

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

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WEEKLY UPDATE: December 15, 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 **December 15, 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, January 11, 2017 at 10:00 AM

CareerLink/WIOA

Next Call: To be Determined.

Executive Committee Conference Call

Next Call: – Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at 2:00 PM

Legislative and Public Awareness Conference Call

Next Call: To be Determined

OVR Policy and State Plan Committee / Customer Satisfaction Conference Call

Next Call: Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 10:00 AM

Social Media/Outreach Committee Conference Call

Next Call: To be Determined.

Transition & Education

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

1.) Passle Helminski (PaRC Council Member):

The Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education is pleased to announce the following training opportunity: Building Administrator Capacity: A Focus on Secondary Transition -- January 16, 2018 (9:00 am - 3:15 pm) and March 7, 2018 (9:00 am - 1:15 pm) -- (You must attend both days to receive credit) -- PaTTAN Pittsburgh, PaTTAN Harrisburg, PaTTAN East. Through this training series, administrators who serve as Local Education Agency (LEA) representatives will become equipped with tools to lead compliant and best practice secondary transition programs to meet the needs of students of transition-

age. In addition, administrators will review their current practices related to secondary transition and determine ways in which to enhance programming for successful post-secondary goals for all students. Please register for this event by visiting our homepage at www.pattan.net. For questions regarding content, contact: Hillary Mangis, PaTTAN Pittsburgh, 800-446-5607 x6878, hmangis@pattan.net. For questions regarding registration, contact: Pam Ranieri, PaTTAN Pittsburgh, 800-446-5607 x6847, pranieri@pattan.net. Continuing Education Credits: Act 48 Clock Hours.

Good news! The Accessible Instructional Materials in Higher Education (Aim High) Act has been incorporated into the Promoting Real Opportunity, Success, and Prosperity through Education Reform (PROSPER) Act (H.R. 4508). We anticipate the PROSPER Act will be passed by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce this week. In other news, the conference committee for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act continues to negotiate this bill. There is still a possibility that the Access Technology Affordability Act (ATAA) could be merged into the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Along with your calls, we have had several meetings with members of the conference committee. We also know that Congressman Young and Senator Boozman, the corresponding House and Senate bill sponsors, are working hard to promote these bills. Currently, the Access Technology Affordability Act has eighteen cosponsors in the House (H.R. 1734) and four cosponsors in the Senate (S. 732). The Senate version of the Aim High Act (S. 2138) has one cosponsor. We need to continue our final 2017 surge on these two items. So please make three phone calls or send three emails. Please contact your two senators and urge them to cosponsor both the Aim High Act (S. 2138) and the Access Technology Affordability Act (S. 732). Please also contact your representative and urge him or her to cosponsor the Access Technology Affordability Act (H.R. 1734).

2.) Hiram G. Andrews Center:

HGAC Summer Pre-Employment Transition programs for high school students: **Access Planning & Strategies (APS) Academy JUNE 18-22, 2018** and **Working on Readiness & Careers (WORC) Academy JULY 9-13, 2018.**

Career Readiness, Employment and Transitional Evaluation

“CREATE” High school students, age **16 to 21**, who are PA Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Customers, who would benefit from a week-long experience geared toward making the transition from school to work, and meet HGAC admissions criteria. The **CREATE** Program offers students the opportunity to discover their strengths and abilities in both an individual and group setting. Through assessments, career research and community-based activities, students will be more prepared for their school-to-work transition.

Students may use what they learn to mold and “create” their vocational future, ultimately becoming responsible “creators” of their independence. Individuals will be dormitory residents, with highly structured and monitored day and evening programming provided. **CREATE 2018’s** one-week sessions are scheduled as follows: **January 22-26, February 5-9, March 26-30, April 9-13, May 7-11, June 4-8, August 6-10, September 10-14, October 1-5, November 12-16, and December 3-7.** PA OVR District Counselors may refer individuals through CWDS via the HGAC referral form. Questions regarding programming may be directed to **Cindy Martin, Director of Allied Health** at **814.254.0417** or **cymartin@pa.gov**. Space is limited to five students per week, so make your referrals quickly!

The CART program at HGAC is excited to share with you all a new service for your customers, CART Transitional Living Coordination.

(The following is an excerpt) -- As students are transitioning from high school to college their service needs can easily be overlooked. Students that require assistance with activities of daily living skills often have those services provided through a family member or via attendant care providers through local agencies. Transitional Living Coordination will assist a consumer in applying for and or transferring their attendant care services to meet their ADL needs while on campus. For specific questions about Transitional Living Coordination Services, please contact the CART Program Manager, Tammy Pelleschi, at (814) 254-0599 or c-tpellesc@pa.gov .

3.) Disability Scoop.com:

Graduation Rate Improves for Students with Disabilities – New federal data indicates that the high school graduation rate for students with disabilities is trending upward. [Read More>](#)

ABLE Accounts Growing in Popularity – Thousands of people with disabilities have opened ABLE accounts, but experts say millions more could benefit from this new way to save without jeopardizing government benefits. [Read More>](#)

Is That Service Dog a Fake? Under Federal Law, You Can’t Even Ask – Fake service dogs have become the bane of those with disabilities who rely on trained animals. Yet, advocates say there’s no push to cinch up loopholes that leave imposters largely unchecked. [Read More>](#)

4.) Policy Information Exchange:

PIE Info: Falling Off the Cliff – Parents of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities call their 21st birthdays “falling off the cliff.” That’s when their entitlement to education in a regular school setting ends – and the predictable schedule, supervision, and services with it. For an

in-depth look at the current crisis families face, Ronnie Polanecsky has written a four part series. [Falling Off the Cliff](#).

