



Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council

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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.

Update on Full Council Meetings

During the November 16th Full Council Meeting members voted to continue conducting virtual meetings for the last 2 meetings of the fiscal year 2021-2022 (February 2022 and May 2022). An Ad Hoc Committee will evaluate meeting preparedness, readiness, and best practices of returning to in person or hybrid meetings to enable members to make the best decision possible going forward in fiscal year 2022-2023, beginning with the August 2022 Full Council meeting.

PaRC Committee Meeting Updates

The PaRC **Executive Committee** met recently to continue member recruitment efforts, ensure PaRC continues to recruit throughout all regions of the Commonwealth, and stays within compliance of the mandated Categories of Representation. Members also held discussion and planning for the November Full Council Meeting. **Social Media / Outreach Committee** continues to meet monthly and provide input toward the new PaRC Website Project. **Legislative & Public Awareness Committee** met to plan and develop talking points for their meetings that were held this week with Pennsylvania State Legislators to inform and educate about the diverse issues affecting employment of people with disabilities. The PaRC **OVR Policy & State Plan / Customer Satisfaction Committee** held a meeting recently to review OVR Customer Satisfaction Surveys. PaRC **CareerLink / WIOA Committee** recently met and held discussion on the Nondiscrimination Plan for Equal Opportunity Compliance in the Workforce

Innovation and Opportunity Act Programs in relation to CareerLink training and accessibility.

All PaRC Committee meetings are open to the public. Agendas for each committee meeting will be available on the PaRC Facebook events page and 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 upcoming Committee meeting dates:

- Social Media Committee 12/1/2021 from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM
- Social Media Committee 1/5/2022 from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM
- CareerLink/WIOA Committee 1/11/22 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM
- Transition & Education 1/13/2022 from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

New PaRC Website Coming Soon

We anticipate going live in the coming months!

Upcoming PaRC Full Council Meetings

Due to uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, the PaRC will continue to meet virtually for the upcoming **February 23, 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

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.

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
Wednesday, May 18, 2022 Harrisburg  5-18-2022 PaRC Full Council Meeting.ics	Thursday, June 2, 2022 State College  6-2-2022 State Board Meeting.ics
Wednesday, August 3, 2022 Harrisburg  8-3-2022 PaRC Full Council Meeting.ics	Thursday, September 8, 2022 Pittsburgh  9-8-2022 State Board Meeting.ics
Wednesday, October 19, 2022 Harrisburg  10-19-2022 PaRC Full Council Meeting.i	Thursday, December 1, 2022 Harrisburg  12-1-2022 State Board Meeting.ics

PaRC members are currently working on their 2020-2021 Annual Report and will share their newly designed report in December. In the meantime, the 2019-2020 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 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) and fill out an application.

NEWS, RESOURCES, AND EVENTS OF INTEREST:

1.) ACL Investing \$150 Million to Expand the Public Health Workforce to Respond to the Needs of People with Disabilities and Older Adults

On November 10, 2021 the Biden-Harris Administration announced that the Administration for Community Living (ACL) will receive \$150 million to increase the public health workforce's disability and aging expertise and strengthen the collaboration with public health systems to support the health and safety of people with disabilities and older adults who are disproportionately affected during emergencies and disasters, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/acl-investing-150-million-expand-public-health-workforce-respond>

2.) November is Assistive Technology Awareness Month

Connecticut woman who got a robotic arm through insurance advocates for others with disabilities to have the same access to assistive technology.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://www.wtnh.com/news/health/ct-woman-who-got-robotic-arm-through-insurance-advocates-for-others-with-disabilities-to-have-same-access-to-assistive-tech/>

A Juno College of Technology student is the recipient of an award that provides her with assistive technology that enables her to achieve her dream of becoming a full stack UI/UX developer.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2021/11/16/2335391/0/en/Juno-College-of-Technology-Student-Awarded-with-eSight-device.html>

NIFA will host a webinar for applicants interested in applying to the Assistive Technology Program for Farmers with Disabilities (AgrAbility).

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://nifa.usda.gov/event/assistive-technology-program-farmers-disabilities-agrability-webinar>

3.) AT3 Issue Brief: Assistive Technology and Long COVID

A new [issue brief](#) from the National Assistive Technology Act Technical Assistance and Training (AT3) Center describes how AT Act programs are helping individuals experiencing long-term effects from COVID-19 and provides examples of common assistive technology solutions.

You may click the links provided for more information.

<https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/at3-issue-brief-assistive-technology-and-long-covid>

https://www.at3center.net/content/EOCONTENTMEDIACENTER/documents/Publications/Long%20COVID%2011_15%20EJA.pdf

<https://www.at3center.net/stateprogram>

4.) HIRE Vets Medallion Program

Recognizing employers for their investments in recruiting, employing, and retaining our nation's heroes.

You may click the links provided for more information.

<https://www.hirevets.gov/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iKbXT97cts0>

5.) US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RELAUNCHES EARN WEB SITE TO HELP MAKE PUBLIC, PRIVATE SECTOR WORKPLACES MORE INCLUSIVE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The U.S. Department of Labor today announced the newly redesigned [Employer Assistance and Resource Network on Disability Inclusion web site](#).

You may click the links provided for more information.

<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/odep/odep20211109>

<https://askearn.org/>

6.) Advancing Inclusive Apprenticeships: A National Online Dialogue on Increasing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility in Apprenticeships

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) seeks input on ways to promote inclusive apprenticeship programs under its commitment to workforce diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA).

You may click the links provided for more information.

<https://inclusiveapprenticeships.ideascale.com/a/index>

<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20211116>

***If you no longer wish to receive this update, please contact Chris Todd at 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 **November 19, 2021**, all links have been verified. Please credit the PaRC Support Project for any information forwarded to others. Thank You.

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