

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

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WEEKLY UPDATE: November 3, 2017

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 **November 3, 2017**, 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 2016 Annual Report and can be accessed by clicking on the following link. <http://www.parac.org/reports/> and a link to the PDF <http://www.parac.org/reports/2016AnnualReport.pdf>. You can also find the PaRC 2016 Annual Report on our webpage.

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.

March 7, 2018
May 2, 2018
August 22, 2018
October 24, 2018

PaRC Committee Conference Calls – Please Mark your Calendars

CAC / Executive Committee Conference Call

Next Call: To be Determined

CareerLink/WIOA

Next Call: Monday, December 18, 2017 at 10:00 AM

Executive Committee Conference Call

Next Call: – Tentative Monday, November 27, 2017 at 2:00 AM

Legislative and Public Awareness Conference Call

Next Call: To be Determined

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

Next Call: Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at 10:00 AM

Social Media/Outreach Committee Conference Call

Next Call: Friday, November 10, 2017 at 10:00 AM

Transition & Education

Next Call: – Thursday, February 2, 2018 at 2:00 PM

1.) Washington Post:

Education Department Rescinds Documents on Rights of Students with Disabilities Report: (The following is an excerpt) -- The Education Department has rescinded 72 documents that laid out the rights of students with disabilities, [The Washington Post reported Saturday](#). The department has pulled the guidance as part of the Trump administration's attempts to repeal regulations officials believe to be unnecessary. The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services revealed in a newsletter Friday that the documents had been rescinded "due to being outdated, unnecessary, or ineffective," according to the Post. The rescinded documents include information on how schools can spend federal funds allocated for special

education, as well as guidance for parents on advocating for their children. The Education Department has been examining its regulations as part of an administration-wide push to roll back any rules that are considered superfluous.

2.) Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement of the Deaf:

[How Will Trump's Health Care Executive Order Affect Disabled People? Activists Are Speaking Out About The Potential Impact](#)

[Congress wants to make Americans with disabilities second-class citizens again](#)

3.) PADES Conference:

HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT PADES 2017! Download the flyer below and share it with employers, students, and individuals seeking employment! [Download Flyer Here.](#)

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

There's More to Young Adult Unemployment Than Mental Health:

What Else to Look For -- The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Learning and Working During the Transition to Adulthood \(Transitions RTC\)](#) has published a research brief, [There's More to Young Adult Unemployment Than Mental Health: What Else to Look For](#). The brief examines the high unemployment rates for young people with mental health conditions and investigates other barriers to employment besides disability. These barriers can include gender, race, education level, and community factors. This project is also supported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Employment Researchers Featured on NHPR -- Andrew Houtenville, PhD, and John O'Neill, PhD, from the NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Statistics and Demographics \(StatsRRTC\)](#) were featured guests for [Employing an underutilized workforce: Granite Staters with disabilities](#) on [The Exchange on New Hampshire Public Radio \(NHPR\)](#). Drs. Houtenville and O'Neill discussed employment trends for people with disabilities in the US and recent research on employer perspectives on hiring people with disabilities.

2017 Study on the Cost of Workplace Accommodations -- The [Office of Disability Employment Policy \(ODEP\) Job Accommodation Network \(JAN\)](#) has released the 2017 update to its annual study of [Workplace Accommodations: Low Cost, High Impact](#). The research, which has been conducted annually since 2004, found that the majority of workplace accommodations (59%)

cost nothing. Those accommodations which do involve cost are typically small expenditures which pay for themselves in reduced insurance and training costs, as well as increased productivity and morale.

5.) ABLE National Resource Center:

WEBINAR: Medicaid and ABLE: A Look at the Recently Released CMS Guidance -- Thursday, November 9, 2017 – 2:00 - 3:30 PM ET -- [REGISTER NOW](#).

Annual Contributions to ABLE Accounts Increased to \$15,000 in 2018

-- The ABLE National Resource Center is pleased to share that the total annual contribution limit to an ABLE account will be increased from \$14,000 per tax year to \$15,000 per tax year beginning in 2018. For more information about ABLE accounts, please visit the ABLE National Resource Center at www.ablenrc.org.

6.) Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers' Association:

Be aware of changes when enrolling in ACA for medical insurance coverage or renewing current coverage. Enrollment period is November 1 through December 15, 2017 for medical coverage starting January 1, 2018. This year there is a shorter open enrollment period to enroll in or renew ACA medical coverage. The Healthcare.gov website will not be available from midnight to noon on Sundays, with the exception of December 10, during the open enrollment period. For free assistance with applications or related questions, you can call 1-855-274-5626 (press 2 for Western PA, 3 for Central, 4 for Eastern Pennsylvania). If you are uncertain about which navigator to choose, any of us can help you. There is no fee to you for any service provided by the Navigators. Language interpreters are available. Or email the navigator in your part of the state:

Western Region Navigators. Email: westernPAnav@mhawc.org

Central Region Navigators. Email: centralPAnav@pmhca.org

Eastern Region Navigators. Email: easternPAnav@theadvocacyalliance.org.

7.) Linda Williams (PaRC Support Staff):

New PA SILC Employment Opportunity: Job Announcement –

Pennsylvania Statewide Independent Living Council -- Title: Public Policy and Outreach Coordinator -- Location: Camp Hill, Pennsylvania -- Salary:

Commensurate with experience. Excellent benefits. GENERAL

DESCRIPTION: The Public Policy and Outreach Coordinator is responsible for the overall coordination of the issue initiatives as outlined in the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) including performing the essential functions required to support the external committees of the PA SILC.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- High school diploma/GED required.

- Advanced degree or equivalent experience preferred.
- Familiarity with the Independent Living philosophy required.
- Experience working with people with disabilities required.
- Systems change and public policy experience required.
- Familiarity with MS Office applications and various social media platforms
- Familiarity with the legislative budget process
- Exceptional communications and organizational skills necessary.
- Demonstrated writing skills required.
- Ability to work with people from all walks of life in a non-judgmental manner.
- Personal experience with a disability preferred.
- Availability for work related travel.

TO APPLY: Please submit cover letter and resume. Position open until filled. Submit by mail: Pennsylvania Statewide Independent Living Council -- Re: Public Policy and Outreach Coordinator -- 207 House Avenue Suite 107, Camp Hill, PA 17011

New Vitae Wellness Foundation Hosts Complimentary Training, "Recovering from Military Trauma," on Nov. 13 in Allentown, Pa. -- Veterans, family members, and advocates invited to free program at Lehigh Valley Health Network Cedar Crest Auditorium-- Nov. 13, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The presentation will address treatment and support for veterans, emphasizing the recovery process after military service trauma. Seating is limited. [Click here to learn more](#) or call New Vitae Wellness Foundation at 610-928-0173.

The PaRC is looking for candidates to fill 1 opening for category Business/Industry and a veteran with a disability. Any interested candidates, please go to our website at www.parac.org and fill out an application. Thank You.

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