

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@ucpcentralpa.org www.parac.org

WEEKLY UPDATE December 11, 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 11, 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 and OVR Quarterly State Board Meeting Dates *****

PaRC	OVR State Board
<p data-bbox="233 1619 769 1709">Wednesday, February 17, 2021 Harrisburg</p>  <p data-bbox="293 1782 712 1808">2-17-2021 PaRC Full Council Meeting.ics</p>	<p data-bbox="894 1619 1344 1709">Thursday, March 11, 2021 Virtual</p>  <p data-bbox="911 1782 1330 1808">3-11-2021 OVR State Board Meeting.ics</p>

<p>Wednesday, May 12, 2021 Harrisburg</p>  <p>5-12-2021 PaRC Full Council Meeting.ics</p>	<p>Thursday, June 3, 2021 Virtual</p>  <p>6-3-2021 OVR State Board Meeting.ics</p>
<p>Wednesday, August 4, 2021 Harrisburg</p>  <p>8-4-2021 PaRC Full Council Meeting.ics</p>	<p>Thursday, September 16, 2021 Pittsburgh</p>  <p>9-16-2021 OVR State Board Meeting.ics</p>
<p>Wednesday, November 17, 2021 Harrisburg</p>  <p>11-17-2021 PaRC Full Council Meeting.ics</p>	<p>Thursday, December 2, 2021 Harrisburg</p>  <p>12-2-2021 OVR State Board Meeting.ics</p>

http://parac.org/council_mtgs.html

*****PaRC Member Committee Conference Calls – Please Mark your Calendars*****

**Transition to Work Policy Meeting (Full Council invited)
Friday December 18, 2020 at 9:30 AM**

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

Friday January 29, 2021 at 9:30 AM (Tentative)

Social Media/Outreach Committee Conference Call

Wednesday January 6, 2021 at 9:30 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.) COVID-19 Vaccine Should Go To Those With Developmental Disabilities First, Advocates Say **by Michelle Diamant** **December 7, 2020**

People with developmental disabilities are not being adequately prioritized in plans to distribute COVID-19 vaccines, advocates say, even though they are more likely to die from the virus.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Robert Redfield approved a recommendation from the agency's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices earlier this month on how initial doses of forthcoming vaccines should be distributed. The shots are expected to be in short supply, so access will be limited. To read more, go to:

<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2020/12/07/covid-19-vaccine-should-go-to-those-with-developmental-disabilities-first-advocates-say/29109/>

2.) Hulu's New Disability Representation Collection Puts the Spotlight on Actors With Disabilities **By Lauren Appelbaum** **December 5, 2020**

In celebration of International Day of People with Disabilities, Hulu has launched a new content collection celebrating disability representation with 34 television series and films including new Hulu Originals "Run," "I Am Greta" and TV series "Ramy," as well as shows like Freeform's "Everything's Gonna Be Okay" and NBC's "Speechless."

The featured content is representative of both visible disabilities, including those who use wheelchairs and are Deaf, as well as nonvisible disabilities, including mental health conditions. To

continue reading, go to: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/tv/news/hulus-new-disability-representation-collection-puts-the-spotlight-on-actors-with-disabilities/ar-BB1bEsl8>

3.) The Importance of Disability Inclusion in the Workplace

By Stephanie Eagan

Dec 8th, 2020

This year also marks the 30th anniversary of the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation and ...

December 3rd is International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The annual observance was proclaimed in 1992 by the United Nations General Assembly. It aims to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development, and to increase awareness and disability inclusion in every aspect of political, social, economic, and cultural life. To read more, go to:

<https://www.cpapracticeadvisor.com/payroll/news/21165757/the-importance-of-disability-inclusion-in-the-workplace>

4.) MSP airport, TSA take steps to accommodate travelers with disabilities thanks to local group

Written By: Michael Brun

Dec 7th, 2020

"If I have this symbol on, and you understand what the symbol means, you may be a little bit more civil, gentle, patient."

Start seeing sunflowers.

Travelers passing through Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport now have the option of wearing a lanyard with sunflower logos to indicate to airport security and others that they have a "hidden disability" such as vision or hearing impairment, autism,

epilepsy or post-traumatic stress disorder. To continue reading, go to: <https://www.postbulletin.com/lifestyle/travel/6790507-MSP-airport-TSA-take-steps-to-accommodate-travelers-with-disabilities-thanks-to-local-group>

5.) Airline Reverses Policy That Barred Some Wheelchairs From Flights

**by Kyle Arnold, The Dallas Morning News/TNS
December 8, 2020**

DALLAS — American Airlines says it has reversed a policy putting cargo weight limits on regional jets that inadvertently restricted many motorized wheelchairs after complaints from a wheelchair travel advocate.

Fort Worth-based American, which enacted a safety rule earlier this year to limit cargo weight to 300 or 400 pounds after guidance from plane manufacturers, said it has removed weight caps for mobility devices and wheelchairs after talking to its safety team and aircraft manufacturers. To read more, go to: <https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2020/12/08/airline-reverses-policy-barred-some-wheelchairs-flights/29111/>

6.) Mother helps Santa write letters to kids who have a disability

**By Caryn Eisert
Dec 7, 2020**

CLINTON, Ill. (WAND) - A Clinton mother decided to help Santa write letters to children this year, except the big man up north had her focus on children who have a disability.

Crystal Morris' son Jameson was born with Down syndrome. The mother of five said she decided to help Santa this year because she wanted to create one-of-a-kind letters to children like her son.

"There are so many kids out there that are like I don't have an elf that looks like me and I don't have a picture or a doll, or a Barbie that has my same disability and I thought, why not have that elf out there with their same disability," Morris said. To continue reading, go to: https://www.wandtv.com/news/mother-helps-santa-write-letters-to-kids-who-have-a-disability/article_65023104-38d9-11eb-82e6-d79971bd0574.html

7.) City officials, counselors, discuss police response to mental health crises, people with disabilities

By Zoë Read

December 9, 2020

Philadelphia city councilmembers, law enforcement, mental health professionals and community members spoke for more than four hours on Wednesday about how to improve police response to mental health crises.

The city council's Committee on Public Health & Human Services and their Public Safety Committee held the virtual public hearing to listen to testimony addressing the intersection of mental health, disability, police encounters, and best practices for de-escalation and non-lethal crisis intervention. To read more, go to: <https://whyy.org/articles/city-officials-counselors-discuss-police-response-to-mental-health-crisis-people-with-disabilities/>

8.) One-Of-A-Kind Museum Devoted To People With Disabilities Is Closing

by Lou Michel, The Buffalo News/TNS

December 8, 2020

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Western New York and the rest of the country have lost a one-of-a-kind place to celebrate and educate others on the history of individuals with disabilities.

After 22 years, the Museum of disABILITY History in Amherst has closed because of the financial strain caused, in part, by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to its director.

The museum, whose mission was to improve the understanding, acceptance, and independence of people with disabilities, temporarily closed in the middle of March shortly after the pandemic hit. To continue reading, go to:

<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2020/12/08/one-of-a-kind-museum-disabilities-closing/29112/>

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

