

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

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WEEKLY UPDATE: October 16, 2018

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 **October 16, 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 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: Monday, January 14, 2019 at 10:00 AM

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: Tuesday, November 6, 2018 at 10:00 AM

Social Media/Outreach Committee Conference Call

Next Call: 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: The PaRC is looking for candidates to fill the following openings: A veteran with a disability, a Mental Health representative, a Business or Industry Representative, Intellectual Disability Representative and a Community Rehabilitation Provider representative. If interested please go to our website (www.parac.org) and fill out an application.

1.) DisabilityScoop.com:

Texas Saved Billions Cutting Special Ed: Now the Bill Comes Due -

Following what one advocate called “absolutely the largest scale violation” of IDEA, Texas is embarking on what may amount to the biggest single expansion of special education services ever. [Read More >](#)

Businesses Increasingly Hiring People with Disabilities – With employers facing a tight labor market, falling unemployment rates among people with disabilities suggest more hiring managers are opening their eyes to this untapped pool of workers. [Read More >](#)

Air Travelers with Disabilities to get “Bill of Rights” - A bill of rights for airline passengers with disabilities and enhanced disability training for TSA officers, among other changes, are on the way under a new federal law. [Read More >](#)

SSI, Social Security Payments will Grow in 2019: Payments to Social Security and Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries are set to go up a good bit next year. [Read More >](#)

2.) National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research:

Recovery & Rehabilitation: Self-Employment and Disclosure and Job Accommodations - The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Improving Employment Outcomes for Individuals with Psychiatric Disabilities](#) has published two new editions of its [Recovery & Rehabilitation](#) newsletter. [Self-Employment](#) (PDF) includes questions and answers on self-employment such as the steps to take when starting a business, special small business assistance programs, resources for people with justice involvement, and examples of self-employment businesses. [Disclosure and Job Accommodations](#) (PDF) includes questions and answers on disclosure and accommodations, including when and how to disclose the need for an accommodation, whom to engage to request accommodations, sample workplace situations and accommodation solutions, and resources about disclosure and accommodations.

Inclusive Apprenticeship Can Bridge the Technology Skills Gap - The [Office of Disability Employment Policy's Campaign for Disability Employment](#) has published a blog article, [Inclusive Apprenticeship Programs: Bridging the Technology Skills Gap](#), highlighting the promise of inclusive apprenticeships to address needed skills in the technology industry. The article brings specific attention the skills, talents, and perspectives of individuals with disabilities to address the shortage of accessibility skills in the technology industry.

3.) LEAD Center:

WEBINAR - Promoting Competitive Integrated Employment: What You Can Do -- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2018 3:00 - 4:30 PM ET -- Join this webinar to learn about ways you can help expand opportunities for CIE in your community, where people with and without disabilities work side-by-side and are paid competitive salaries. An experienced group of panelists will share resources and show you the avenues you can take to

improve your state's employment options for people with disabilities. The webinar will also highlight the recently released LEAD Center brief, [***Five Ways You Can Help Expand Opportunities for Competitive Integrated Employment in Your Community***](#). Register for this webinar by clicking or copying and pasting the following link: <https://leadcenter.webex.com/leadcenter/onstage/g.php?MTID=ed93f1d55dd404cac3ab36701d2babca2>

Inclusive Career Pathways Desktop Guide: Information and Resources to Support Inclusive Programs and Services. Use this Inclusive Career Pathways Desktop Guide to locate the information and resources you need to support inclusive practices within the programs and services you are providing as part of your career pathways program. **DOWNLOAD THE DESKTOP GUIDE**

4.) Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers' Association: Provider Networks -- Watch video: [**Provider Networks**](#). Learn more about [**healthcare insurance available in Pennsylvania**](#). Visit www.healthcare.gov to find out if you are eligible for insurance through affordable care act coverage, and the types of insurance that are available to you. Comparing Plans: Pennsylvania provides a comparison tool at pa.checkbookhealth.org. The **2019 Open Enrollment Period** runs from Thursday, November 1, 2018, to Saturday, December 15, 2018. If you don't **act** by December 15, you can't get **2019** coverage unless you qualify for a **Special Enrollment Period**. Plans sold during **Open Enrollment start January 1, 2019**.

