

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

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WEEKLY UPDATE December 4, 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 **December 4, 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 January 6, 2021 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 Keystone Blind Association](#)

[PaRC Assistive Technology](#)

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.) Companies Pry Open the Web for People With Intellectual Disabilities

by Katie Deighton

Nov. 30, 2020

Companies are looking to expand online accommodations. Many of their websites are accessible to people with visual and hearing impairments, and now some businesses are addressing accessibility for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities—often referred to as IDD—as well as learning disabilities.

Because of the varying needs of people with these disabilities, there is no universal solution to the issues they encounter online. Negative experiences include getting timed out of a webpage for taking longer than most people to finish a form and confronting text that is too complicated linguistically. To read more, go to: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/companies-pry-open-the-web-for-people-with-intellectual-disabilities-11606755722>

2.) How People With Disabilities Help The Economy Grow And Thrive

by Robyn D. Shulman

Nov 30, 2020

People with disabilities have been underestimated repeatedly in school and in the workforce. We should never assume that someone might see his or her disability as a tragedy. Many people with great challenges have created, built, and found tremendous success in their lives. To continue reading, go to: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/robynshulman/2020/11/30/how-people-with-disabilities-help-the-economy-grow-and-thrive/?sh=2e892fc9d49f>

3.) Forwarded from Linda Williams

»» PMHCA PRESENTS ««

WELLNESS WEEKS

DECEMBER
2ND AND 4TH

2 PM



[ZOOM.US/J
/131337859](https://zoom.us/j/131337859)

Are you seeking different and unique self-care tools? Do you want to learn new and distinctive ways to maintain your well-being? PMHCA would like to announce the beginning of "Wellness Week"! During Wellness Week we will explore different tools, activities, and methods you can use to boost your daily regime.

Our first Week will be held December 2nd and 4th at 2 pm immediately following our Adult Drop-In at 1 pm. We will use the same Zoom meeting code, so please feel free to join us at the Drop-In too!

DEC. 2ND WE WELCOME CAMETTE STANDLEY! CAMETTE WILL EXPLORE THE ART OF MAKING TEA AND HOW DIFFERENT TEAS CAN PROVIDE BENEFITS FOR BOTH PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELLNESS.

ON DECEMBER 4TH WE WELCOME CHRISTINE WIEKRYKAS! CHRISTINE WILL SHARE HOW AROMATHERAPY AND THE USE OF ESSENTIAL OILS ARE AN EVIDENCE-BASED, COMPLIMENTARY THERAPY FOR IMPROVED EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING.

To kick off the start of Wellness Week, PMHCA would like to offer a Wellness Basket to a random winner! To Be entered to win please go to our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/PMHCA and follow the instructions. A random winner will be selected on December 18th!



**QUESTIONS? REACH OUT TO OUR EMAIL AT
PMHCA@PMHCA.ORG.**

4.) Student with learning disability starts holiday card business

**By Joanna Guzman
November 30, 2020**

TUCSON, Ariz. (KOLD News 13) - A local student is turning his learning disabilities into smiles this holiday season. Pablo Durazo is a freshman at Nosotros Academy and aims to brighten lives with paper and scissors.

He said the frustration of having a learning disability led him to the wrong path.

"I was always not in school, ditching, not listening to my parents, stealing, doing bad things," Durazo said.

However, the spirit of this holiday season changed his life around.

To read more, go to: <https://www.kold.com/2020/11/30/student-with-learning-disability-starts-holiday-card-business/>

5.) Upcoming Movie 'Music' Under Fire For Autism Portrayal

**by Laura Zornosa, Los Angeles Times/TNS
November 30, 2020**

Australian pop singer-songwriter Sia is known for hits such as "Chandelier" but also for protecting her privacy, often concealing her identity with larger-than-life wigs.

It might come as a surprise, then, that the nine-time Grammy nominee engaged directly with critics of the new trailer for her upcoming film, "Music."

