

# **PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)**

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## **WEEKLY UPDATE: June 4, 2018**

\*If you no longer wish to receive this update, please contact Nancy Kershner at [nancy.kershner@ucpcentralpa.org](mailto: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 **June 4, 2018**, 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 2017 Annual Report and can be found on our webpage or by clicking on the following link <http://www.parac.org/reports/>.**

**Find Your Local CAC Meeting Dates:** Please go to our website [www.parac.org](http://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 2018 –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.

**August 22, 2018**

**October 24, 2018**

## **PaRC Member Committee Conference Calls – Please Mark your Calendars**

### **CAC / Executive Committee Conference Call**

Next Call: To be Determined

### **CareerLink/WIOA**

Next Call: To be Determined

### **Executive Committee Conference Call**

Next Call: – Tuesday, June 19, 2018 at 2:00 PM

### **Legislative and Public Awareness Conference Call**

Next Call: To be Determined.

### **OVR Policy and State Plan Committee / Customer Satisfaction Conference Call**

Next Call: Tuesday, July 10, 2018 at 10:00 AM

### **Social Media/Outreach Committee Conference Call**

Next Call: Friday, June 15, 2018 at 10:00 AM

### **Transition & Education**

Next Call: – To be Determined.

This past year, 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:** Effective July 2018, the PaRC will be looking for candidates to fill the following openings: A veteran with a disability, a Mental Health representative and a Community Rehabilitation Provider representative. If interested please go to our website ([www.parac.org](http://www.parac.org)) and fill out an application. Thank you.

#### **1.) American Association of People with Disabilities:**

Discriminatory school discipline creates barriers for children of color and children with disabilities to realize their potential in school. The Obama administration released guidance to schools on how they can protect these students. [Use this link to send an email to Secretary DeVos calling on her to protect the guidance!](#)

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

### **County-Level Disability Prevalence and Employment Statistics Now Available --**

The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Statistics and Demographics \(StatsRRTC\)](#) offers [State Reports for County-Level Data on Disability Prevalence and Disability Employment](#). These reports complement and provide greater depth to the topics found in the Annual Disability Statistics Compendium and Annual Disability Statistics Supplement. Each report provides statistics on the prevalence and employment of people with and without disabilities for each county in any given state in the US. Reports include a background and interpretive text specific to each state and are intended for advocates, policy-makers, and researchers to support programs and services for people with disabilities.

### **Non-Traditional Employment Experiences of People with Disabilities**

-- The NIDILRR-funded [Field Initiated Project \(Research\) on Contingent Employment of Individuals with Disabilities \(FIP-CE\)](#) seeks to [interview people with disabilities about their experiences with non-traditional work, such as temping, freelancing, contracting, or doing app-based jobs like Uber or TaskRabbit](#). Participants must be over 18 years of age, able to understand and speak English or American Sign Language, have a disability, and engage in non-permanent full- or part-time work. Qualified participants will be interviewed by phone or video relay for 60-90 minutes and will be compensated for their time. For more information, contact Salimah LaForce at 404/894-8297 or [salimah@cacp.gatech.edu](mailto:salimah@cacp.gatech.edu).

### **NDEAM 2018 Theme Announced: America's Workforce - Empowering All**

-- The [Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy \(ODEP\)](#) announced [America's Workforce: Empowering All](#) as the theme for this year's [National Disability Employment Awareness Month \(NDEAM\)](#) in October. NDEAM is a nationwide campaign that celebrates the contributions of workers with disabilities throughout America's history, and emphasizes the importance of ensuring that all Americans have access to the services and supports that enable them to work. This year's theme emerged from discussions with organizations that partner with ODEP, including those representing people with disabilities and their families, employers, and federal and state government agencies. More information about NDEAM, including related promotional materials, is available from ODEP's website.

### **3.) Employer Assistance & Resource Network on Disability**

#### **Inclusion:**

**Feed Community of Practice** -- To encourage collaboration among Federal Exchange on Employment and Disability (FEED) members, EARN has created a FEED Community of Practice (CoP) on the Office of Personnel Management's MAX.gov website. Through the CoP, members can view and download materials from past FEED meetings, find federally focused EARN resources, and share ideas about strategies for making the Federal Government a model employer of people with disabilities. To join the CoP, you must first register for MAX.gov. Registration is open to federal employees and contractors with a federal email address. [Join the FEED CoP.](#)

**April Webinar Archived** -- An archived version of EARN's April webinar, titled "Building the Pipeline: Successful Strategies for Recruiting and Hiring People with Disabilities," is now available for anyone unable to participate live. In this webinar, featured guests Mary Lynn MacKenzie, Senior Vice President, Talent Acquisition, Bank of America, and Laura Owens, President, TransCen, Inc., discussed and fielded questions about effective outreach and recruitment strategies that can help companies of all sizes recruit and hire qualified applicants with disabilities. [Access the archived webinar.](#)

### **4.) DisabilityScoop.com:**

#### **Ed Department Sued Over Handling of Disability Related Complaints**

- Disability advocates say that federal education officials acted illegally by fundamentally altering the way they handle discrimination complaints in schools. [Read More >](#)

### **5.) American Council of the Blind:**

#### **GDUI Welcomes Alaska Airlines' Unchanged Policies Regarding Guide and Service Dogs**

-- On Wednesday, April 18, 2018, Alaska Airlines announced policy changes that will affect passengers who wish to fly with emotional and psychological support animals. To read more, visit: <http://acb.org/GDUI-alaska-policy>

### **6.) Americans with Disabilities Act National Network:**

[Accessible Airport Terminals](#) -- June 7, 2018

[Ask the Department of Justice \(DOJ\): Open Question and Answer Session](#) -- June 12, 2018

### **7.) DisabledWorld.com:**

[Leo Fender: The Man Who Influenced All Rock and Roll](#) :What people may not know is that the man whose name was synonymous with mind-blowing rock and roll was actually a very shy, down-to-earth person who was almost deaf and wore a glass eye.

**8.) National Center on Deaf-Blindness:**

[Identifying and Serving Students who are DeafBlind with Formal Language: An Evolving Challenge for Our Field](#) June 13

**9.) Peatworks.org:**

[PEAT Talks: Facebook and the Accessible Workplace](#) -- June 21, 2018 - 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm EDT -- [More Info](#)

**10.) American Foundation for the Blind:**

**Double Issue of *JVIB* Is Now Live!** -- The May-June 2018 issue of the *Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness (JVIB)* is now available! Topics range from a literature review of the foundational concepts of early intervention, a study of the shifting demographics of intercountry adoption of children with visual impairments, the effect of classroom clutter on the performance of students with cerebral visual impairment (CVI), and much more. [Read the May-June issue of \*JVIB\*](#)

**Research on Accessible Technologies** -- Comcast and the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) released a survey of people with visual disabilities showing that a majority watch four or more hours per day – almost as much as the general public. Many of those surveyed report that today’s assistive technologies like video description, text-to-speech, and voice control are helpful as they watch TV; however, those tools still suffer from low levels of awareness, according to the study. [Survey gauges TV-watching behaviors and awareness of accessible technologies](#)

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