

## **PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)**

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### **WEEKLY UPDATE October 16, 2020**

\*If you no longer wish to receive this update, please contact Katie Haley at [mary.haley@ucpcentralpa.org](mailto: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 **October 16, 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](http://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 Calendar Year 2020 –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.

**November 18, 2020  
(virtual meeting)**

The agenda will be posted on the PaRC website approx. 2 weeks prior to the meeting.

[http://parac.org/council\\_mtgs.html](http://parac.org/council_mtgs.html)

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

**CareerLink/WIOA**

Next Call: To be Determined

**Executive Committee Conference Call**

Next Call: Wednesday October 21, 2020 at 10:00 AM

**Legislative and Public Awareness Conference Call**

Next Call: To be Determined

**OVR Policy and State Plan Committee / Customer Satisfaction Conference Call**

Next Call: To be Determined

**Social Media/Outreach Committee Conference Call**

Next Call: Wednesday November 4, 2020 at 10:00 AM

**Transition & Education**

Next Call: To be Determined

**Ad Hoc By Law Committee Conference Call**

Next Call: Tuesday October 20, 2020 at 10:00 AM

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](http://www.parac.org)) and fill out an application.

## **1.) Forwarded from Linda Williams**

### **HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

#### **PITTSBURGH CHAPTER**

#### **PUBLIC ZOOM MEETING Saturday OCTOBER 17, 2020**

The Hearing Loss Association of America Pittsburgh Chapter Oct 17 public meeting will be by zoom and begins at ten am and ends at noon. The October\_17 meeting will review online resources for auditory training for people with hearing loss. The primary goal of auditory training is to maximize a listener's ability to recognize speech using the auditory signal and to interpret auditory experiences. This presentation is developed by doctoral students at the University of Pittsburgh Auditory department and supervised by Dr Elaine Morner. Attendees will be able to access on their own specific auditory training computer and phone apps. Audience members will be encouraged to share their own experiences or resources related to auditory training. You are invited to send questions to [hlap.news@gmail.com](mailto:hlap.news@gmail.com).

Captioning will be provided for all parts of the meeting. During the meeting, please leave your microphone on mute unless called up. Questions should be directed to the chat box for the moderator Dr Suzanne Yoder.

Here is the address to join the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82823759371?pwd=cjMyUFdYWWNPMDRaYnF0ZDk5ZFE1Zz09> Meeting ID: 828 2375 9371  
Passcode: 227556 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82823759371?pwd=cjMyUFdYWWNPMDRaYnF0ZDk5ZFE1Zz09>

You can go to innocaptions (<https://chchearing.org/blog/zoom-captioning-innocaption-app/>) or Hamilton captel for instructions on using zoom captioning separate from our provision.

All our future meetings until further notice will be on Zoom.

## **2.) How to help people with learning disabilities cast their votes**

**Analysis by Zachary B. Wolf, CNN**

**October 11, 2020**

(CNN)There are a lot of Americans who find the act of voting difficult because of learning disabilities and their obstacles are getting new attention as awareness of these disabilities increases.

CNN talked to Quinn Bradley, who is a founder of the Our Time, Our Vote initiative at the National Center for Learning Disabilities. He is also the author of the memoir, "A Different Life: Growing Up Learning Disabled and Other Adventures," and "A Life's Work: Fathers and Sons," which he co-authored with his father, the late Washington Post executive editor Ben Bradley.

Our conversation, conducted via email, is below. To read more, go to: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/10/11/politics/learning-disabilities-vote-election-2020/index.html>

## **3.) People with disabilities fear that permanent outdoor dining will make inaccessible cities even worse**

**by Sam Bloch**

**10.12.2020**

Crowded sidewalks and streets make it harder for people in wheelchairs and mobility devices to get around, though some see a silver lining.

