

# **PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)**

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## **WEEKLY UPDATE: September 1, 2017**

\*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 **September 1, 2017**, 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 2016 Annual Report and can be accessed by clicking on the following link. <http://www.parac.org/reports/> and a link to the PDF <http://www.parac.org/reports/2016AnnualReport.pdf>. You can also find the PaRC 2016 Annual Report on our webpage.

**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 2017 –Please Mark your Calendars \*\*\***

### **FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS**

PaRC Full Council meetings will be held in the **PA Ballroom on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor** of the Harrisburg Hilton (next to the gift shop) 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.

**October 25 2017**

**PaRC Committee Conference Calls – Please Mark your Calendars  
CAC / Executive Committee Conference Call**

Next Call: To be Determined

**CareerLink/WIOA**

Next Call: Monday, September 18, 2017 at 10:00 AM

**Customer Satisfaction Committee Conference Call**

Next Call: TENTATIVELY - Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 3:00 PM

**Executive Committee Conference Call**

Next Call: TENTATIVELY – Monday, September 25, at 2:00 PM

**Legislative and Public Awareness Conference Call**

Next Call: To be Determined

**OVR Policy and State Plan Committee Conference Call**

Next Call: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at 10:00 AM

**Social Media/Outreach Committee Conference Call**

Next Call: To be Determined

**Transition & Education**

Next Call: – To be Determined

**1.) DisabilityScoop.com:**

**Feds Clarify New Rule for Special Needs Trusts** – Special needs trusts have a new level of flexibility and federal officials are working to ensure that state Medicaid directors understand the implications. [Read More >](#)

**More Businesses Embracing Inclusion** – Corporate America is increasingly working to include people with disabilities with a new report finding that a growing number of companies are actively recruiting from this population. [Read More >](#)

**Disability Suits Fuel Rise in Civil Rights Claims Against Schools** – Civil rights lawsuits against schools are on track to double compared to four years

ago thanks in large part to disability-related claims, according to a new review of federal court filings. [Read More >](#)

**Paraeducators Eyed to Fill Special Ed Teacher Vacancies** – Struggling to find special education teachers, one state is turning to paraeducators to help fill the void. [Read More >](#)

**3.) Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement of the Deaf: President Signs Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act of 2017 Into Law -**

- On August 18, President Trump signed the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) User Fee Reauthorization Bill into law. One of the attachments to the bill is the Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act of 2017. The Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act had been passed by the House of Representatives on July 12 and the Senate on August 3. Now that the bill is signed into law it will go to the FDA, who will begin drafting the rules and regulations for it. While the FDA has three years to complete that process we are hopeful that it will be done much sooner.

**Please attend to protect your deaf rights! -- PSAD of Pittsburgh Chapter Meeting will be held before Pingo Night (7:30 PM)**

October 21, 2017 at 7:00 PM to be held at the Pittsburgh Association of the Deaf, 1854 Forbes Ave, Pittsburgh PA 15219. To learn about newest laws for Deaf - Good News or Bad News for Us !!!! Conducted by Chapter President James "Chris" Noschese. Questions - [Noschese235@gmail.com](mailto:Noschese235@gmail.com) or 412 436 5051.

**4.) American Association of People with Disabilities:**

**The Disability Integration Act of 2017** -- The Disability Integration Act (DIA) would complement the ADA, accelerate the rate of people with disabilities leaving institutions, and expand access to home- and community-based services. For more information, visit [www.DisabilityIntegrationAct.org](http://www.DisabilityIntegrationAct.org). If your Senators or Representative are not current so-sponsors of the DIA ask them to become a co-sponsor. ([View a list of co-sponsors in the Senate](#) | [View a list of co-sponsors in the House](#)). [Sign-on your organization to support the DIA](#).

