

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

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WEEKLY UPDATE: June 11, 2018

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 **June 11, 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 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) and fill out an application. Thank you.

1.) DisabilityScoop.com:

Special Education Enrollment Trends Upward – The number of students receiving special education in the nation’s public schools is on the rise, according to a new federal report. [Read More >](#)

Students Dream up Assistive Devices for Kids with Disabilities – Through an introductory engineering program, junior high and high school students are developing real-life solutions for kids with disabilities, all on a budget of just \$35. [Read More >](#)

2.) The National Rehabilitation Association:

The EMPOWER Care Act (S. 2227/H.R. 5306) --EMPOWER CARE ACT CALL-IN DAY: JUNE 22nd (OLMSTEAD ANNIVERSARY). The Empower Care Act will extend and improve the Money Follows the Person program (MFP) which helps get people with disabilities and seniors out of nursing homes and back into their communities. Friday, June 22, (Olmstead anniversary) is Empower Care Act call-in day. Please mark your calendar and call your Senate and House members of Congress and encourage them to co-sponsor the Empower Care Act.

Support the ABLE Age Adjustment Act (S. 817/H.R. 1874) -- The ABLE Act allows certain individuals with disabilities to save resources in a tax-advantaged savings account (ABLE account) for the purposes of paying for disability-related expenses. ABLE accounts are limited to those individuals whose disability had an onset prior to their 26th birthday. That means that people with disabilities, including veterans, are excluded from eligibility for ABLE Accounts if the onset of their disability occurs at age 26 or later. The Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Age Adjustment Act 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 prior to age 46. Please contact your members of Congress and let them know that the ABLE Age Adjustment Act is vital for the independence and wellbeing of people with disabilities.

3.) Policy Information Exchange:

PIE Info: PA APSE Statewide Day on Employment -- Tuesday, June 12 from 10 am - 4 pm at PATTAN, Harrisburg, 6340 Flank Dr., Harrisburg, PA 17112. APSE members, FREE; Free to Self-advocates and their family members; Non- Members, \$25. Please RSVP/Register with **Verna Morris at Vmorris@paquest.com** with your name, affiliation, contact information and if you need any accessibility accommodations by Friday, June 8. **Walk-ins will not be accepted.** Bring your own coffee - Lunch will be provided! Send Checks made out to: PA APSE and mail to: Verna Morris, Executive Director - QUEST, Inc. – 704 Metro Drive, Lebanon, PA 17042

PIE Info: Looking to Make Your Org More Inclusive & Accessible?
Want to better understand various disabilities and what you can do to be

more inclusive of all individuals in your community? The Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations (PANO) is partnering with the Center for Independent Living of Central PA to offer a six-part webinar series introducing PA nonprofits to the world of disabilities. Get tips and tools, dos and don'ts, and other resources to make your organization more aware of, knowledgeable about, and more inclusive of people with disabilities. Can't attend? Not to worry, all registrants will receive the webinar recording. All webinars in the series will be closed captioned. Other accommodations may be made by request at least 2 weeks prior to each session. Bring all your burning questions and join us for:

[Disability Awareness & Disability Etiquette](#) | June 28

[Disability Law](#) | July 25

[Hearing Loss 101](#) | August 29

[Introduction to Blindness & Deafblindness](#) | September 12

[Access & Accessibility: 2010 ADA Standards](#) | October 22

[Service Animals...from a Dog's Perspective!](#) | November 29

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

May nTIDE Report Highlights Continuing Employment Gains -- The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Statistics and Demographics \(StatsRRTC\)](#) reported continuing employment gains for Americans with disabilities in May, despite fewer people looking for work, in the [May National Trends in Disability Employment \(nTIDE\) Report](#). The report finds that while greater numbers of people with disabilities have entered the workforce over the past two years, Americans with disabilities are still striving for jobs that support their independence. The report highlights Employment First, a national initiative that has identified competitive, integrated employment as the cornerstone of full community participation by all people with disabilities. Job gains and Employment First were discussed in the [June 1st nTIDE Lunch & Learn archived on the nTIDE website](#).

SEED Study Seeks Young Adults for Surveys -- The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center for Learning and Working During the Transition to Adulthood](#) is recruiting [young adults to participate in a study about school and work activities](#). Participation in the Sequences of Employment and Education (SEED) study will include four online surveys and three phone check-ins over a 12-month period. Participants must be young adults between 16 and 25 years old who have a mental health condition. Participants may earn up to \$95 in compensation. Application and additional information are available from the SEED website. This project is also supported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

5.) LEAD Center

Guided Group Discovery Online Participant Workbook - The LEAD Center is pleased to announce the release of the [Guided Group Discovery Online Participant Workbook](#). The Online Participant Workbook can be completed using any browser. This user-friendly tool allows youth and adults to create a personalized Blueprint for Employment. Each participant receives a private link that allows them to add to, edit, or review their information at any time. The Workbook can also be printed out to review with counselors, teachers and others. A [Self-Guided Discovery Facilitator's Guide](#) is also available and can be downloaded from the LEAD Center website. We encourage you to visit the website, where you will find extensive additional resources on [Customized Employment](#). There also are [archived webinars](#) on Customized Employment, Guided Group Discovery and Self-Guided Discovery.

6.) Cindy Mundis (OVR Bureau Manager):

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014, which reauthorizes the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, places heightened emphasis on cross agency coordination and collaboration to ensure a streamlined and coordinated service delivery system for job seekers, including those with disabilities, and employers. [WIOA required Pennsylvania to rebrand its PACareerLink® career centers as a "proud partner of the American Job Center network."](#) The Department of Labor & Industry is using this rebranding opportunity to share news about the programs and services PA CareerLinks® offer to residents. Over the next few months, you will see a new landing page for the JobGateway® site to help make the site more user-centric. The name of the site will change to PA CareerLink® to more clearly connect it to the brand. The URL will also change to www.pacareerlink.gov.

7.) APSE:

[Statement Regarding the Department of Education's Notice to Revise the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Regulations](#)

8.) National Technical Assistance Center on Transition:

A Cross-Walk of Resources for Implementation of the Five Pre-ETS Priority Areas -- [Register Now](#) - Webinar 06/21/2018 | 12:00 PM ET

During this webinar NTACTION will share a variety of tools and resources that are available on national and state secondary transition related websites that address the five Pre-ETS priority areas. Resources shared will be relevant to all secondary transition stakeholders including Special Educators and Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors. State examples and resources will also be shared.

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