registration availability, send an email to adatrainig@transcen.org. Please use "2019 ADA Update" as the subject.

3.) LEAD Center:

Inclusive Career Pathways Community of Practice Meeting Building Disability-Inclusive Talent Pipelines Through Apprenticeship --

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019 3:00 - 4:30 PM ET. Join us for an online presentation and discussion on May 14th. You will hear from Representatives from ODEP, and Social Policy Research Associates (SPR), who will discuss the vision of inclusive apprenticeship as a key work-based solution for PWDs, introduce four recently selected pilot sites, and present the efforts that will take place over the next two years that aim to uncover new opportunities for jobseekers, and help companies recruit and hire people with disabilities as a pipeline to diverse, new talent. You will also hear how WINTAC is supporting VR agencies in developing and implementing Apprenticeship Pilots as a method to increase opportunities for VR consumers to engage in high-growth careers through apprenticeship. To register for the meeting on Tuesday, **May 14, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. Eastern**, [register online](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email that contains information about how to join.

4.) PA ABLE:

PA ABLE Upcoming Webinars - The next two webinars about PA ABLE accounts are: 12 - 1 p.m. on Thursday, May 16, 2019 and 1 to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12, 2019. Individuals, families and professionals can register for a webinar at: <https://www.paable.gov/webinar/>

**5.) Linda Williams (PaRC Support Staff):
L&I Seeks Public Input on Proposed Changes to Pennsylvania's
Vocational Rehabilitation Services Plan**

Department of Labor & Industry (L&I) Secretary Jerry Oleksiak encouraged Pennsylvanians to provide comments on proposed changes to the state's vocational rehabilitation services plan. Pennsylvania expects less federal reallocation funds for the vocational rehabilitation program and must adjust the plan. "Our primary goal throughout this process is to ensure that services continue to be provided to as many people with disabilities as possible across the commonwealth," said Secretary Oleksiak. "I urge interested Pennsylvanians to provide us with their feedback."

Due to the anticipated decline in federal reallocation funds, the independent Pennsylvania State Board of Vocational Rehabilitation recently voted unanimously to begin the process to close the Order of Selection, in essence creating a temporary waiting list for new OVR customers. Services would continue for current OVR customers with an Individualized Plan for Employment, as well as Pre-employment Transition Services for students with disabilities, as required by federal law.

The proposal is available in the [Pennsylvania Bulletin](#). Comments will be accepted for 30 days, until 5:00 PM on Tuesday, June 4, 2019, and should be emailed to OVRFeedback@pa.gov, with "OOS closing all categories" in the subject line. Written comments may also be mailed to OVR Central Office, c/o Cindy Mundis, 1521 North 6th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102. Public meetings will be conducted in-person throughout the state in each [OVR district office](#) on Wednesday, May 22, 2019, from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM and 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM. Individuals who are unable to attend in person can participate via [phone](#).

All meeting sites are accessible and interpreters for people who are deaf or hard of hearing will be present at each public meeting. Following the public comment period, the U.S. Department of Education's Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) will review OVR's request to temporarily close the order of selection. If approved, the waiting list is expected to be implemented on July 1, 2019. For more information, visit the [OVR page](#) on the Department of Labor & Industry's website.

6.) Matthew Seeley, Esq. (PaRC Council Member):

Disability Rights Community - Please join a very important and urgent call this Wednesday, May 8 at 3pm ET, 2pm CT, 1pm MT, 12pm PT. FEMA's Office of Disability Integration and Coordination (ODIC), has taken multiple steps to eliminate the emergency programs and services that ensure our rights to survive upcoming disasters! As a community, we must come

together and demand significant changes from FEMA in order for us to survive. I invite you to this brief but important 30 minute call this Wednesday to discuss the current state of affairs in some more detail, and how we can collectively present FEMA a solution, so that people with disabilities and aging communities can have access to the resources we are entitled to by law during and after disasters. Call-in number is 712.770.5505 Pin: 996329. If you need CART please email me back and let me know by Tuesday at noon ET. Germán Parodi - germanparodi@msn.com

7.) National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research:

People Aging with Spinal Cord Injuries and Their Caregivers Share Experiences with Aging - People with spinal cord injuries (SCI) are living longer, and this week's [Research in Focus](#) looks at the challenges aging with SCI can present to health, home, and relationships.

8.) Disabled-World.com:

[North American Wheelchair Accessible and Mobility Vehicle Statistics](#) - 2018 Data, Analysis and Forecast for 2019 to 2023 wheelchair accessible and mobility vehicles by market size, shares, segmentation, competitors, growth, channels and trends for non-emergency medical transport and ambulatory vehicles.

[RadikalDarts - Accessible Dart Playing for People with Disability](#) - RadikalDarts Machine Model 137 is adapted for people in wheelchairs and provides accessible dart playing for the disabled.

[LEGO Braille Bricks for Blind and Visually Impaired](#) - The Lego Foundation and Lego Group team up with blind associations to pilot Lego Braille Bricks to aid blind and visually impaired to learn through play using LEGO bricks.

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