

# **PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)**

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## **WEEKLY UPDATE: July 12, 2019**

\*If you no longer wish to receive this update, please contact Linda Williams at [Linda.williams@ucpcentralpa.org](mailto:Linda.williams@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 **July 12, 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](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 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.

**August 21, 2019**

**October 23, 2019**

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

### **CareerLink/WIOA**

Next Call: To be Determined.

### **Executive Committee Conference Call**

Next Call: – Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at 1:00 PM

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

Next Call: To be Determined.

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

Next Call: Friday, August 9, 2019 at 9:30 AM

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

Next Call: To be Determined

### **Transition & Education**

Next Call: – Thursday, October 10, 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, a candidate to represent the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and a candidate for the General Advocacy slot. If interested, please go to our website ([www.parac.org](http://www.parac.org)) and fill out an application.

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

**HHS Visit Highlights Technology and Programs for Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing Individuals** - The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center \(RERC\) on Improving Accessibility, Usability,](#)

[and Performance of Technology for Individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing](#) recently [hosted a visit from Eric Hargan, Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services \(HHS\), and Lance Robertson, Administrator for the Administration for Community Living \(ACL\)](#), highlighting the inclusion of Deaf and hard of hearing researchers and participants. During the visit, RERC staff demonstrated technology under development including a telerehabilitation program for cochlear implant users and a system which simulates conversations in realistic situations, which can help audiologists teach hard of hearing individuals how to optimize their hearing aids for better usability. Staff also highlighted the RERC's train-the-trainer program which recruits people with hearing loss to train others in using hearing technology.

**NRD.gov Offers Thousands of Resources for Vets with Disabilities and their Families** - The [National Resource Directory \(NRD\)](#) is a resource website that connects Veterans with disabilities, their families, caregivers, and fellow Veterans and service members to programs and services supporting recovery, rehabilitation, and community reintegration at the national, state, and local level. The site can be searched by keyword or browsed by major categories including community of care, education and training, employment, health, benefits, and family and caregiver support. Resources are carefully vetted by NRD staff. NRD is a partnership of the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Defense, and Labor.

**nTIDE June Jobs Report Shows Strong Gains for Americans with Disabilities** - The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Employment Policy and Measurement \(EPM-RRTC\)](#) and the [RRTC on Disability Statistics and Demographics \(Stats RRTC\)](#) have published the [June 2019 National Trends in Disability Employment \(nTIDE\) Report](#), noting that job numbers were up substantially for Americans with disabilities according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This extends the positive changes observed in previous months. This report and the latest research in employment were discussed in the nTIDE Lunch & Learn, archived on the project's website.

**Webinar: Inflexible Return-to-Work Policies - Bringing People Back to Work** - The NIDILRR-funded [Great Lakes ADA Regional Center](#) will host a webinar, [Inflexible Return-to-Work Policies - Bringing People Back to Work](#), July 17th, 2-3:30pm ET. Presenters will discuss issues relating to inflexible return-to-work rules that violate Title I of the ADA by default. Discussion topics will include possible reasons for the continuing violations and how significant court and EEOC responses tackle the problem. Presenters will also review recommended practices. Registration is free and required. Continuing education recognition is available.

**NDEAM 2019: The Right Talent, Right Now** - The [Office of Disability Employment Policy \(ODEP\)](#) at the Department of Labor has announced "[The Right Talent, Right Now](#)" as the theme for the 2019 [National Disability Employment Awareness Month \(NDEAM\)](#), which is observed in October. This theme emphasizes the essential role that people with disabilities play in the economic success of the US, especially at a time when historically low unemployment and global competition are creating a high demand for skilled talent. Posters and other campaign materials will be available in August.

