

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

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WEEKLY UPDATE: September 22, 2017

*If you no longer wish to receive this update, please contact Nancy Kershner at 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 22, 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>.

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, 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 2nd 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: To be Determined

Customer Satisfaction Committee Conference Call

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

Executive Committee Conference Call

Next Call: – Monday, September 25, 2017 at 2:00 AM

Legislative and Public Awareness Conference Call

Next Call: To be Determined

OVR Policy and State Plan Committee Conference Call

Next Call: Tuesday, October 3, 2017 at 10:00 AM

Social Media/Outreach Committee Conference Call

Next Call: TENTATIVELY – Friday, October 13, 2017 at 10:00 AM

Transition & Education

Next Call: – Thursday, October 5, 2017 at 2:00 PM

1.) National Rehabilitation Information Center:

Living with Low Vision -- The [National Eye Institute at the National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#) has posted [Living with Low Vision](#), a five-part video series featuring people with low vision and vision professionals. Videos cover how low vision is diagnosed, technologies and modifications people can make to support independence, and reaching out to the community and to family for support. Each video is less than two minutes long.

2.) American Association of People with Disabilities:

[AAPD 2018 Summer Internship Applications Now Open](#) -- Each summer, AAPD places college students, graduate students, law students, and recent graduates with all types of disabilities in summer internships with Congressional offices, federal agencies, non-profits, and for-profit organizations in the Washington, DC area. Each intern is matched with a mentor who will assist them with their career goals. AAPD provides the interns with a living stipend, transportation to and from Washington, DC, and fully-accessible housing. As part of the AAPD network, interns also receive opportunities to attend events on Capitol Hill, conferences, community events, briefings, and more. **Applications are due November 6th.**

[Call for Applications - 2018 AAPD Paul G. Hearne Leadership Awards](#)

-- Through the AAPD Paul G. Hearne Leadership Awards, AAPD recognizes outstanding emerging leaders with disabilities who exemplify leadership, advocacy, and dedication to the broader cross-disability community. Two individuals will each receive \$2,500 in recognition of their outstanding contributions and \$7,500 to further a new or existing initiative that increases the political and economic power of people with disabilities. **Applications are due by October 2, 2017.**

3.) Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement of the Deaf:

Young Adult Program Presents – Journey to Independence – A Young Adult Conference for deaf and hard of hearing adults 18 to 30 years old. Saturday, September 23, 2017 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM – a free lunch is provided. Exhibits are open to the public. PA School for the Deaf // 100 W. School House Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19144. DEADLINE: 09-20-17. Email: yap@psadweb.org – VP: 484-462-7036.

4.) Linda Williams (PaRC Support Staff):

CERTIFIED PEER SPECIALIST TRAINING FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DEAF AND AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE USERS --

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) is recruiting qualified individuals who are deaf, use ASL, are seeking employment and want to take Certified Peer Specialist (CPS) training to learn how to use their personal experience in mental health recovery to help other individuals who are deaf and have mental health needs. **Training dates and location:** The 75 hour (10-day) training is scheduled for December 4-15, 2017. The training will be held at: Hyatt Place, 440 American Ave, King of Prussia, PA 19406. **CPS**

training/employment guidelines for Pennsylvania residents: Deaf and ASL user; 18 years of age or older; Received or is receiving mental health services for serious mental illness; Have a high school diploma or general equivalency diploma; From 2015 through 2017: maintained at least 12 months of successful work or volunteer experience, or earned at least 24 credit hours from a college or post-secondary educational institution; Individuals must be seeking employment and willing to work upon completion of CPS training. If eligible, OVR **may** pay for your training and provide a paid internship. Contact OVR by October 15, 2017. If an individual is not eligible for OVR services they will be responsible for the cost of the training and associated costs. **Out of state applicants please contact PJ Simonson for information regarding training fees. To complete an online training application:** email PJ Simonson at

PJ.Simonson@riinternational.com and ask for an application for the **CPS Training for deaf candidates.** The forms will be emailed to you to

complete online. Once finished, return the application to PJ. (Deadline for applying is November 13, 2017). **Questions about the Training** Contact: **PJ Simonson** | RI Consulting | PJ.Simonson@riinternational.com | Phone: 602.636.4563. **Questions about OVR Services** Contact: **Randy Loss** | Office of Vocational Rehabilitation | rloss@pa.gov | Phone: 717.787.5136

Action Alert: [Tell Your Senators to Stand By ID/A Services](#) -- *The Graham-Cassidy bill, which would cut Medicaid funding and impose per capita caps, is gaining support among the Senate GOP leadership. [Here is the link](#) to the ANCOR email action alert - please share it with your networks, employees, families and fellow advocates. Please take action as soon as possible on this bill, **which we expect to come up for a vote as soon as the week of September 25.***

5.) PA ABLE Savings Program:

[PA ABLE Community Event including Enrollment and Resource Fair](#) -- Thursday, September 28, 2017 from 4:30 PM to 8:00 PM (EDT) -- **The Circuit Center and Ballroom** // IBEW #5, Five Hot Metal Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203. 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 (6 - 7:30 p.m.) 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 will feature 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. Find valuable information and discover if a PA ABLE savings account is right for you! PAABLE.gov | **855-529-ABLE (2253)** | **Joe Torsella, State Treasurer**

6.) Mathematica Policy Research:

REMINDER: Disability Policy Webinar -- Thursday, September 28, 1:00–2:30 p.m. (ET) -- Innovating Services, Improving Outcomes: A VR Model for Serving SSDI Clients. [Register for the webinar.](#)

7.) Institute for Community Inclusion:

How can VR clients leave SSDI for competitive, integrated employment? (The following is an excerpt) - As the main source of job services for people with disabilities, state vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies can help people receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) to become more independent and economically successful. Although SSDI beneficiaries who receive VR services see their earnings increase, only a small share earn enough to leave the disability rolls. [Innovating Services,](#)

[Improving Outcomes: A VR Model for Serving SSDI Clients](#) -- **Thursday, September 28th at 1:00 - 2:30pm ET.** This webinar is free. [Register for the webinar here.](#)

Register for the 2017 State of the Science event on Organizational Capacity – (The following is an excerpt) -- From September 25-29, ICI team members will be [leading an online discussion](#) about what Community Providers need to transform their services to improve employment in the community. This online conversation is part of the State of the Science initiative, run by the ICI's [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center \(RRTC\) on Advancing Employment for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#). The [State of the Science](#), or SoS, is a chance for the ICI to share our research around employment. It is also an opportunity for us to learn about the strategies service providers, family members, and self-advocates are using to support people with intellectual and development disabilities to build fulfilling careers. [Register here](#). This four-day open online discussion is the second of three being held this Fall. We will use [IdeaScale](#) to gather your input, feedback, and perspectives.

8.) National Rehabilitation Information Center (NARIC):

Saving Money for a Better Life While on SSI -- The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Learning and Working During the Transition to Adulthood \(Transitions RTC\)](#) has published a new factsheet, [Saving Money for a Better Life While on SSI: What Can the ABLE Act Do for Me?](#) (PDF). The four-page factsheet introduces the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act, which gives people with disabilities a way to save money for qualifying expenses such as a car, college or career training, healthcare, prevention and wellness, and other expenses without being taxed or impacting eligibility for benefit programs. Sections cover eligibility, how to open an account, and myths and common questions about ABLE Accounts.

The PaRC is looking for candidates to fill 1 opening for category Business/Industry and a veteran with a disability. Any interested candidates, please go to our website at www.parac.org and fill out an application. Thank You.