



Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council

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PaRC UPDATE: October 22, 2021

PaRC 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.

Celebrating 20 Years!

The Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP)

Following a 1999 recommendation from the Presidential Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities, in 2001 Congress established the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), a sub-cabinet level agency within the U.S. Department of Labor. This landmark occasion created, for the first time ever, a permanent entity to focus on disability within the context of federal labor policy.

Please join the members of the Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC) in celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP)! You may [follow the link provided](#) to learn more about The ODEP Story and their blog series that covers ODEP's commitment to Driving Change and Creating Opportunity, concerning the employment of people with disabilities.

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/odep/about/history/20-anniversary>

PaRC Committee Meeting Updates

All PaRC Committee meetings are open to the public. Agendas for each committee meeting will be available on the PaRC Facebook events page and website's [Committee page](#). Meeting minutes, agendas, and other appropriate information will be posted on the PaRC website when approved.

Committee meetings are conducted through Zoom. Anyone interested in attending may reach out to PaRC staff for more information. Attending a

committee meeting is a great opportunity to learn more about the work members do to fulfill the PaRC Mission, especially if you are considering applying for membership. Everyone is encouraged to attend!

Please note, the following Committee meeting dates:

- Executive Committee 10/26/21 from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM
- Social Media Committee 11/3/2021 from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM
- Social Media Committee 12/1/2021 from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM
- CareerLink/WIOA Committee 1/11/22 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

New PaRC Website Coming Soon

We anticipate going live in early December 2021!

Upcoming PaRC Full Council Meetings

Due to uncertainty surrounding the pandemic, PaRC team members will continue to meet virtually for the upcoming **November 16th, 2021 Full Council Meeting via ZOOM from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM**. Please contact the PaRC Office to register.

PaRC Full Council meetings are held quarterly. The Public is welcome to attend. Agendas and minutes of all Full Council meetings are posted on http://parac.org/council_mtgs.html

Pennsylvania State Board of Rehabilitation

The Pennsylvania State Board of Rehabilitation meets quarterly to hear reports from directors of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) as well as the Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC), the Client Assistance Program (CAP), and the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC).

These meetings are chaired by the Secretary of Labor and Industry. The next State Board meeting will be held on **Thursday, December 2, 2021**. The public is welcome to attend all meetings. For details, please email Cheryl Novak at chenovak@pa.gov.

2022 PaRC and State Board meeting dates

(double click icon to add dates to your calendar)

****Location of 2022 PaRC meetings to be determined***

PaRC	State Board
<p>Wednesday, February 23, 2022 Harrisburg</p>  <p>2-23-2022 PaRC Full Council Meeting.ics</p>	<p>Thursday, March 3, 2022 Harrisburg</p>  <p>3-3-2022 State Board Meeting.ics</p>
<p>Wednesday, May 18, 2022 Harrisburg</p>  <p>5-18-2022 PaRC Full Council Meeting.ics</p>	<p>Thursday, June 2, 2022 State College</p>  <p>6-2-2022 State Board Meeting.ics</p>
<p>Wednesday, August 3, 2022 Harrisburg</p>  <p>8-3-2022 PaRC Full Council Meeting.ics</p>	<p>Thursday, September 8, 2022 Pittsburgh</p>  <p>9-8-2022 State Board Meeting.ics</p>
<p>Wednesday, October 19, 2022 Harrisburg</p>  <p>10-19-2022 PaRC Full Council Meeting.i</p>	<p>Thursday, December 1, 2022 Harrisburg</p>  <p>12-1-2022 State Board Meeting.ics</p>

PaRC members are currently working on their 2020-2021 Annual Report and will be excited to share their newly designed report in December. In the meantime, the 2019-2020 Annual Report can be found on our webpage or by clicking on the following link:
<http://parac.org/reports/2020AnnualReport.pdf>

***** PaRC Calendar Year 2021 – Please Mark your Calendars *****

Citizen Advisory Council

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.

The PaRC Social Media and Outreach Committee in partnership with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) produced videos of OVR individual and business success stories. 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 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 MEMBER OPENINGS: The PaRC is accepting applications for candidates to fill the following categories of representation that are currently open:

- State Workforce Development Board
- Young Adult

As of July 2022, the categories of representation listed below will also be available. PaRC encourages all applicants to apply as early as possible to ensure a timely transition of membership:

- Business/Industry/Labor
- Cognitive Disabilities
- Intellectual Disabilities
- IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)
- Rehabilitation Counselor

If you are interested or know of someone who is interested in becoming a member of the PA Rehabilitation Council, please go to our website (www.parac.org) and fill out an application.

NEWS, RESOURCES, AND EVENTS OF INTEREST:

1.) Today is Day Number 22 of the 31 Days of NDEAM

During National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), the Office of Disability Employment Policy has resources and daily initiatives listed for employers and others to access.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/odep/initiatives/ndeam/ideas/day-22>

2.) ODEP at 20: Driving Change and Creating Opportunity

The “Driving Change, Creating Opportunity” blog series shares more about ODEP’s main areas of focus for the past 20 years. More than 15 new articles have been added during this 2021 celebration blog series.

You may click the links provided for more information.

https://blog.dol.gov/2021/01/28/odep-at-20-driving-change-and-creating-opportunity?_ga=2.14542961.71403032.1634847076-1862988407.1633547944

3.) First 100 Days Accomplishments

Review history in the making and the work ODEP has continued to do during their 20th Anniversary celebration throughout 2021.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/odep/about/history/2021>

4.) nTIDE September 2021 Jobs Report: Job numbers surpass pre-Pandemic levels for people with disabilities

National Trends in Disability Employment (nTIDE) – issued semi-monthly by Kessler Foundation and the University of New Hampshire.

You may click the links provided for more information.

<https://kesslerfoundation.org/press-release/ntide-september-2021-jobs-report-surpass-pre-pandemic-levels>

5.) NDEAM; National Disability Employment Awareness Month 2021

NDEAM is held each October to commemorate the many and varied contributions of people with disabilities to America's workplaces and economy. Browse their website for ideas and resources for employers, community organizations, state and local governments, advocacy groups and schools to participate in celebrating NDEAM through events and activities centered around the theme of "America's Recovery: Powered by Inclusion."

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/odep/initiatives/ndeam>

The ADA and ODEP

Through its Job Accommodation Network (JAN), ODEP provides extensive technical assistance on the reasonable accommodations provision of the ADA. Covered employers are required to provide "reasonable accommodations" to qualified job applicants and employees with disabilities.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/odep/initiatives/ada>

6.) 'We're beginning to see the collapse of the system': agencies that serve people with disabilities call for more funds to pay staff

As the economy continues to reemerge from the pandemic, many employers say they are having a hard time hiring enough workers for all their open positions. But one sector was already facing major staffing shortages prior to the coronavirus – providers for home and community-based services for people with disabilities.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://www.wesa.fm/politics-government/2021-10-07/were-beginning-to-see-the-collapse-of-the-system-agencies-that-serve-people-with-disabilities-call-for-more-funds-to-pay-staff>

***If you no longer wish to receive this update, please contact Chris Todd at Christopher.Todd@parehabilitationcouncil.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 22, 2021**, all links have been verified. Please credit the PaRC Support Project for any information forwarded to others. Thank You.

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