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

**National Disability Voter Registration Week** - As a follow up to the AAPD [press release](#) on the disability vote, take a look at the article in Time Magazine that features the work of the REV UP Campaign! Read article <https://time.com/5622652/disability-voter-turnout-2020/> The [REV UP Campaign](#) is coordinating **National Disability Voter Registration Week (NDVRW)** during the week of **July 15-19, 2019** to increase the political power of people with disabilities while also engaging candidates and the media to recognize the disability community. Additionally, we invite you to participate in a REV UP Twitter/Facebook storm around NDVRW! This is a great way to spread more awareness about the Disability Vote, events in your area, and to encourage folks to register to vote online (if they are not attending in person events). **On Tuesday, July 16th from 2pm - 3pm EST we would love to see everyone tweeting about NDVRW.**

## **3.) Disability.Scoop.com:**

**Momentum Growing to End Subminimum Wage** – With federal lawmakers slow to act, cities and states across the country are increasingly moving to bar employers from paying workers with disabilities less than minimum wage. [Read More >](#)

**Survey Finds Teachers, Paraeducators Largely Unprepared for Students with IEP's** – Special educators say that many of the teachers and paraprofessionals who work directly with students with disabilities are ill-prepared to do so. [Read More >](#)

## **4.) Policy Information Exchange:**

**PIE Info: Changes to PA General Assistance** - As required by Act 12 of 2019, which amended 62 P.S. § 403.2(a), the General Assistance program will end on August 1, 2019. No General Assistance cash assistance will be dispersed after July 31, 2019. Current General Assistance recipients were notified of this change via mail, but we recognize that there will likely be questions. If people you work with currently receive or think they qualify for General Assistance, they may qualify for other benefits. Individuals can work with a COMPASS Community Partner or contact their local County Assistance Office or apply online via COMPASS at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us). If you are not a COMPASS Community Partner, more information on registering is

available [here](#). If they are currently receiving other benefits like Medical Assistance or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), those benefits will continue. The Department of Human Services (DHS) will notify clients again before making changes to other benefits for any reason. People seeking more information can contact the DHS Helpline at 1-800-692-7462. TDD Services are available at 1-800-451-5886.

## **5.) ABLE National Resource Center: August #ABLEtoSave Webinar Series**

#ABLEtoSave Awareness Campaign Webinar Series will run throughout the month of August 2019. Weekly webinars will be held each Thursday in August from 2:00- 3:00 p.m. ET and will include information for people with disabilities, family members and those who support them. #ABLEtoSave weekly webinars will include the following: Kick off: August 1: Welcome to #ABLEtoSave Month: An Orientation on What You Need to Know About ABLE ([REGISTER](#)); Week 1: August 8: Opening an ABLE Account: Key Decisions for Success ([REGISTER](#)); Week 2: August 15: ABLE Best Practices and Action Steps for Family Members and Supporters (Circle of Support) ([REGISTER](#)); Week 3: August 22: ABLE Best Practices for Working-Age Adults ([REGISTER](#)); Week 4: August 29: Celebrating All the Ways You Are ABLE: Announcing Winners from the #ABLEtoSave Video Contest and Next Steps! ([REGISTER](#))

**#ABLEtoSave Video Contest Open Until July 31** - The ABLE National Resource Center would like to invite all ABLE account holders to participate in our #ABLEtoSave Video Contest! Help motivate others to open an ABLE account and start on the road to a better financial future. First prize is \$500, second prize is \$250 and third prize is \$100! Each winner will have their prize money deposited directly into their ABLE account. **Here are the rules:** You must be an ABLE account holder; The video must be no longer than one minute; Your voice or subtitles must be understandable and your face must be clear; Video titles must include the hashtag #ABLEtoSave. **Deadline to enter is July 31, 2019.** [Learn more and enter the #ABLEtoSave Video Contest!](#)

**ABLE Advocacy Ratchets Up on Capitol Hill** - Co-sponsorship of both the House and Senate versions of the ABLE Age Adjustment Act is growing and on a strong bipartisan basis. As support continues to increase in the Senate, our champions have been engaged in fruitful negotiation with key staff of the Senate Committee on Finance, the body with jurisdiction over the age adjustment legislation. [Learn more and advocate for the ABLE Age Adjustment Act.](#)

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