Edith Prentiss, a 68-year-old resident of New York City's Washington Heights neighborhood, has relied on a wheelchair for 28 years because of a badly injured right leg. She struggles to navigate many of the city's sidewalks, some of which are too narrow for her 23-inch motorized device or lack the corner slopes she needs to cross the road safely. To continue reading, go to:

<https://thecounter.org/people-with-disabilities-fear-that-permanent-outdoor-dining-will-make-inaccessible-cities-even-worse/>

#### **4.) Forwarded from Passle Helminski**

**A virtual festival allows for more people than ever to experience the magic of Superfest!**

In our final days before the festival, we will continue our look into Superfest with some details about Day 3, **Sunday, October 18th, with film screening from 2-3:30pm PT / 5-6:30pm ET and panels from 3:45-4:45pm PT / 6:45 - 7:45pm ET and 5-6pm PT / 8-9pm ET.**

From a young man's search for a good mariachi "Grito" for his communication device to a blind date gone wrong, these films will get you thinking about disability in new ways.

Following the screening, we'll have a panel discussion with three emerging filmmakers: the directors of *Stand Up*, *Wheelchair Wendy*, and *Single*, moderated by Netflix's *Crip Camp*'s James LeBrecht (co-directed with Nicole Newnham).

The second panel and final conversation of the weekend, will feature some of our Superfest Jurors (Karen Nakamura, Sara Acevedo, Alex Locust, and Katie Murphy) as they share their experiences from the jury room and hear your reactions to these films.

**For details about the full weekend line-up, visit: <http://www.superfestfilm.com/2020-films>**

Remember, all passes get you access to the whole weekend,

and free tickets are available for those unable to pay. Please secure your ticket now!

**Get Your Tickets Now**

## **5.) Pa. has variety of ways to help voters with disabilities cast their ballots**

**By Jaccii Farris**

**Oct 12, 2020**

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, Pa. - US Census figures say roughly 1.7 million Pennsylvanians have a disability. When it comes to voting that can make it difficult, if not impossible, to cast a ballot using traditional methods.

That is why the state has created a variety of ways to make voting accessible to everyone, starting with specialized voting machines. To continue reading, go to:

[https://www.wfmz.com/news/area/lehighvalley/pa-has-variety-of-ways-to-help-voters-with-disabilities-cast-their-ballots/article\\_c8118802-0cd4-11eb-b717-eb25eb4e791e.html](https://www.wfmz.com/news/area/lehighvalley/pa-has-variety-of-ways-to-help-voters-with-disabilities-cast-their-ballots/article_c8118802-0cd4-11eb-b717-eb25eb4e791e.html)

## **6.) Teen With Down Syndrome Is CEO Of Ice Cream Truck**

**by Michelle Matthews, Alabama Media Group/TNS October 13, 2020**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — At the 50th annual convention of the International Association of Ice Cream Distributors and Vendors last November, Hunter Norwood caused a stir as guest of honor. His suit could not have been more perfect for the occasion: a bright turquoise jacket and shorts, with a matching tie, covered in an ice cream print.

His mom, Michelle Norwood, found the “infamous ice cream suit” online for him to wear to Las Vegas for the convention, where the crowd went wild. “He was like Elvis,” she says. To read more, go to: <https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2020/10/13/teen-down-syndrome-ceo-ice-cream-truck/29032/>

## **7.) Young Inventor Turns Her Disability into ‘Superpower’ After Building Prosthetic Arm That Shoots Glitter**

**By McKinley Corbley**  
**Oct 14, 2020**

Jordan Reeves is just an ordinary 14-year-old girl who has inspired millions of people with her extraordinary “superpower.”

The young inventor from Columbia, Missouri was born with a left arm that stopped developing beyond the elbow. Although some people would look at her under-developed limb as just a disability, Jordan used her condition to launch her superhero alter ego. To continue reading, go to: <https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/girl-builds-unicorn-horn-prosthetic-that-shoots-glitter/>

## **8.) Students with disabilities are still facing obstacles in online classes**

**By Michael Sessa ASST. NEWS EDITOR**  
**October 15, 2020**

Halfway through the fall semester, some Syracuse University students with disabilities are still facing challenges taking online classes and accessing course accommodations.

