

# **PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)**

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## **WEEKLY UPDATE: September 4, 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 **September 4, 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.

**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: – To be Determined

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

Next Call: Wednesday, September 12, 2018 at 3:30 PM

### **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 – To be Determined

### **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.) LEAD Center:**

**LEAD Center Joins with WINTAC and Southeast ADA Center in Providing Resources to Promote Inclusive Career Pathways --** [LEAD Center](#), the [Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance Center \(WINTAC\)](#), and the [Southeast ADA Center](#) are pleased to announce our newly formed partnership. We are teaming up to grow the Career Pathways Community of

Practice and bring together key stakeholders making career pathway programs successful for individuals with disabilities - specifically, Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies, American Job Centers, and Higher Education. Through its new partnership with LEAD Center and the Southeast ADA Center, WINTAC will also engage partners such as community colleges, universities, workforce centers, and inclusive higher education programs. We will be able to facilitate conversations across the vast continuum of career pathways in order meet the requirements of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and meet the needs of people with disabilities who are seeking employment or want to become entrepreneurs.

**2.) Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement of the Deaf:**  
**ASDC is thrilled to share that an ASL Learning Opportunity is coming to Camp Hill, PA, November 3-4, 2018.** The [ASL Learning Opportunity](#) is a unique two-day event focusing on teaching families and professionals American Sign Language. This unique event includes several workshops, small class and one-on-one attention that will focus on Deaf culture, ASL and much more. The event offers more than seven hours of ASL class instruction. Topics covered throughout the weekend include: small group ASL Classes; One-on-one instruction when needed; etiquette; finger spelling; literacy; numeral incorporation; sport signs; jargon; and all those signs you want to know but are afraid to ask. This unique two day event is open for anyone 16 years old and up. All levels and abilities are welcome. A light breakfast, lunch and snacks will be provided each day. Limited number of [scholarships](#) are available to ASDC Members. Don't miss this opportunity, space is limited, [register today!](#) Don't hesitate to contact me with any question! Cheri Dowling, Director of Advocacy, American Society for Deaf Children -- [www.deafchildren.org](http://www.deafchildren.org) -- 443.277.8899 (voice/text) -- [cheri@deafchildren.org](mailto:cheri@deafchildren.org)

**3.) National Rehabilitation Association:**  
**Subject: Washington Alert - Urge Congress to Pass the EMPOWER Care Act** -- The Empower Care Act (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/2227>) will extend and improve the MFP which helps get people with disabilities and seniors out of nursing homes and back into their communities. According to a [report](#) from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, MFP has helped over 63,000 people transition into the community and saved Medicare and Medicaid almost \$1 billion as of 2013. The EMPOWER Care Act would reauthorize the MFP through 2022. Call your member of Congress and urge her/him to support H.R. 5306.

**4.) Linda Williams (PaRC Staff Member):**  
The SFY17-18 Q4 report required by the Work Experience for High School Students with Disabilities Act (Act 26 of 2016) has been posted. This report and prior reports are available on [OVR's website](#).

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

**Wheelchair Breakdowns May Be Linked to Health Consequences for People with Spinal Cord Injuries** -- For people with spinal cord injuries, experiencing a wheelchair breakdown can have consequences beyond missed appointments, this week's [Research In Focus](#) finds.

**NDEAM - America's Workforce: Empowering All** -- The [Office of Disability Employment Policy \(ODEP\)](#) at the Department of Labor released the [official poster for the 2018 National Disability Employment Awareness Month \(NDEAM\)](#), to be celebrated in October.

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

### **[Recruiting Individuals with Spinal Cord Injury as well as Caregivers and Nurses](#)**

– The Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC) is recruiting individuals with spinal cord injury (SCI) as well as their caregivers and nurses to participate in a research study. Answers from the interviews will be used for research purposes to better understand their health information needs, and their participation in other research studies. Participants in this research study must meet the following criteria: Be 18 years of age or older; Have access to and the ability to communicate over a phone; Speak English; Individuals with a spinal cord injury must have been 16 years of age or older when the SCI first occurred; Caregivers must have at least 3 years of experience as a non-paid caregiver to a family member or close friend with a spinal cord injury; Nurses must have provided services and care to patients with spinal cord injury in post-acute rehabilitation settings in the past 5 years and must have 5 or more years of experience treating these injuries. Interviews will last approximately 60 minutes. Participants will receive \$75 for their time. If you're interested in participating, please contact Dr. Ali Weinstein at 703-993-9632 or [aweinst2@gmu.edu](mailto:aweinst2@gmu.edu). [Learn more about the research study and the MSKTC here.](#)

## **7.) Cindy Mundis (OVR Bureau Manager):**

The LEAD Center released a Neurodiversity Brief, "*Building an Accessible Workforce Development System: Recommendations to American Job Centers on Supporting Autistic People and Others with Disabilities to Promote Successful Employment.*" This brief discusses actions that American Job Center staff and employers can take to make services and workplaces more accessible to autistic people and others with psychosocial, cognitive, intellectual, and developmental disabilities, supporting a skilled neurodiverse workforce. [Read "Building an Accessible Workforce Development System: Recommendations to American Job Centers on Supporting Autistic People and Others with Disabilities to Promote Successful Employment"](#)

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

Guide Dogs for the Blind | Pick of the Litter --  
<https://www.guidedogs.com/pickofthelitter>

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

#### **PIE Info: [ODP] Save the Date Dual Diagnosis Conference -**

**November 13 - 15, 2018** -- Please help the Office of Developmental Programs to widely distribute the attached Save the Date Folder for the 2018 Pennsylvania Dual Diagnosis Conference to be held November 13 – 15, 2018 in Altoona, PA. Please review the [attachment](#) for additional details.

### **10.) DisabilityScoop.com:**

**Initiative Highlights “Differences” Over “Disabilities”** – One City’s community-wide public awareness campaign is looking to shift perspectives about people with developmental disabilities and help ensure that more groups engage this population. [Read More >](#)

### **11.) American Council of the Blind:**

#### **Wegmans Becomes the First Aira-Enabled Supermarket Chain in the**

**United States** -- Aira is pleased to announce that Wegmans Food Markets is the first Aira-enabled supermarket chain in the United States. As the first partner in the Aira Supermarket Network, all Wegmans stores are now Aira Access Locations, giving any member of the blind and low-vision community free access to Aira’s service while in Wegmans stores. Blind and low vision shoppers can download the Aira app on their smartphone and use it to connect to a remote, sighted agent to access information on-demand. On request, Aira agents can help shoppers navigate the store, find specific items, and identify the shortest checkout lines all at just the touch of a button. You can download the app at [aira.io/app](http://aira.io/app), register as a guest, and use Aira for free in any Wegmans store.

### **12.) National Council for Independent Living – Advocacy Monitor:**

#### **CIL-NET Presents... A National Teleconference & Webinar –**

#### **Supporting Youth in Transition: How CILs Can Contract for Youth**

#### **Transition Services -- September 26, 2018; 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. Eastern**

[Register online](#) or by using the [printable registration form](#) (PDF). Centers for Independent Living (CILs) are required to support young people with disabilities as they transition to adulthood. Join us in September to learn how one CIL has built excellent youth transition services for young people in their community – and turned them into revenue generators for their CIL. [\[Read more...\]](#). **Registration Fee:** \$75.00. Fee is per site (connection) and does not apply per participant; registrants are encouraged to gather as many individuals as desired to participate by telephone.

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