**The ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017 (HR 620)** -- The [ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017](#) (H.R. 620) would seriously weaken the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by delaying requirements that businesses be accessible to people with disabilities. The proposed legislation requires a person with a disability to give businesses with accessibility barriers a written notice of the barrier, after which the business has 60 days

to even acknowledge there is a problem, and then another 120 days to begin to fix it. **No other civil rights group is forced to wait 180 days to enforce their civil rights!** There are currently 21 Democratic and Republican representatives co-sponsoring this legislation. If your Representative is a current co-sponsor of the bill ask them to reconsider their support if they believe in equal rights and equal access for people with disabilities. If your Representative is not a current co-sponsor of the bill thank them for not signing-on and underscore why this bill weakens the ADA and threatens the rights of people with disabilities. Use talking points from AAPD's Action Alert: [Tell Congress Not to Weaken the ADA!](#)

[\*\*The 2017 Disability Equality Index names the "Best Places to Work for Disability Inclusion" - 68 top-scoring companies pave the way for Corporate America\*\*](#) --

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

##### **PIE Job: Advocate -- POSITION AVAILABLE - Living Well Specialist --**

Hourly Range \$14.50 - \$16.75 -- **General Functions** --\_To effectively provide advocacy, information and referral, peer support and independent living skills training to people with disabilities in Central PA. This position will also identify, reach out to, organize and maintain communication with individuals interested in working systemically to improve the lives of people with disabilities and will mobilize people with disabilities to take action. -

**Qualifications** -- A demonstrated commitment to civil rights, including disability rights. Team player with effective interpersonal skills. Ability to work independently and cooperatively with staff and volunteers in a culturally diverse environment. Proficiency in another language other than English (including ASL) is a plus. Bachelor's Degree in a field of study relevant to the provision of Independent Living Services required; or High School diploma and two years' experience working with people with disabilities; or High School diploma and two years' experience working organizing for systems change for or as a person(s) with a disability; or a person with a disability with a high school diploma who has successfully transitioned to living independently and has one year work experience. Ability to travel is required. **Send cover letter and resume to:** Janetta Green - CIL of Central PA, 207 House Avenue, Suite 107, Camp Hill, PA 17011 - **Or Email:** [jgreen@cilcp.org](mailto:jgreen@cilcp.org)

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

##### **Mobile Health Systems May Benefit People with Physical Disabilities, But Some People May Have Challenges Using Them --**

Mobile health apps can be improved with input from users with physical disabilities, this week's [Research In Focus](#) finds.

**Ticket To Work Blog Highlights AT in the Workplace** -- The NIDILRR-funded [AbleData](#) project has published [Using assistive technology in the workplace](#), a guest article for the Social Security Administration's [Ticket to Work Blog](#). The article covers examples of assistive technology (AT) in office settings as well as non-office settings, such as farms and workshops, and offers tips for obtaining workplace AT.

### **8.) PA ABLE:**

PA ABLE Community Event and Enrollment and Resource Fair *featuring PA ABLE experts and local human services providers*. Attend this free community event to gain valuable information on the PA Treasury Department's PA ABLE program, a savings program for people with disabilities. Enjoy a panel discussion with PA Treasurer Joe Torsella and local families who will share how they are using their PA ABLE savings accounts. An Enrollment and Resource Fair is part of the event and features experts on PA ABLE who can answer your questions and help you enroll, as well as representatives from local organizations that provide a wide array of disability services. Thursday, September 28, 2017, from 4:30 - 8PM. The Circuit Center and Ballroom, 5 Hot Metal Street, The South Side, Pittsburgh, PA 15203. **Open to the Public | Free Admission | Free Parking | Up-Close Drop Off-Point | Fully Accessible.** [LEARN MORE](#)  
[REGISTER NOW](#)

*The PaRC is looking for candidates to fill 2 openings for category Business/Industry/Labor and a veteran with a disability. Any interested candidates, please go to our website at [www.parac.org](http://www.parac.org) and fill out an application. Thank You.*

**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!** 