The project, which she's calling a "cinematic experience," will feature dancer and frequent collaborator Maddie Ziegler as Music, a teen with autism, as well as actors Kate Hudson and Leslie Odom Jr.

<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2020/11/30/upcoming-movie-music-under-fire-for-autism-portrayal/29096/>

6.) Dogs trained to help people with disabilities are only service animals allowed on planes

by: Associated Press

Dec 2, 2020

The government has decided that when it comes to air travel, only dogs can be service animals, and companions used for emotional support do not count.

The Transportation Department issued a final rule Wednesday that aims to settle years of tension between airlines and passengers who bring their pets on board for free by saying they need them for emotional support. To read more, go to:

<https://ktla.com/news/nationworld/dogs-trained-to-help-people-with-disabilities-are-only-service-animals-allowed-on-planes-officials/>

This article, shared from Passle Helminski, gives more information regarding the revised Service Animals rules.

[https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2020-12/Service Animal Final Rule.pdf](https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2020-12/Service%20Animal%20Final%20Rule.pdf)

7.) COVID-19 poses increased risk to those with autism or intellectual disability

by Kim Fischer INSTITUTE ON DISABILITIES, COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

DECEMBER 2, 2020

Temple's Institute on Disabilities played a critical role in helping Pennsylvania Advocacy and Resources for Autism and Intellectual Disability evaluate the risk COVID-19 presents to people with intellectual disability or autism. The study of data collected in eight states found that while those with intellectual disability or autism are about as likely as members of the general public to contract COVID-19, they are significantly more likely to die from the infection.

“It is a sobering result, obviously,” said Mark Davis, president and CEO of Pennsylvania Advocacy and Resources for Autism and Intellectual Disability. “The bottom line is that we need more funding to help keep people with intellectual disability or autism alive.” To continue reading, go to: <https://news.temple.edu/2020-12-02/covid-19-poses-increased-risk-those-autism-or-intellectual-disability>

8.) New Skillsoft Survey Highlights Concerns about Intellectual Disability in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Efforts

**Associated Press BOSTON--(BUSINESS WIRE) --
Dec 3, 2020—**

As a part of International Day of People with Disabilities, Skillsoft, a global leader in digital learning and talent management solutions, today highlighted a potential gap in workplace policies around Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). Data from Skillsoft’s Intellectual Disabilities in Workplace DEI survey suggest that workplace DEI efforts may often fail to include people with intellectual disabilities. Data also indicated that support for creating truly inclusive workplaces is surging.

The "Intellectual Disabilities in Workplace Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion" survey data highlights the need for true inclusion. (Graphic: Business Wire) To read more, go to: https://www.oaoa.com/news/business/new-skillsoft-survey-highlights-concerns-about-intellectual-disability-in-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-efforts/article_79ae0e66-50b5-5e3b-a693-876e017fd440.html

9.) Pandemic Helpline Launches For People With IDD, Caregivers

**by Shaun Heasley
December 3, 2020**

As the COVID-19 pandemic wears on, a new 24-hour support line is working to help individuals with developmental disabilities and those who care for them cope during this tough time.

Known as Project Connect, the telehealth line is free and available anytime for people with disabilities, their families, caregivers and other members of their support teams across the nation. To continue reading, go to:

<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2020/12/03/pandemic-helpline-launches-for-people-with-idd-caregivers/29105/>

10.) Opinion: More Representation of People with Disabilities is Needed in America

By David Ertischek

December 3, 2020

When I went blind at age 10, I frequently found that the first thing I heard from others—family, friends, and strangers alike—was something along the lines of how terrible it was, how sorry they were for me, or how that person could not imagine what I was going through.

These reactions make an impact on you and make you begin to question what your life will be like moving forward and whether the dreams you once had for yourself are now possible. To read more, go to:

<https://www.jamaicaplainnews.com/2020/12/03/opinion-more-representation-of-people-with-disabilities-is-needed-in-america/251999>

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