

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

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WEEKLY UPDATE: November 17, 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 17, 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 Member Committee Conference Calls – Please Mark your Calendars

CAC / Executive Committee Conference Call

Next Call: Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 10:00 AM

CareerLink/WIOA

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

Executive Committee Conference Call

Next Call: – 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, December 5, 2017 at 10:00 AM

Social Media/Outreach Committee Conference Call

Next Call: To be Determined.

Transition & Education

Next Call: – Thursday, February 1, 2018 at 2:00 PM

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

The Hearing Loss Association of America, Pittsburgh Chapter Nov 18 2017 Sat meeting will feature Dr. Benjamin Boss Au.D. CCC-A speaking about cochlear implants. Light refreshments are available at 10:00 AM and the meeting starts at 10:30 AM. The meetings are free and everyone is welcomed. All meetings are captioned and the meeting room is equipped with an infrared surround sound amplification system and hearing loop. Contact Teresa Nellans, hlap.news@gmail.com or 412-767-9769, caller ID required, with requests for additional accommodations.

2.) Disabled-World.com:

[Genetic Treatment for Blindness May Soon Be Possible](#) - Quote:

"Treatment doesn't restore normal vision. It does, however, allow patients to see shapes and light, allowing them to get around without a cane or a guide dog." Study shows first-of-its-kind gene therapy can restore vision to people with an inherited retinal disorder.

[Eazyhold Grip Aid for People with Hand Function Problems](#) - At last, a simple hygienic way for people with hand problems to hold eating utensils, cups, writing implements, sports equipment and toys. EazyHold has received its patent for the first silicone grip aids. Designed for use at home, hospitals and schools, it's one of the simplest ways to solve the universal problem of poor hand function and difficulty holding things. Finally, people with limited grip or no grip will have the ability to hold and use daily life objects such as eating utensils, pens, toothbrushes, music instruments, comfortably and hygienically.

[wheelAIR Cooling Backrest Cushion Poised to Revolutionise Mobility Industry](#)

- The wheelAIR cooling backrest cushion was designed by CEO of Staels Design and MSc Graduate from the University of Glasgow, Corien Staels. It became apparent to Staels that overheating was not a problem just for those with a spinal cord injury, but for the majority of those in wheelchairs. The patent pending wheelAIR has been carefully designed with the input of Paralympic athletes as well as wheelchair producers. Using inbuilt fan technology, it not only cools the back, but reduces the user's core temperature by taking away excess heat and moisture. This allows for instant comfort and better temperature control. The cushion also offers extra support through a unique blend of carefully selected foams.

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

High Parental Expectations and Early Supports May Improve

Employment Prospects for Youth with Deaf-Blindness -- This week's [Research In Focus](#) looks at the impact of experience and expectations for young job seekers who are deaf-blind.

Webinar: Transitioning from High School to Post-Secondary

Education -- The NIDILRR-funded [Northeast ADA Regional Center](#) will host a webinar, [Transitioning from High School to Post-Secondary Education](#), November 29th, 1-2pm, ET. As students move from high school to college, their educational rights and responsibilities also transition from the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Presenters will discuss what students

should know to navigate this transitional period and adjust to the post-secondary environment. Registration is free and required.

4.) Mathematica Policy Research:

A Framework for Achieving Competitive Integrated Employment: Findings from the SourceAmerica Pathways to Careers Evaluation – **Live Webinar - Tuesday, December 5, 1:00–2:30 p.m. (EST)**. On December 5, 2017, from 1:00–2:30 p.m. (EST), Mathematica’s Center for Studying Disability Policy will host a live webinar featuring a panel of experts who will discuss how Pathways promotes competitive integrated employment, give an employer’s perspective on partnering with Pathways and hiring its participants, present interim evaluation outcomes, and report on SourceAmerica’s plans to expand the customized employment service model. [Still time to register for the webinar.](#)

5.) American Association of People with Disabilities:

[December nTIDE Lunch & Learn Webinar](#) -- On the first Friday of every month, corresponding with the Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs report, the new National Trends in Disability Employment (or nTIDE) Lunch & Learn series will offer a live broadcast to share the results of the latest nTIDE findings as well as news and updates from the field of disability employment.

[Rising Leaders Mentoring Program](#) -- The Rising Leaders Mentoring Program is a six-month career mentoring opportunity that connects college students and recent graduates with disabilities to business professionals from US Business Leadership Network (USBLN) partner companies. **The deadline to apply is December 18, 2017.**

[ACLU Summer Advocacy Institute](#) -- The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Summer Advocacy Institute will bring together a diverse group of students entering their junior and senior years of high school from across the United States to participate in an advanced, firsthand learning experience for the next generation of social justice advocates. **Applications are due by January 19, 2018.**

["Stoplights Don't Stop Us!"](#) -- In this video, people with disabilities discuss how they successfully advocated for change in their community. They received support from the Resource Center for Independent Living as part of a research project conducted by the University of Kansas Research & Training Center on Independent Living. For more information on the project and a copy of "Your Action Planning Guide for Promoting Full Community Participation Among People with Disabilities," visit <http://rtcil.org/cl/projects/r11>.

[Report on Disability-Related Air Travel Complaints Received in 2016](#)

-- The 36 U.S. carriers that submitted data for the 2016 calendar year reported receiving 27,843 disability-related air travel complaints, and the 148 foreign air carriers reported receiving 4,602 complaints during the same time period, for a total of 32,445 complaints received by these 184 carriers.

[Inclusion@Work: A Framework for Building a Disability-Inclusive Organization](#)

-- This new resource from the Employer Assistance and Resource Network on Disability Inclusion (EARN) outlines seven core components of a disability-inclusive workplace along with a menu of strategies for achieving them.

[Resources for Parents on Vouchers, ESAs, and Tax Incentives](#) -- The National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD) created new resources to help parents and policymakers learn about school voucher programs, education savings accounts (ESAs), and tax incentives. Find out what they are, how they impact a child's rights, hidden costs, and important questions for parents to ask.

[Brief Coaching Can Help Youth Receiving Wraparound Services Become More Engaged in Their Treatment Planning](#)

-- A brief self-advocacy coaching program can increase youth's active involvement and leadership in planning their own mental health treatment. This can improve their sense of alliance with clinicians, allowing them to take charge of their own lives while also bonding with caring adults.

[Why disability rights are central to social justice work—and what we're doing about it](#)

-- The Ford Foundation explains their commitment to include people with disabilities in their efforts to challenge inequality. As such, the Foundation has awarded grants to a number of disability rights organizations, including AAPD.

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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