

# **PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)**

Office Location / Mailing Address: 55 Utley Drive, Camp Hill, PA 17011

Voice: (717) 975-2004 or (888) 250-5175    tty: (717) 737-0158    fax: (888) 524-9282

Email: [racucpa@parac.org](mailto:racucpa@parac.org)    www.Parac.org

## **WEEKLY UPDATE: August 13, 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 **August 13, 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**

### **CareerLink/WIOA**

Next Call: Tentatively – Monday, October 15, 2018 at 11:00 AM

### **Executive Committee Conference Call**

Next Call: – Monday, August 13, 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, September 11, 2018 at 10:00 AM

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

Next Call: Tentatively – Tuesday, August 14, 2018 at 10:00 AM

### **Transition & Education**

Next Call: – Tentatively - Thursday, November 8, 2018 at 2:00 PM

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, a Business or Industry 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.) National Rehabilitation Association**

#### **Partnership on Employment & Accessible Technology TechCheck --**

TechCheck is a valuable tool created by PEAT that helps large and small employers assess their technology accessibility practices. TechCheck takes

about 10-15 minutes to complete and provides a benchmarking "snapshot" of the current state of a company's technology. After completing the questions, the employer will receive a confidential evaluation of where it stands across several dimensions, from internal training efforts to procurement policies. TechCheck helps businesses build a foundation to create a more accessible workplace. For more information, visit: [PEAT: TechCheck - United States Department of Labor](#)

## **2.) Employer Assistance & Resource Network (EARN):**

Liaising with Employers [\[link-1\]](#)-- Last week, EARN was in Anaheim, CA for the 2018 Industry Liaison Group National Conference, where its staff had the opportunity to engage with federal contractors seeking to increase disability inclusion at their companies. At EARN's exhibit booth, attendees could learn about EARN's trainings, the Inclusion@Work policy framework and local recruitment sources. At the conference, Michael Murray, director of the Office of Disability Employment Policy's Employer Policy Team, also presented on disability inclusion best practices. [Learn about federal contractor responsibilities](#) or [access Inclusion@Work](#).

Talking Inclusion with Entrepreneurs - Earlier this year, EARN joined forces with Entrepreneurs' Organization - Washington DC chapter and the DC Metro Business Leadership Network to host entrepreneurs from around the National Capital Region for a discussion about the value of a workforce inclusive of people with disabilities and resources to help small businesses welcome their skills and talents. To help spread the message among members in all of its chapters, the Entrepreneurs' Organization recently published a blog post recapping the event and the strategies shared. [Read the Entrepreneurs' Organization blog post](#).

**October 2018 – Event: National Disability Employment Awareness Month** - Observed each October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) celebrates the contributions of workers with disabilities and educates the public about the value of a workforce inclusive of their skills and talents. This year's NDEAM theme is "America's Workforce: Empowering All," and this year's official poster is now available. [View and download the poster](#).

**September 20, 2018, 2:00 p.m. ET – Webinar: Online Video Accessibility** - For online videos to be fully accessible, their audio and visual content must be accessible to people who are deaf or hard of hearing and/or blind or have low vision. This webinar from the ADA National Network will explore online video accessibility concerns and their solutions and share tools, services and strategies for addressing online video accessibility needs, especially in large organizations. [Register for the webinar](#).

## **3.) Mathematica Research Policy:**

Belsie, Laurent. "[Who's Left to Employ? Tight Job Market Scoops Up Those on the Margin.](#)" *The Christian Science Monitor*.

#### **4.) Passle Helminski (PaRC Council Member):**

This legislative alert focuses on the Access Technology Affordability Act (H.R. 1734/S. 732). We are making good progress on this legislation and are up to eighty cosponsors in the House and ten in the Senate. Also, the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) is actively working to determine the annual cost of the bill, colloquially known as the bill's "score." We are hoping to have this score before the Labor Day break. A low score combined with support from JCT will substantially increase the likelihood of the bill's passage. All of this means that now is the time to work extra hard to build cosponsor support for both H.R. 1734 and S. 732. Therefore, please call or email your representative and ask him or her to cosponsor H.R. 1734 and call or email your two senators and ask them to cosponsor S. 732.

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

[Embracing Accessibility in the Whole Organization](#) -- August 30, 2018

[ADA Update Conference](#) -- September 4, 2018 to September 6, 2018

#### **6.) Special Needs Alliance:**

[Obstacles Remain to Exercise of Voting Rights by Individuals with Disabilities](#)

[When Should a Special Needs Trust Be Updated?](#)

[SNA and ANRC Partner on ABLE Education](#)

[How to Select a Special Needs Attorney](#)

[More Monitoring of Representative Payees](#)

#### **7.) ABLE:**

**Reminder – ABLEtoSave Webinar Series** - Join us on **Wednesday, August 15, from 2:00 – 3:00 PM EST**, for the second webinar in our #ABLEtoSave series! This webinar will: Explain the requirements related to being eligible to open an ABLE account; Discuss how ABLE funds may affect the beneficiary's eligibility for federally-funded, means-tested benefits; Incorporate a panel of ABLE-related stakeholders that will be asked to give their perspective on the presentation. **REGISTER**

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