5.) EARN:

New Success Story Highlights How WRP Helps Source Talent - EARN partner Disability:IN's innovative use of the Workforce Recruitment Program (WRP) allows its members to tap fresh talent and make their workforces more disability inclusive. Read more

Association Health Plans Expand Options for People with Disabilities

The U.S. Department of Labor recently expanded access to affordable health coverage through Association Health Plans. These plans allow small businesses, including self-employed workers, to band together by geography or industry to obtain health care coverage as if they were a single large employer. Read more.

6.) Pennsylvania Statewide Independent Living Council:

The Pennsylvania Statewide Independent Living Council (PA SILC), in partnership with the network of Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) is providing opportunities to hear directly from you about what your life experiences are as Pennsylvanians with disabilities. The **State Plan for Independent Living**

(SPIL) uses money from the federal government to address independent living needs of people with disabilities. It is **our responsibility** to hear from the people to plan for the development of the SPIL **It is your right to be provided with this opportunity to give input and have your voice heard. Download the Full Flyer Here**

7.) Hiram G. Andrews Center:

We recently celebrated the approval of Johnstown Area Regional Industries' (JARI) **\$150,000 Training-to-Career Grant Program** application from Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. This program will support a **225-hour Welding training program** at no cost to eligible individuals in Cambria and Somerset Counties. Seating is limited for this free training program. Individuals who meet the requirements will be enrolled in the course on a first come basis. Those **Cambria and Somerset County** residents interested in this **free 225-hour Training-to-Career Grant training program**, should contact Debi Balog, JARI Workforce Development Director via e-mail at dbalog@jari.com or by calling 814-262-8366. Referrals for CTI's one-year diploma program will continue to be processed as customarily through our Admissions Office.

8.) National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research:

Self-Directed VR Training Seminars: The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Vocational Rehabilitation Practices for Youth and Young Adults](#) has created a [series of training seminars related to improving vocational rehabilitation \(VR\) services to youth and young adults](#).

The seminars present up-to-date, evidence-based information to VR staff and transition stakeholders, including educators, practitioners, and transitioning youth and their families. Topics include the family role in career planning and preparation, integrated employment, seamless transition, and inclusive higher education, among others. Each seminar consists of a topic overview, video content, and a quiz to assess the participant's understanding of the content. The seminars are available on demand and participants may receive a certificate of completion from the Center based on their quiz scores.

September nTIDE: Promising Job Gains for Americans with

Disabilities: The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Statistics and Demographics \(Stats RRTC\)](#) has published the [September National Trends in Disability Employment \(nTIDE\) Report](#).

State of the Science Conference on Employment for Individuals with

Blindness and Other Visual Impairments: The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Employment for Individuals with Blindness or Other Visual Impairments](#) will host a [State of the Science Conference on Employment for Individuals with Blindness and Other Visual](#)

[Impairments](#) on February 28th and March 1st, 2019 in Arlington, VA, as part of the [2019 American Foundation for the Blind Leadership Conference](#). The conference will include research presentations and interactive sessions focused on improving employment for people with blindness and other visual impairments. Registration is required and there is a fee. Scholarship opportunities are available.

9.) Linda Williams (PaRC Support Staff):

Strategies for Engaging with Employer Partners - October 23, 2018

2:00 - 3:30 pm (Rescheduled from August 28, 2018.) This presentation focuses on an approach to employment development that places emphasis on relationship building and customized employment. The customer's needs (the job seeker and the employer) are the focus of this approach. Please submit any questions that you would like answered as to these topics to Devon Grant at dgrant@pa.gov prior to the webinars and we will be sure to cover those questions.

10.) Hearing Loss Association of America – Pittsburgh Chapter:

PUBLIC MEETING Saturday Oct 20 2018 -- The Hearing Loss Association of America Pittsburgh Chapter October 20 public meeting will feature Lisa Epps, Fire inspector Fire Prevention officer at City of Pittsburgh.

lisa.epps@pittsburghpa.gov. She will talk about fire and carbon monoxide dangers, prevention etc. The meeting held at DePaul School for Hearing and Speech 6202 Alder St., Shadyside, begins with refreshments at 10:00 AM. Free and open to the public. Captioning and hearing loop are provided. HLAP.news@gmail.com 412 767 9769 (use caller ID and leave msg.). Our November 17th meeting will focus on hearing dogs and assistive dogs.

11.) Passle Helminski (PaRC Council Member):

Two pedestrians with impaired vision show us their challenges with roundabouts. <https://www.yourerie.com/news/local-news/two-pedestrians-with-impaired-vision-show-us-their-challenges-with-roundabouts/1520088250>

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