



# Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council

**Mailing Address:** 55 Utley Drive Camp Hill, PA 17011

**Phone:** (717) 975-2004 or (888) 250-5175

**Fax:** (888) 524-9282

**TTY:** (717) 737-0158

**Email:** [parc@parehabilitationcouncil.org](mailto:parc@parehabilitationcouncil.org)

**Web:** [www.parac.org](http://www.parac.org)

## **WEEKLY UPDATE: October 8, 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.*

### **PaRC Committee Meeting Updates**

All PaRC Committee meetings are open to the public and are in full compliance of the Sunshine Act. Public Notice of the committee meetings are placed in the Patriot News and the PaRC Facebook Event Page. Agendas for each committee meeting will be available on the PaRC 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:

- CareerLink Committee 10/12/2021 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM
- Legislative Committee 10/19/2021 from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM
- 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

### **New PaRC Website Coming Soon**

We anticipate going live in early December 2021!

## Upcoming PaRC Full Council Meetings

Due to the rise in COVID-19 cases and great uncertainty surrounding the pandemic, PaRC team members will continue to meet virtually for the upcoming **November 16<sup>th</sup>, 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](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](mailto: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
Wednesday, February 23, 2022 Harrisburg  2-23-2022 PaRC Full Council Meeting.ics	Thursday, March 3, 2022 Harrisburg  3-3-2022 State Board Meeting.ics

<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>

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

## **NEWS, RESOURCES, AND EVENTS OF INTEREST:**

### **1.) ACL Awards Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Employment Practices**

During National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) ACL's National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) is announcing it has awarded a Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) project grant in the amount of \$875,000 every year for five years (September 1, 2021 - August, 31 2026) to Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. The objective of the Disability Employer

Practices RRTC is to produce new scientifically rigorous, and scalable, data and evidence to meaningfully increase the employment of persons with disabilities.

[Bender Consulting Services](#), one of Pennsylvania's most prominent disability employment organizations was chosen to be involved with this project.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/acl-awards-rehabilitation-research-and-training-center-employment>

## **2.) A Tribute to Former PaRC Member, Mary Brougher, by Bender Consulting Services, Inc.**

Following the passing of Bender Consulting Services President, [Mary Brougher](#), Joyce Bender, Founder and CEO, has joined forces with former Member of Congress, Tony Coelho, the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), to expand Bender's decades of service in honor of Mary's lifelong work to engage corporations in the fight for disability rights.

You may click the links provided for more information.

<https://benderconsult.com/capabilities/products-services/retained-search/#bender-coelho-leadership-initiative>

<https://benderconsult.com/about-us/starting-a-crusade/#mary-brougher>

## **3.) WISE Webinar; Debunking the 3 Biggest Myths about Disability Benefits and Work**

*Wednesday, 10/27/2021 from 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Eastern*

Please join the Work Incentive Seminar Event (WISE) webinar!

Get the facts about Social Security disability benefits and work! We're debunking myths and sharing important information to help you as you make the decision that work may be right for you, to look for a job, and successfully transition to work.

Join the webinar to find answers to questions like:

- Where can I learn more about how working and earning income will affect my Social Security disability benefits?

- What types of services and job supports are available to help me transition to the workplace and work towards my career goals?
- How can I connect with a Ticket Program service provider?

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ask-me-anything-about-employment-disclosure-and-accommodations-tickets-158114136639>

#### **4.) Disability Employment TA Center Webinar; Celebrating National Disability Employment Awareness Month by Reflecting Upon the Importance of Including and Supporting Individuals with Disabilities in America's Workforce**

*October 12, 2021 at 03:00 PM Eastern Time*

This webinar will highlight the contributions of individuals with disabilities by demonstrating how a Center for Independent Living in a rural area and Council on Developmental Disabilities has paved the way to advance competitive, integrated employment (CIE) for people with disabilities.

You may click the links provided for more information.

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_IuDNP21GS3eKeCJD9UtW9Q?j=1190362&sfmc\\_sub=6954352&l=6707\\_HTML&u=26376823&mid=515008575&jb=0](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IuDNP21GS3eKeCJD9UtW9Q?j=1190362&sfmc_sub=6954352&l=6707_HTML&u=26376823&mid=515008575&jb=0)

<https://aoddisabilityemploymenttcenter.com/>

#### **5.) 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>

## **US Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh and Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disability Employment Policy Taryn Williams celebrate NDEAM**

*Wednesday, October 20, 2021 from 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM EDT*

This exciting event will feature insightful dialogues and a video showcase highlighting strategies in action for an equitable disability inclusive recovery.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/celebrate-national-disability-employment-awareness-month-2021-tickets-186087802627?aff=ebsdoporgprofile>

### **6.) PA Work Incentive Planning and Assistance – Certified Work Incentive Coordinators Directory for Benefits Counseling**

Attached, please find the updated PA Work Incentive Planning and Assistance (WIPA) – Certified Work Incentive Coordinators Directory for Benefits Counseling. The PDF includes instructions on how to make a referral for benefits counseling.



PA WIPA  
Providers.pdf

Additional information and alternate format of the attachment may be obtained by contacting Edward M. Butler, OLTL Employment Specialist at [edbutler@pa.gov](mailto:edbutler@pa.gov) or by calling 717-214-3718.

**Social Security's Ticket to Work Program** supports career development for Social Security disability beneficiaries age 18 through 64 who want to work. The Ticket Program is free and voluntary. The Ticket Program helps people with disabilities progress toward financial independence.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://choosework.ssa.gov/index.html>

**\*If you no longer wish to receive this update, please contact Chris Todd at [Christopher.Todd@parehabilitationcouncil.org](mailto: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 8, 2021**, all links have been verified. Please credit the PaRC Support Project for any information forwarded to others. Thank You.

**PLEASE LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!** 