

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

Office Location / Mailing Address: 55 Utley Drive, Camp Hill, PA 17011

Voice: (717) 975-2004 or (888) 250-5175 tty: (717) 737-0158 fax: (888) 524-9282

Email: racucpa@parac.org www. Parac.org

WEEKLY UPDATE: November 30, 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 30, 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: – To be Determined.

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 Medial/Outreach Committee Conference Call

Next Call: To be Determined.

Transition & Education

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

1.) Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE):

Save The Date! **Everyday Lives Conference 2018 – Values in Action – January 9-11, 2018** – Hershey Lodge, 325 University Drive, Hershey, PA 17033. Click on the following link for information / registration.

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/faebca076a8579bed7f9db812/files/c4d389ae-874a-4d5a-8904-7d130299b97b/EDL_Conference2018_Save_the_date.pdf

Here is a link to a great new resource: (The following is an excerpt) --
The Wolf Administration launched the Pennsylvania Link to Community Care website, which connects older Pennsylvanians and individuals with a

disability or behavioral health need to services and supports available in their community. The site features 12 service and support categories: Advocacy, Behavioral Health, Employment, Finance, Health Care, housing, In-Home Services, Legal, Meals, Protection from Abuse, Support Groups, and Transportation. To access the Pennsylvania Link to Community Care website, visit www.carelink.pa.gov.

2.) Disabled-World.com:

[Nonprofit Disability Solutions Connects Jobseekers with Top Companies](#) – *(The following is an excerpt)* -- One year ago Disability Solutions launched its own online Career Center. Today, more than 300,000 people with disabilities nationwide, including veterans, visit the site every month to find a career that is the perfect fit for their skills. *Quote: "Our ultimate mission is to change employers' minds about the talent value of our community and to change the lives of people with disabilities who find careers with outstanding companies."* Founded in 2012, Disability Solutions is the national non-profit consulting division of Ability Beyond in Bethel, Connecticut and Chappaqua, N.Y. Disability Solutions focuses on helping corporations tap new channels for qualified talent, manage culture change, respond to a changing regulatory environment, and strengthen their workforce through diversity. To learn more visit: disabilitysolutionsatwork.org or for more information about the Career Center, please visit disabilitysolutionstalent.org

Getting a Job with a Disability - Infographic with Transcript

Quote: "The employment rate of adults with a long-standing health problem or activity difficulty (LHPAD) is 38.1%, almost 30% lower than that for adults with no such limitations." In an already competitive jobs market, it can be quite difficult for people with disabilities to secure employment, even with legislation barring employers from discrimination on grounds of disability. This infographic contains useful job-seeking advice for people with disabilities, who have plenty of expertise and knowledge to bring to any vacancies for which they apply.

3.) Institute Community Inclusion (ICI):

The ICI implemented the [SGA Model Demonstration](#) rigorously testing a rapid engagement coordinated team approach in Kentucky and Minnesota to improve wage outcomes of vocational rehabilitation customers who received SSDI benefits. Read the [Mathematica Policy Research evaluation reports](#) and watch this [video](#) for a first person account.

The Family Engagement in Online Employment Planning Intervention is looking for parents of a student with an intellectual and/or developmental disability to participate in a study to see how Facebook Messenger might be

used as an effective tool to coach families on planning for employment. This study uses Facebook Messenger, as well as [The Arc's Build Your Plan tool](#), to see how a well-planned and individualized engagement strategy might improve families' beliefs about employment for their family member with IDD.

4.) American Federation of the Blind:

[2018 Scholarship Program Applications Open](#) -- **November 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018** -- To recognize achievement by blind scholars, the National Federation of the Blind annually offers blind college students in the United States and Puerto Rico the opportunity to win one of thirty merit-based, national-level scholarships worth from \$3,000 to \$12,000. More information and how to apply is available on the [National Federation of the Blind 2018 Scholarship Program](#) page.

[Your Child Can Receive a Braille Letter from Santa](#) -- Santa Claus has made the staff at the National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute honorary elves. He has asked us to help him send letters in Braille to blind children under the age of ten. Please fill out the [form](#) by December 15, 2017 and we'll make sure Santa gets a letter out to your child. You will receive a reply from the North Pole in print and contracted Braille.

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

Webinar: -- Assistance Animal Survey -- The NIDILRR-funded [Southwest ADA Regional Center](#) is conducting a [survey to learn more about the use of service animals and other assistance animals by people with disabilities in public settings](#). The survey is open to US residents 18 and over who use a service animal and parents of a child with a disability who uses a service animal. The information gathered will be used by researchers to understand what access issues people may experience with their animals, as well as to develop and improve the information, support, and guidance needed for the community to improve access for assistance animal teams. These findings will also be used to improve the training and technical assistance that the Southwest ADA Regional Center provides to the public on this topic. All personal data collected in the survey will be kept anonymous and confidential. For questions or additional information, contact Marisa Demaya at mdemaya@bcm.edu.

ADA Live! ABLER Accounts: Answers to Your Questions -- The NIDILRR-funded [Southwest ADA Regional Center](#) will host [ABLER Accounts: Answers to Your Questions](#), Episode 51 of the ADA Live! webcast series, December 6th, 1-1:30pm ET. Presenters will introduce ABLER Accounts and answer listener questions about these accounts, which offer a way for individuals with

disabilities and their families to save money without jeopardizing their benefits such as SSI and Medicaid. No registration is required and listeners may submit questions in advance.

6.) LEAD Center:

[WISE WEBINAR: Debunking the Three Biggest Myths about Disability Benefits and Work](#) -- December 12, 2017 3:00 pm EST

7.) National Rehabilitation Association:

Washington Wire -- On Tuesday, November 21, 2017, the Center for American Progress released a report describing the impact of the Senate tax reform bill on domestic programs, including the vocational rehabilitation (VR) program. The report points out that the tax bill would result in a \$1.5 trillion deficit in tax revenue which would trigger a provision of law called Pay As You Go (PAYGO). The PAYGO rules require automatic cuts to nondefense domestic programs to offset increased spending. Here is the link to the Center for American Progress report:

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/economy/news/2017/11/21/443207/senate-tax-bill-eliminate-programs-farmers-crime-victims-elderly-children/>

8.) ABLE National Resource Center:

The ABLE Act: A Progress Report - Congressional Briefing --

December 4, 2017 from 10 a.m.–12 p.m. *(The following is an excerpt) -*

The purpose of the briefing is to provide Members of Congress and ABLE related stakeholders with a progress report on ABLE Act implementation nationwide. The briefing will provide an in depth look at what we know to date about account owner demographics, number of accounts open, contribution levels and other significant data points. We will also highlight successes, examine implementation challenges, and look into the future with respect to legislative recommendations to strengthen ABLE. The briefing is scheduled to take place in Washington, D.C. on Monday, **December 4, 2017 from 10:00 am–12:00 pm in Room 325 of the Russell Senate Office Building**, and will include presenters and guest panelists from across the country. [Read the event agenda.](#)

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

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