While the coronavirus pandemic has created its own set of complications for students with disabilities, it has also brought to the foreground accessibility issues at SU that predate the health crisis, students said.



To read more, go to: <http://dailyorange.com/2020/10/students-disabilities-still-facing-obstacles-online-classes/>

## **9.) SSI, Social Security Benefits Will Increase In 2021**

**by Shaun Heasley  
October 14, 2020**

People with disabilities receiving Supplemental Security Income and other Social Security benefits will soon see their payments rise.

The Social Security Administration said this week that benefits will increase 1.3 percent in 2021. To continue reading, go to: <https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2020/10/14/ssi-social-security-benefits-will-increase-in-2021/29035/>

## **10) City of Philadelphia Launches “PHL Disability Access” to Gather Resident Feedback on Draft ADA Transition Plan**

**October 15, 2020**

**Published by: Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities, Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Contact: Lauren Cox [lauren.cox@phila.gov](mailto:lauren.cox@phila.gov)**

PHILADELPHIA — The City of Philadelphia today launched “PHL Disability Access,” a public feedback process to gather input from Philadelphia residents on the City’s **draft ADA Transition Plan**. The draft plan, also released today, focuses on Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which prohibits discrimination based on disability for state and local government services. A public comment period for the ADA Transition Plan will run October 15 – November 15, 2020. The City is committed to providing accessible programs, services, and facilities for people with disabilities.

To ensure access to all City services and programs, the City of Philadelphia first conducted a self-evaluation assessment in 2019. The self-evaluation, completed by Milligan & Company, LLC, was

conducted to determine gaps in ADA compliance—including an administrative review of City programs and services, as well as preliminary observations regarding policies and procedures. A physical assessment of 537 City sites and facilities including City Hall, libraries, Parks & Recreation locations, and other administrative buildings was completed to identify physical barriers to access. The accessibility of a facility during the self-evaluation process was determined based on ADA design guidelines.

The ADA Transition Plan was developed to guide the removal of barriers to accessibility throughout the City. Access issues generally fall into one of three categories:

- **Physical/architectural barriers to access** such as where a wheelchair ramp is needed or missing Braille signage.
- **Programmatic access** such as when an individual is unable to participate in a program, service, or activity due to a City policy or practice that does not provide an equally effective opportunity for people with disabilities.
- **Communication access** such as when there is a need for auxiliary aids and services like a sign language interpreter, Communication Access Real-Time Translation (CART), or materials in alternative formats in order to provide equal access to information and communication with programs, services or activities from the City government.

The draft plan includes potential corrective actions to remove physical barriers—like installing handrails and ramps, door adjustments, and compliant playground equipment. It also includes recommendations for updating the City’s website and adjusting procedures if needed to provide more accessibility. The **draft ADA Transition Plan** is available online for review.

Recognizing that the City has limited funds and cannot immediately make all programs and facilities fully accessible, ADA corrective actions were prioritized and categorized as Priority 1-4 (with Priority 1 being the least accessible). In addition to ADA priority, facilities were prioritized for equity based upon location in low-income and minority neighborhoods, as well as by cost. The self-evaluation assessment, which informed the ADA Transition Plan, focused primarily on departments under the

direct control of the mayor. It did not include the School District of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Housing Authority, Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority, SEPTA, independently elected offices, or public rights of way—except where noted in the report. The following independently elected offices did participate in the project: Office of the Philadelphia City Commissioners, Philadelphia City Council, and the Register of Wills.

PHL Disability Access will allow for a 30-day public review and comment period for the self-evaluation and draft ADA Transition Plan. Feedback will be accepted from Thursday, October 15, 2020 to Sunday, November 15, 2020. Residents can **review the draft plan online**, then complete a PHL Disability Access **feedback form** or leave their comments via voice message by dialing 215-686-2160.

Following the public review and comment period, the City will hold two PHL Disability Access virtual public meetings on November 17 and 19. Details, including login information, for the virtual public meetings, will be posted to the **Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities website**.

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