

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

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WEEKLY UPDATE: May 21, 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 21, 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 24, 2019 at 9:30 AM
and
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.) National Council for Independent Living (Advocacy Monitor):

The Future of Employment of People with Disabilities - From a very young age, we are taught that the main focal points of our lives are education, employment, extracurricular involvement, and continuous self-growth. There are systematic barriers in place that infringe upon one's ability to secure employment, particularly in regard to people with disabilities. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 65.7 percent of nondisabled people are employed, while only 18.7% of people with disabilities are employed in 2018. Why is this the case? Don't certain laws, such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act level the playing field and prohibit discrimination?

2.) National Disability Rights Network:

A Call to Prioritize Accessibility this National Infrastructure Week

Lack of accessibility prevents individuals with disabilities from traveling to and from work, across the country, or even to the next town. It is imperative that any spending on infrastructure across the United States adhere to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which was passed to ensure full integration for individuals with disabilities and make accessible outdated infrastructure as well as ensure any new infrastructure be fully accessible for individuals with disabilities.

3.) National Federation of the Blind:

KNFB Reader - KNFB Reader is an award-winning mobile app for blind, low-vision, dyslexic, and other print-disabled users that converts text to speech or text to Braille.

NFB-NEWSLINE® - NFB-NEWSLINE is a free audio news service for anyone who is blind, low-vision, or print-disabled that offers access to publications, job listings, and more.

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

New Report Highlights the Promise and Challenges of Driverless Cars

- The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Community Living Policy](#) has published a new report, [Driverless Cars and Accessibility: Designing the Future of Transportation for People with Disabilities](#) (PDF), which highlights the potentially transformational power of autonomous vehicles (AV). This report stems from a July 2016 meeting of the White House National Council on Disability. The report was produced with the [Intelligent Transportation Society of America \(ITS America\)](#)

5.) Linda Williams (PaRC Support Staff):

OVR State Board meeting - Thursday, June 13, 2019. To be held at The Woodlands, 1073 Highway 315, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702. Start time: 9:00am. End time: 12:00pm. Public is invited.

6.) Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers' Association:

A YOUTHQUAKE: Leadership Training for Young Movers and Shakers

- Saturday, June 22, 2019 from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM. To be held at the Jewish Community Center - Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg, 3301 N Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110. Learning objectives to understand and develop personal leadership style, strengths, and opportunities for personal growth; discover civic and social issues that impact our lives and the communities where we live, while becoming a catalyst for positive changes; use new knowledge about techniques and methods leaders use to advance social change and how these can be used in your life. Ten (\$10) dollars to cover lunch and beverages. Deadline to register is Friday, June 14, 2019.

Register online. Questions? Contact Zack Karenchak,

zack@youthmovepa.org, Youth MOVE PA, Policy and Program Development Coordinator, 717-564-4930.

7.) ABLE National Resource:

New Webinar: Maximizing ABLE Accounts: Presented by the National

STABLE Account Plan - May 22, 2019 - 2:00 - 3:15 p.m. ET. In May,

we will showcase the **STABLE Account Plans** which are comprised of a 12-state partnership* led by Ohio. They offer high-quality, low-cost ABLE

savings and investment plans which are **available to eligible individuals**

nationwide. Objectives of this webinar include: Maximize your ABLE

account; Help you better understand investment options and how they can

work for you; Become familiar with STABLE Account and the advantages of

the partner state model; Learn about STABLE Account program features;

Hear what STABLE Account participants have to say; Questions and

Answers. [REGISTER NOW](#)

Support in Congress Grows for ABLE Age Adjustment - We are pleased

to report that bills in both the U.S. Senate and House are now in play, and support for their enactment is growing. The [ABLE Age Adjustment Act](#) (S.

651/H.R. 1814) would amend Section 529A(e) of the Internal Revenue Code to increase the eligibility threshold for ABLE accounts for onset of disability

from prior to age 26 to prior to age 46. *Advocates should reach out to each of their two U.S. Senators and their member of the U.S. House of*

Representatives and urge them to co-sponsor the ABLE Age Adjustment Act, S. 651 in the Senate, and H.R. 1814 in the House. Please visit the [U.S.](#)

Senate website to find the contact information for your senators, and the

U.S. House of Representatives website for a directory of representatives.

Continue reading: ["Support in Congress Grows for ABLE Age Adjustment."](#)

Top Three Questions: May 2019 - The ABLE NRC is here to answer your

ABLE-related questions and works to provide you with the most accurate and timely information regarding ABLE accounts. This month, we are answering the following three questions: How do I open an ABLE account? What is a

Qualified Disability Expense (QDE)? How does ABLE work with Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)?
[Continue reading: "Top Three Questions: May 2019."](#)

8.) Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers' Association:

Call for Change Survey: Extended through May 31, 2019. If you are a mental health consumer, or a family member of a mental health consumer, OMHSAS wants to hear from you about what has worked and what should change in the public mental health system. OMHSAS has posted an on-line survey to obtain input from stakeholders. The survey can be accessed through May 31, 2019 at this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CFCstakeholdersurvey> Any questions or comments related to the Call for Change Project can be directed to: jistemple@pa.gov

9.) Department of Labor & Industry:

L&I Seeks Public Input on Proposed Changes to Pennsylvania's

Vocational Rehabilitation Services Plan - Pennsylvania expects less federal reallocation funds for the vocational rehabilitation program and must adjust the plan. 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, 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.

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