

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

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WEEKLY UPDATE January 8, 2020

We are social and want to connect with you! That's right, please visit the PaRC Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Pennsylvania-Rehabilitation-Council-1587882184858917> and like us! This is where you can find the latest happenings with the PaRC events, meetings, latest news, and info about OVR, legislation, and information regarding employment for people with disabilities. See you there!

*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 **January 8, 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 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.

***** 2021 Full Council Meeting Dates and OVR Quarterly State Board Meeting Dates *****

PaRC	OVR State Board
<p>Wednesday, February 17, 2021 Harrisburg</p>  <p>2-17-2021 PaRC Full Council Meeting.ics</p>	<p>Thursday, March 11, 2021 Virtual</p>  <p>3-11-2021 OVR State Board Meeting.ics</p>
<p>Wednesday, May 12, 2021 Harrisburg</p>	<p>Thursday, June 3, 2021 Virtual</p>

 5-12-2021 PaRC Full Council Meeting.ics	 6-3-2021 OVR State Board Meeting.ics
Wednesday, August 4, 2021 Harrisburg  8-4-2021 PaRC Full Council Meeting.ics	Thursday, September 16, 2021 Pittsburgh  9-16-2021 OVR State Board Meeting.ics
Wednesday, November 10, 2021 Harrisburg  11-17-2021 PaRC Full Council Meeting.ics	Thursday, December 2, 2021 Harrisburg  12-2-2021 OVR State Board Meeting.ics

http://parac.org/council_mtgs.html

*****PaRC Member Committee Conference Calls – Please Mark your Calendars*****

CareerLink/WIOA

Wednesday January 20, 2021 at 2:00 PM

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

Friday January 29, 2021 at 9:30 AM

Social Media/Outreach Committee Conference Call

Wednesday January 6, 2021 at 9:30 AM

Transition & Education

Next Call: To be Determined

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 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.) Amazon Billionaire Gives 'Transformational' Gifts To Disability Nonprofits

by Shaun Heasley
January 4, 2021

Multiple nonprofits serving people with disabilities are receiving an unprecedented and unexpected influx of cash as part of a massive wave of donations from the billionaire ex-wife of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos.

Easter seals and 22 of its affiliates across the nation said it received \$162 million from MacKenzie Scott. Meanwhile, Goodwill Industries International said it received \$20 million and additional funds were given to 46 of its affiliates. To read more, go to: <https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2021/01/04/amazon-billionaire-transformational-gifts-disability-nonprofits/29133/>

2.) Advocates: COVID-19 Relief Leaves Out People With Disabilities

by Michelle Diament
January 5, 2021

With a \$900 billion COVID-19 relief package, Congress yet again denied stimulus payments to some people with disabilities and failed to offer funding for home- and community-based services.

Under pressure, federal lawmakers approved the massive stimulus package after much wrangling in late December. The measure includes \$600 cash payments for many Americans — including those receiving Supplemental Security Income benefits — who earn less than \$75,000 annually, with tiered amounts beyond that. To continue reading, go to: <https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2021/01/05/advocates-covid-19-relief-leaves-out-people-with-disabilities/29138/>

3.) Meet InReturn Strategies, a startup intent on unlocking the value of America's disabled workforce

By Taylor Telford

Jan. 5, 2021

When he was younger, James Geary never had a dream job, because people treated him as though he would be lucky to have any job at all.

Geary, 28, who has cerebral palsy, has long felt the limitations of other people's expectations. When he was in college, people would ask: "Why are you here? No one's going to hire you." In job interviews, he said, he felt pressured to downplay his disability because he did not want to be perceived as a burden. And when he wound up unhappy in a job that did not match his skill set, he was told to grin and bear it, because "people like you don't get jobs like this." To read more, go to:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2021/01/05/inreturn-strategies-inclusion-disability/>

4.) A Woman With Down Syndrome Has Fought For Organ Transplant Anti-Discrimination Legislation For Years; Now, It has Been Proposed, And Named After Her.

By Allison Norlian

Jan 4, 2021

When Charlotte Woodward was 22-years-old, her doctors told her she needed a heart transplant.

Woodward, who has Down syndrome, was born with an atrioventricular heart defect that includes a hole in the wall between the heart's chambers and flaws in its valves. It is common for babies with Down syndrome to be born with a heart condition; according to the National Down Syndrome Society, approximately half of all infants born with Down syndrome have a

heart defect. To continue reading, go to:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/allisonnorlian/2021/01/04/a-woman-with-down-syndrome-has-fought-for-organ-transplant-anti-discrimination-legislation-for-years-now-its-been-proposed-and-named-after-her/?sh=696163a37841>

5.) People With Disabilities Have Money To Spend But Are Often Overlooked

By Sarah Cavill

JANUARY 6, 2021

A recent article in eMarketer highlighted the importance of marketing to people with disabilities. Rarely adequately represented across advertising campaigns, people with disabilities appreciate inclusion and often spend with the brands that authentically engage them. A study by the American Institutes for Research (AIR) in 2018, according to eMarketer reporter Victoria Petrock, found that the 20 million U.S. working adults (ages 16 to 64) with disabilities had a total disposable income of \$490 billion, and their discretionary income averaged about \$17,000 per person. Advertisers that want to reach the disability community must be authentic, inclusive, and prepared to listen to people with disabilities in order to create the most compelling, effective, and thoughtful campaigns. To read more, go to:

<https://insights.digitalmediasolutions.com/articles/people-with-disabilities-overlooked-market>

6.) COVID Is Disproportionately Affecting This Population

Tony Vinyoh

January 7, 2021

As we struggle to fight the pandemic, we need to examine the struggles that prevent this fight from being an inclusive and equitable response.

When Joe Biden is inaugurated on January 20, he will be taking center stage in the life of Rozanne Weismann, a children's book author who lives ten blocks away from the White House. Biden has already outlined his plans to tackle COVID during his first 100 days in office. These include asking everyone to wear masks and a plan to roll out 100 million doses of approved COVID vaccines, but Rozanne is worried these plans will not work for people like her. To continue reading, go to:

<https://www.fodors.com/news/coronavirus/covid-is-disproportionately-affecting-this-population>

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