

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

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WEEKLY UPDATE August 21, 2020

If you no longer wish to receive this update, please contact Katie Haley at mary.haley@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 21, 2020**, 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 2019 Annual Report can be found on our webpage or by clicking on the following link

<http://parac.org/reports/2019AnnualReport.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, agendas and minutes, etc. for information on your CAC.

***** PaRC Calendar Year 2020 –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.

November 18, 2020

The agenda will be posted on the PaRC website.

http://parac.org/council_mtgs.html

PaRC Member Committee Conference Calls – Please Mark your Calendars

CareerLink/WIOA

Next Call: To be Determined

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 September 4, 2020 at 9:30 AM

Social Media/Outreach Committee Conference Call

Next Call: To be Determined

Transition & Education

Next Call: Friday October 9, 2020 at 2:00 PM

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 Herr Foods Inc.](#)

[PaRC Keystone Blind Association](#)

[PaRC Assistive Technology](#)

PaRC COUNCIL OPENINGS: The PaRC is looking for candidates to fill new openings on the council. If interested, please go to our website (www.parac.org) and fill out an application.

1.) COVID-19 Taking A Toll On Direct Support Professionals

by Shaun Heasley | August 14, 2020

The coronavirus is rocking the already unstable workforce of direct support professionals assisting people with developmental disabilities, with a new survey finding nearly half know someone who is left the profession due to the pandemic.

The survey of nearly 9,000 direct support workers across the nation finds that 34 percent are working more hours since COVID-19 emerged, and a quarter say they are more often short-staffed. Only 24 percent reported receiving extra pay related to the increased risks associated with the virus, often another \$1 or \$2 added to an average wage of \$13.63 per hour. To read more, go to: www.disabilityscoop.com/2020/08/14/covid-19-taking-a-toll-on-direct-support-professionals/28729/

2.) 16 Fiction Books with Disability Representation

August 17, 2020

Publishing is becoming more and more diverse, which is truly a wonderful thing. We can write whole recommendation lists on almost every topic now, but one theme that is still a little underrepresented (in our daily lives and on our shelves) are characters with a disability or chronic illness.

Many readers are actively trying to diversify their shelves, which is fantastic! If you are one of those readers who are looking for books with diverse representation and are still on the hunt for books dealing with disability and chronic pain, then this is a good starting point! We have collected 16 fictional reads to compile them into a list for you.

We have tried to keep this list as diverse as possible, but if you know of a book dealing with a disability or illness, please leave us a comment below! To continue reading, go to:

<https://www.thenerddaily.com/16-fiction-books-with-disability-representation/>

3.) Think the Pandemic Sucks? Now Imagine You are Disabled.

Laura Bradley Entertainment Reporter Aug. 17, 2020

Like many people who work full-time jobs, Danielle knows she is lucky. She is able to work from home, and the 37-year-old says

her current employer is much more accommodating of her disability than her previous. That said, there have been hurdles—like the fact that telecommuting software like Zoom and WebEx still does not allow captioning, which can make work calls stressful when you are deaf.

“It’s a huge step back, when the internet should be a huge step forward,” Danielle told The Daily Beast in an email. “It concerns me that things are going to remain even more inaccessible in [the] future since a lot of things are switching to remote video options and using platforms that do not have captioning.” To continue reading, go to: <https://www.thedailybeast.com/think-the-coronavirus-pandemic-sucks-now-imagine-youre-disabled>

4.) It is time for business to fix the ‘disability inequality crisis’: Activist and entrepreneur

By Tania Bryer PUBLISHED FRI, AUG 14, 2020

Disability activist, social entrepreneur, and founder of The Valuable 500 initiative, Caroline Casey, has told CNBC that business needs to be at the forefront of accelerating change to end the “disability inequality crisis,” as the world emerges from the coronavirus crisis.

“This problem is too big for governments and charities alone to resolve. It needs the most powerful force on this planet, which in my mind is business,” she said.

“As we reset our system, our recovery needs to be inclusive of everyone. There are no more excuses.” To read more, go to: <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/08/14/caroline-casey-its-time-to-fix-the-disability-inequality-crisis.html>

5.) How to Navigate Online College Classes as a Student With Disabilities

U.S. News & World Report

August 18, 2020

As the fall semester begins and students head back to class, many are doing so virtually. Colleges are taking coronavirus prevention precautions, with hundreds opting for fully or partially online classes.

But what does the shift to online classes mean for students with disabilities?

To get a sense of what lies ahead, it may be useful to look back at the spring semester, when campuses closed and classes were suddenly shifted online, forcing students with disabilities to make quick adjustments. To read more, go to:

<https://wtop.com/news/2020/08/how-to-navigate-online-college-classes-as-a-student-with-disabilities/>

6.) After 20 Years, 'Intentional Community' For Those With Disabilities Breaks Ground

by Fiona Kelliher, Palo Alto Daily News/TNS | August 18, 2020

HALF MOON BAY, Calif. — All of the families faced the same dilemma.

It was 1999 in Half Moon Bay, and the topic often came up among parents while sitting in the bleachers, watching their kids' Special Olympics basketball games. Within a few years, many kids on the team would grow up to be adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities — but with few options in the Bay Area to live and work outside their parents' homes. To read more, go to: <https://www.disabilitycoop.com/2020/08/18/after-20-years-intentional-community-disabilities-breaks-ground/28745/>

7.) 2020 Candidates Need To Offer Disabled Voters Symbolism, Substance, And Hope

Andrew Pulrang Contributor Diversity & Inclusion

Aug 18, 2020

We are about a month and a half from Election Day. There is not much time left to engage voters that campaigns usually miss, but it is still possible. One of those underrated and neglected groups is people with disabilities. To continue reading, go to:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/andrewpulrang/2020/08/18/2020-candidates-need-to-offer-disabled-voters-symbolism-substance-and-hope/#600d8f3d5d03>

8.) Disney World Enforces Mask Policy, Family Turned Away at Gate

August 18, 2020 by TJ Muscaro

On August 6, Richard Ross and his family arrived at the Walt Disney World Resort for a family vacation. Everyone was wearing masks except one: Ross's seven-year-old daughter who has autism.

The Ross family was under the impression that Disney would still let their daughter in under a special exemption, however, they learned this was not the case. To read more, go to:

<https://insidethemagic.net/2020/08/family-turned-away-from-wdw-tm1/>

9.) Citing COVID-19, Advocates Want Medicaid Caregiver Check-In Mandate Delayed

by Michelle Diamant | August 19, 2020

Federal officials are being asked to pause the rollout of a new requirement that care providers electronically check in when assisting people with disabilities in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Medicaid mandate known as electronic visit verification, or EVV, took effect in January 2020, but many states were granted a one-year good faith extension giving them until January 2021 to

come into compliance. To continue reading, go to:
<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2020/08/19/citing-covid-19-advocates-want-medicaid-caregiver-check-in-mandate-delayed/28766/>

10.) Disabled veteran denied service at local gym

By Danielle Kreutter

Aug. 20, 2020

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (KKTV) - A disabled veteran says he was denied getting into his local gym because he was not wearing a mask.

Retired Senior Master Sgt. Israel Del Toro cannot wear one because of the burn injuries he sustained in combat in Afghanistan.

After 11 News reached out to Life Time Fitness in Colorado Springs, they apologized.

11 News has shared Del Toro's struggles during the pandemic before starting back in June when an ENT location would not let him inside without a mask. To read more, go to:

<https://www.kktv.com/2020/08/20/disabled-veteran-denied-service-at-local-gym/>

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