

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

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WEEKLY UPDATE: May 14, 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 14, 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: – Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 9:00 AM

Legislative and Public Awareness Conference Call

Next Call: To be Determined.

OVR Policy and State Plan Committee / Customer Satisfaction Conference Call

Next Call: Tentative Date: Friday, June 14, 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:

Trump Administration to Appeal Special Ed Ruling – The U.S.

Department of Education is fighting to delay a special education regulation two months after a federal judge found that the agency's efforts to do so were illegal. [Read More>](#)

Google Unveils New Accessibility Initiatives – Tech giant Google says it is working on multiple projects designed to improve day-to-day life for people with disabilities. [Read More >](#)

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

Customized Employment Topics: Social Capital - The NIDILRR-funded project on [Effects of Customized Employment on the Employment Outcomes of Transition-Age Youth with Disabilities: A Randomized Clinical Trial](#) has published a new factsheet, [Customized Employment Topics: Social Capital](#). The factsheet discusses the relationships that form as people interact with each other at home, work, and in the community, and how these relationships are critical to a person's well-being and creating a quality life. The factsheet provides examples of social capital, discusses social capital for employment, discusses how to develop and enhance social capital and person-centered, interest-based volunteering, and more.

Webinar: What Do We Know? Employer Engagement Lessons from the Diversity Partners Project - The NIDILRR-funded [Diversity Partners Intervention: Moving the Disability Employment Needle Through Value Added Relationships Between Talent Acquisition Providers and the Business Community](#) will host a webinar, [What Do We Know? Employer Engagement Lessons from the Diversity Partners Project](#), May 21st, 2-3pm ET. Presenters will discuss the project's two-year effort to uncover effective employer engagement practices for employment service professionals and organizations. Presenters will share employer perspectives on effective employer engagement, gleaned from meetings and surveys of employers, and from discussions with employers who served in an ongoing advisory capacity to the project. Registration is free and required.

3.) EARN:

Disability Inclusion: Exploring the Intersections - What policies and practices can help a company increase disability inclusion? The same as those used to increase the inclusion of any diverse population. EARN recently explored this issue with Inclusion@Work Network member the Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce. [Read more.](#)

Amazon's Employment of ASL Interpreters - In a recent article, Forbes diversity and inclusion contributor Sarah Kim highlighted Amazon's

employment of American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters to supports its employees who are deaf. [Read more.](#)

The Case for Disability-Inclusive Leadership - A recent report published by Lisa B. Baird and Victoria S. Reese from executive search firm Heidrick & Struggles explores the case for inclusion of people with disabilities in not only a company's workforce, but also its leadership. [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.](#)

4.) ABLÉ National Research Center:
WEBINAR: Maximizing ABLÉ Accounts: Presented by the National STABLE Account Plan -- Wednesday, May 22, 2019 – 2:00 - 3:15 p.m. ET. [Register for this webinar.](#)

5.) Policy Information Exchange:
PIE Info: CHC listening session May 22, 10am-12pm - Senior officials from the state are coming back to Southwest PA—i.e., Johnstown—and really want to hear from CHC participants, their family members and caregivers about Community HealthChoices. *What's working well? What could work better? What's your experience?* There will be a CHC listening session on **Wednesday, May 22nd from 10 am until noon** at the [Holiday Inn in Downtown Johnstown](#), 250 Market Street Johnstown, PA. A [flyer](#) is attached. Folks can still go to Harrisburg office for call in option to the Johnstown afternoon meeting (1-3PM).

PIE Info: PA Telecommunications Relay Services Task Force - I am reaching out to professional colleagues with hearing loss (deaf and hard of hearing) and deaf/blind to help the [Telecommunications Relay Services/Public Utility Commission Advisory Board \(TRS/PUC\)](#). The advisory board requested the PA Commissioners to move forward toward wireless technology in the PA State programs (TDDP), and others. The commissioners approved our request and the commissioners have asked for a special task force to review and recommend by November 2019 the demographics, technology devices being used today and in the future, and other particulars. Please send all information to me at aktyberg@gmail.com. In the subject line say TRS Task Force candidate. See here for PA PUC details regarding PA Telecommunications Relay Services (http://www.puc.state.pa.us/utility_industry/telecommunications/telecommunications_relay_service.aspx) and here for board with 2019 meetings

http://www.puc.state.pa.us/utility_industry/telecommunications/telecommunications_relay_service/trs_advisory_board.aspx)

6.) Linda Williams (PaRC Support Staff):

The next meeting of the Governor’s Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities will be a one-day, face-to-face meeting: Friday, May 31, 2019, from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM at the PA Department of Education’s Heritage Room - 333 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17126. If you need a reasonable accommodation under the ADA, please contact Lisa Anastasi at 717-346-4381, lanastasi@pa.gov, prior to Friday, May 24, 2019. Future 2019 meeting dates are: Friday, September 13, 2019 and Friday, November 8, 2019.

Department of Human Services Website Navigation Testing - The Department of Human Services is evaluating options to make our website more accessible for citizens, providers, and stakeholders. This is a long-term transition, and changes will not be implemented until Fall 2019. As we consider options, we want to consider feedback from partners who use our website most often. Can you please take [this brief survey \(https://pa-interactive.optimalworkshop.com/questions/dhs_sitemenu\)](https://pa-interactive.optimalworkshop.com/questions/dhs_sitemenu) to help us evaluate a potential navigation design? We would appreciate your feedback by Friday, May 17, 2019.

7.) Hearing Loss Association of America – Pittsburgh Chapter:

PUBLIC MEETING Saturday May 18, 2019 - The Hearing Loss Association of America Pittsburgh Chapter May 18 public meeting will have Suzanne Yoder, Au.D., presenting on “Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids, A New Form of Hearing Healthcare”. Graduate students of the University of Pittsburgh audiology program will contribute. The topic covers what OTC hearing aids might look like, how they will be purchased, how they will work, who will most benefit from these devices, and possible limitations.

<http://www.hearwellcenter.com/>. 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. **SUPPORT IS REQUESTED FOR OUR CAPTIONING COSTS** We provide real time captioning for our chapter meetings and it costs with discount about \$100 per hour. We also need a laptop computer that can receive audio and connect to Skype to access remote captioning. Please send support to our Treasurer Erich Kost at 826 Wheatland circle, Bridgeville PA 15017-1123. This is our last meeting until September 2019. We are planning a summer social – movie and lunch. If interested, please email erichwolfe@comcast.net. If you have ideas for topics, please send them to hlap.news@gmail.com.

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