

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

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WEEKLY UPDATE: December 11, 2018

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 **December 11, 2018**, 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 2017 Annual Report and can be found on our webpage or by clicking on the following link <http://www.parac.org/reports/>.

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 2019 –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 6, 2019

May 1, 2019

August 21, 2019

October 23, 2019

PaRC Member Committee Conference Calls – Please Mark your Calendars

CareerLink/WIOA

Next Call: Monday, January 14, 2019 at 10:00 AM

Executive Committee Conference Call

Next Call: – To be Determined

Legislative and Public Awareness Conference Call

Next Call: Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 10:00 AM

OVR Policy and State Plan Committee / Customer Satisfaction Conference Call

Next Call: Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 10:00 AM

Social Media/Outreach Committee Conference Call

Next Call: To be Determined

Transition & Education

Next Call: – Thursday, January 24, 2019 at 2:00 PM

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 Recruitment](#)

[PaRC Dream Partnership](#)

[PaRC Herr Foods Inc.](#)

[PaRC Aha Moment](#)

[PaRC Keystone Blind Association](#)

[PaRC Assistive Technology](#)

PaRC COUNCIL OPENINGS: The PaRC is looking for candidates to fill the following openings: A veteran with a disability, a Mental Health representative, a Business or Industry Representative, and an Intellectual Disability Representative. If interested please go to our website (www.parac.org) and fill out an application.

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

N-CHAT Trainer Profiles: Empowering People with Hearing Loss -

The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Improving the Accessibility, Usability, and Performance of Technology for Individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing \(DHH-RERC\)](#) recently published [N-CHAT Trainer Empowering People with Hearing Loss Through Her Work](#), the first in a series of profiles of Network of Consumer Hearing Assistive Technology Trainers (N-CHAT) members.

2.) Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers' Association:

CEO Job Opening - The Mental Health Association of Franklin County, Inc. is a peer-run organization serving Franklin and Fulton counties in south-central Pennsylvania seeking its next Chief Executive Officer to be the face of this peer-run organization and lead it through its next phase of growth.

[Learn more.](#)

What if I Get Sick? -- Every insurance plan must provide you with a Summary of Benefits and Coverage, sometimes called a SBC. This information will help you know what is covered and the out-of-pocket cost to you before you see a provider. Watch video: **[What if I Get Sick?](#)** Learn more about **[healthcare insurance available in Pennsylvania.](#)** Visit **www.healthcare.gov** to find out if you are eligible for insurance through affordable care act coverage, and the types of insurance that are available to you. Comparing Plans: Pennsylvania provides a comparison tool at **pa.checkbookhealth.org**. The **2019 Open Enrollment Period** runs from Thursday, November 1, 2018, to Saturday, December 15, 2018. If you don't **act** by December 15, you can't get **2019** coverage unless you qualify for a **Special Enrollment Period**. Plans sold during **Open Enrollment start January 1, 2019.**

3.) National Council on Disabilities:

[The National Council on Disability Mourns the Passing of President George H.W. Bush](#)

4.) ABLE National Resource Center:

New Webinar: Qualified Disability Expense Fundamentals - The purpose of this webinar is to educate individuals with disabilities, their families, providers and advocates on how an ABLE account can provide options and choices to maintain or improve their health, independence and quality of life. Savings in an ABLE account may be used tax-free on a variety of qualified disability expenses (QDE) such as housing, transportation, assistive technology and more. This webinar will take place on **Thursday, December 13, 2018, from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. ET, [REGISTER NOW](#)**

Fourth Anniversary of ABLE Social Media Campaign - To help us celebrate the fourth anniversary of the signing of the ABLE Act, the ANRC, managed by National Disability Institute (NDI), wants to hear from you! In 100 words or less, please tell us what you are saving funds in your ABLE account for and how it will positively impact your life. Please send a high-resolution photo of yourself and your savings goal as well, if possible. Uploaded photos will be shared on [ABLE NRC](#) and [NDI](#) social media.

Individuals who complete this survey must be ABLE account owners. Please complete the survey by December 19th. [Participate in the Fourth Anniversary of ABLE Social Media Campaign.](#)

Webinar Archive Available: ABLE Program Spotlight Series Featuring ABLEnow and ABLEAmerica - A recording of November's webinar, "ABLE Program Spotlight Series Featuring the ABLEnow and ABLE America Programs," is now available. [Visit the webinar archive.](#)

5.) DisabilityScoop.com:

Future Uncertain as Money to Move People Out of Institutions Runs Dry – With time and money running out, advocates are pushing for passage of a bill that would extend a federal program that moves people with disabilities from institutions to community living. [Read More >](#)

Ride-Sharing Service Focusing on Passengers with Disabilities – An app expected to launch next year will make available drivers specifically trained in working with people with disabilities, and with vehicles specially equipped to transport them. [Read More >](#)

Boy Scouts Alter Approach for Kids with Special Needs - Kids with special needs are learning everything from life skills to archery as part of a Boy Scouts program that's helping pave the way for them to take part in a typical pack. [Read More >](#)

6.) Linda Williams (PaRC Support Staff):

The Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council has released its **NEW 2018 Request for Proposals (RFP) book**. Several funding objectives are featured including the promotion of cross disability efforts, employment, and technology. The Council invites interested groups and organizations to review our RFP and requirements, and to attend one or more of our preproposal conferences (available live or via webinar) to ask questions and learn more about our ideas. Download the RFP Book, additional forms, and access more information through this link: <http://www.paddc.org/grant-funding-opportunities/rfp-book/>.

Stop Overdoses in PA Week/Get Help Now - free Naloxone December 13 -- On December 10-14th, the state is holding "Stop Overdoses in Pa.: Get Help Now" week. This week is aimed at helping to reduce the stigma around

this crisis, to get people the lifesaving medication naloxone, and make sure people know help is [available](#). We need your help in this effort. Please share far and wide within your organization and community that **the Wolf Administration will provide Naloxone for free to all Pennsylvanians at nearly 80 locations across the state, primarily at state health centers and county/municipal health departments, on Thursday, December 13 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.**, as part of the administration's ongoing effort to reduce the number of opioid overdoses and get residents into treatment. Information on all the locations is included in the official press release [here](#). In addition to being able to get naloxone for free on Dec. 13th, Naloxone is available at pharmacies statewide every day without a prescription thanks to a [standing order prescription](#) signed by the Secretary of Health, Dr. Rachel Levine. It is covered by most insurances at little to no copay. The opioid epidemic touches everyone, regardless of age, race, socioeconomic class. It does not discriminate.

7.) EARN:

Upcoming webinar! "Spread the Word: Communicating Your Organization's Commitment to Disability Inclusion" - December 20, 2018 - 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. ET --

Join the Employer Assistance and Resource Network on Disability Inclusion (EARN) for a webinar that will explore strategies organizations can use to effectively communicate a commitment to disability inclusion, both externally and internally. Participation is free, but space is limited, so be sure to [register](#) today!

8.) Policy Information Exchange (PIE):

The Policy Information Exchange brings you the **Slice of PIE**, an ongoing publication keeping our readers informed about important public policy issues. [Click here to read A Slice of Pie](#), which includes a [printable version](#); [state news and bills of interest](#); and [national news](#). [Click here for Slice of Pie Archives](#).

9.) Cheryl Novak (OVR Staff):

[Vocational Rehabilitation Executive Director](#) -- The Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry (L&I) is seeking a professional candidate with leadership qualities that foster collaboration and cooperation with others to serve as the Executive Director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

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