

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

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WEEKLY UPDATE November 27, 2020

We are social and want to connect with you! That's right, please visit the PaRC Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Pennsylvania-Rehabilitation-Council-1587882184858917> and like us! This is where you can find the latest happenings with the PaRC events, meetings, latest news, and info about OVR, legislation, and information regarding employment for people with disabilities. See you there!

*If you no longer wish to receive this update, please contact Katie Haley at 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 **November 27, 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 and click on the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) link to find dates, locations, times, agendas and minutes, etc. for information on your CAC.

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.

***** 2021 Full Council Meeting Dates *****

February 17, 2021

May 12, 2021

August 4, 2021

November 17, 2021

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: To be Determined

Legislative and Public Awareness Conference Call

Next Call: To be Determined

OVR Policy and State Plan Committee / Customer Satisfaction Conference Call

To be Determined

Social Media/Outreach Committee Conference Call

Wednesday December 2, 2020 at 9:20 AM

Transition & Education

Next Call: To be Determined

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 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) and fill out an application.

1.) Forwarded from Linda Williams

Learn about the PA ABLE Savings Program!

Free webinar for individuals with disabilities, families, and professionals.

A PA ABLE Savings Program account gives individuals with qualified disabilities (Eligible Individuals), and their families and friends a tax-free way to save for a wide range of disability-related expenses while maintaining government benefits. The state and federal tax-free investment options are offered to encourage Eligible Individuals and their families to save private funds to support health, independence, and quality of life.

To help you learn about the important features and benefits of PA ABLE, the Pennsylvania Treasury Department is hosting free webinars.

Some of the topics that we will discuss include eligibility requirements for opening a PA ABLE account, the federal and state tax benefits of PA ABLE, and how PA ABLE account interacts with current benefits.

- **Wednesday, December 2, 2020 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM**
- **Tuesday, January 19, 2021 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM**

Employers and HR professionals can participate in an overview webinar about the PA ABLE program, learning:

- What PA ABLE is
- Who is eligible
- How employees use accounts
- How to set up payroll deduction

Offer PA ABLE Savings Program to Your Employees For FREE:

- **Wednesday, December 9, 2020** [10:00 AM - 10:30 AM](#)

2.) Vision Resources of Central Pa. helps those who are blind, visually impaired

By Deb Kiner | dkiner@pennlive.com

November 23, 2020

Vision Resources of Central Pennsylvania provides services to people who are blind or visually impaired.

Vision Resources serves clients in Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin and Perry counties. It is an agency of United Way of the Capital Region.

The agency, according to Executive Director Danette Blank, provides a wide range of resources for people who are blind and visually impaired including transportation to doctor appointments and to do grocery shopping; provide training on cell phones, computers and other adaptive equipment; helps people with low vision maximize the use of what vision they do have in order to function more effectively; provided an on-site store to provided low-vision items; hold an eye clinic to provide free eye exams and glasses to people who meet the financial eligibility guidelines; provide free vision screenings for children ages 2-5; and provided weeklong camps for children in grades 4-12 who are blind or visually impaired. To read more, go to:

<https://www.pennlive.com/life/2020/11/vision-resources-of-central-pa-helps-those-who-are-blind-visually-impaired.html>

3.) Autism Resulted In His Rights Being Stripped Away. He Just Won Them Back

by Carli Teproff, The Miami Herald/TNS |

November 20, 2020

MIAMI — Tyler Borjas will now be able to vote, buy a house or travel when he wants.

That is because a judge agreed earlier this month that Borjas, 25, who was diagnosed with autism as a child, is capable of making his own decisions.

“(It) was amazing,” Borjas said of the virtual hearing. “It’s all about me getting my rights back.” To continue reading, go to: <https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2020/11/20/autism-rights-stripped-he-just-won-them-back/29092/>

4.) ‘Run’ Star Kiera Allen Makes History For Disability Representation **BY STEFANIA SARRUBBA** **November 23, 2020**

Promising newcomer Kiera Allen, who is in a wheelchair in real life, has joined co-star Sarah Paulson, co-writer and director Aneesh Chaganty, and co-producer Natalie Qasabian for a chat about the movie.

The film stars Paulson and Allen as a housebound mother-daughter duo, giving off Misery vibes. After terrifying fans on Ryan Murphy’s Netflix show, *Ratched*, Paulson plays an overprotecting mother on *Run*. But her character Diane is keeping a dark, sinister secret from her teenage disabled, home-schooled daughter Chloe, played by Allen. To read more, go to: <https://www.thethings.com/run-star-kiera-allen-makes-history-for-disability-representation/>

5.) Making a home accessible after a severe injury can be overwhelming — but it does not have to be. Here is one mom’s advice. **By ALISON BOWEN CHICAGO TRIBUNE** **NOV 25, 2020**

When Laura Sickel Baumann got the phone call in 2018, she first knew she needed to get her son back to Chicago.

He had been injured in an accident in New Orleans. She eventually arranged a flight back to Chicago, where after surgery, he was taken directly to Shirley Ryan AbilityLab to begin rehabilitation. It was the first of many logistical puzzles in caring

for her adult son, who suffered a spinal cord injury. Where would he live? How do they get a wheelchair? And how would he wheel it into their Evanston house? When he was finally home, how could they make their house's interior meet his new needs? To continue reading, go to: <https://www.chicagotribune.com/real-estate/ct-re-rehab-home-handicap-needs-resources-accessibility-20201125-rvkfqdr2vfeopoa6d5d4zbieeu-story.html>

6.) Forwarded from Linda Williams



(Picture of Eagle saying Liberty and Justice PA SILC)

Promote Independence for People with Disabilities of all ages on Giving Tuesday!

#GIVING
TUESDAY™



(SILC staff and Board members)

Seasons' Greetings as we move into the 2020 Holiday Season! Pennsylvania Statewide Independent Living Council (PA SILC) is grateful to

our community partners and individual supporters across PA like you.

Through 2020, the PA SILC has continued:

- Performing Systems Advocacy to increase public funding and address accessibility barriers for cross disability issues
- Supporting the 16 Centers for Independent Living (CILs) in Pennsylvania
- Providing disability information and guidance to Pennsylvanians as requested

But unfortunately, we cannot do this alone and need your help.

A contribution from you on Tuesday, December 1st, **Giving Tuesday (or any day) allows us to continue our mission of promoting independence for all people with disabilities, even when public funding is reduced or delayed.**



(SILC staff and Board members)



(SILC staff and Board members)

MAKE A DONATION NOW

The PA SILC staff, and board thank you in advance for your generosity.

For All In Independence and Solidarity,
Matthew Seeley, *Esquire*, Executive Director

Happy Thanksgiving



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