PIE Job: Advocate/Project Lead Position Opening – Disability Rights Pennsylvania (DRP) seeks an Advocate/Project Lead in our Harrisburg Office. The Advocate/Project Lead will lead the implementation of an assigned project and will carry out advocacy responsibilities associated with DRP’s implementation of federal requirements. For the entire job posting please go to: <https://disabilityrightspa.org/about-drp/job-openings/>
Mail cover letter with salary requirements and resume to: HR Director, 301 Chestnut Street, Suite 300, Harrisburg, PA 17101 or email: smoore@disabilityrightspa.org. Priority consideration will be given to applications received by December 22, 2017.

PIE Info: "Access+Ability" -- [Cooper Hewitt](#) Smithsonian Design Museum in New York City is opening a new exhibit next week "Access+Ability." It will feature "products, projects and services developed by and with people with disabilities—physical, cognitive and sensory—that expand their ability to lead independent lives and engage more fully in the world." On view Dec. 15 through Sept. 3, 2018, the "Access+Ability" exhibition features more than 70 works, from adaptive clothing and eating implements that assist with daily routines to apps and "smart" technologies that aid in social interactions and navigating the environment. For more information, visit the [Cooper Hewitt website](#).

PIE Info: CILCP launches new program--YOUTH MATTERS -- The Center for Independent Living of Central PA (CILCP) is excited to launch a new program, YOUTH MATTERS. It is a customizable program designed for students who have a 504 or an IEP plan and who are transitioning to a career or post-secondary education. To get the ball moving, we are recruiting students to participate in a pilot project! The goal is to obtain constructive feedback to assist us in developing the best youth transition program in central Pa (and there are incentives)! For more information, please view the attached flyer and watch the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzSZ8VRiegY>. If you have any questions or would like to register for the pilot project (*the deadline is January 5th*), please contact Erin: **Erin Weierbach, Living Well Specialist**, Center for Independent Living of Central PA. CILCP | 207 House Avenue, Suite 107, Camp Hill, PA 17011. 717-731-1900 ext. 263 | 800-323-6060, 717-737-1335 TTY | 800-829-7404 TTY. egaul@cilcp.org

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

The recently-completed NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Employment Outcomes for Individuals who are Blind or Visually Impaired](#) has published two articles from its [Employment Mentoring Project for College Students Who Are Blind](#). *Career mentoring for college students: Insights from a program participant*, published in Braille Forum, highlights feedback from one program participant that may serve as a model for future transition success stories. *Role models and mentors help build employment success*, published in Future Reflections, provides further feedback from mentors, mentees, and a research and training associate from the center. Both articles are available free in full text from the mentoring project website under Publications along with additional resources for mentoring programs.

People with Disabilities Face Barriers to Employment, But Accommodations May Help -- People with disabilities may face many barriers to finding and keeping a job, but this week's [Research In Focus](#) finds workplace accommodations may make a difference.

6.) Mathematica Policy Research:

Mathematica Policy Research to Conduct New Employment Projects -

- A successful career and the financial stability that comes with it are central to the American dream. But not everyone in or entering the workforce has the education and training necessary to achieve their goals. Mathematica Policy Research is conducting new work to help individuals with barriers to employment succeed in the labor market. These projects will help government agencies and nonprofit organizations provide education, training, and employment services more effectively. [Read more.](#)

7.) Linda Williams (PaRC Support Staff):

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 public is welcome to attend. For details, call Cheryl Novak at 215-781-1073, x2231. The schedule for the upcoming year is:

March 8, 2018, in Harrisburg

June 7, 2018, in Reading

September 13, 2018, in New Castle

The Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry is currently recruiting to fill numerous vacancies for Unemployment Compensation Claims Intermittent Intake Interviewer in Unemployment Compensation Service Centers statewide. There are

openings in each of the following counties: Allegheny, Blair, Dauphin, Erie, Indiana, and Lackawanna. All counties have 10-15 openings per service center. This announcement will also be used to fill permanent vacancies for Unemployment Compensation Intake Interviewer. Job seekers must apply and test for Unemployment Compensation Claims Intermittent Intake Interviewer whether they are interested in permanent or intermittent positions. **You must apply for these opportunities no later than December 30, 2017. When applying, you must indicate a willingness to accept employment in Allegheny, Blair, Dauphin, Erie, Indiana, or Lackawanna County.** Have job-specific questions? Please call Labor & Industry at [\(717\) 787-6374](tel:7177876374). Have application and testing questions? Please call the State Civil Service Commission at (717) 783-3058. Apply online at www.scsc.pa.gov. Log in to the Online Services section of the homepage. Select View Open Announcements & Apply from the menu, and reference announcement **#2012-049** for Unemployment Compensation Claims Intermittent Intake Interviewer. **You must take the test no later than January 25, 2018.**

8.) Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers' Association:
Manager of Direct Services program for Mental Health Association in Franklin and Fulton counties. [Job description and information to apply](#)

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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