

# **PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)**

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## **WEEKLY UPDATE: December 22, 2017**

\*If you no longer wish to receive this update, please contact Nancy Kershner at [nancy.kershner@ucpcentralpa.org](mailto: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 22, 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 2017 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/2017AnnualReport.pdf>. You can also find the [PaRC 2016 Annual Report](#) on our website.

**Find Your Local CAC Meeting Dates:** Please go to our website [www.parac.org](http://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: – To be Determined

**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 Medial/Outreach Committee Conference Call**

Next Call: To be Determined.

**Transition & Education**

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

**1.) Association of People with Disabilities:**

**[2018 AAPD Leadership Awards Gala](#)** -- The AAPD Leadership Awards Gala provides a unique opportunity for AAPD's partners, supporters, and colleagues to show their support of disability rights and inclusion for all Americans with disabilities, while bringing together the disability community with business and government leaders for one night each year. **Early Bird tickets are on sale now until January 15, 2018.**

**[The Benefits of the Disability Equality Index](#)** -- Twenty-seven years after the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, unemployment rates

for people with a disability remain higher than the general population. Helena Berger, President and CEO of AAPD, joins Comcast Newsmakers to discuss the benefits of the Disability Equality Index (DEI), a benchmarking tool that helps organizations assess where they stand on the spectrum of disability inclusion.

## **2.) PA ABLE Savings Program:**

As you may know, contributions to the PA ABLE Savings Program Account (PA ABLE) are **deductible from Pennsylvania state income tax!**

Maximize your savings by opening or contributing to a PA ABLE Savings Program account by **December 31, 2017**. Up to \$14,000 per person can be deducted from Pennsylvania state income taxes for 2017. This tax deduction is **exclusively for contributions made to a PA ABLE Savings Program account**. Plus, saving with PA ABLE: Provides people with disabilities an opportunity to save money while maintaining their benefits. Allows family and friends to easily contribute. Can be used for everyday expenses such as rent, gas, transportation and groceries. Learn more about the features and benefits of the PA ABLE Savings Program and find out if you may be eligible to enroll by visiting [PAABLE.gov](http://PAABLE.gov).

## **3.) National Rehabilitation Association:**

The Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) in the U.S. Department of Labor is a leader in providing resources that support the employment of people with disabilities. Apprenticeships are a proven strategy for helping workers gain the skills they need to get good quality jobs, and ODEP wants to make sure people with disabilities are not left out. Accordingly, ODEP is actively promoting inclusive apprenticeship program models that fulfill employer needs by attracting a diverse array of candidates, including people with disabilities. To promote access to apprenticeship opportunities for people with disabilities, ODEP has released its #ApprenticeshipWorks Guides for Youth, Educators/Service Providers, and Business. The #ApprenticeshipWorks Guides introduce stakeholder groups to the benefits and opportunities of inclusive apprenticeships. ODEP also has a blog about apprenticeships and disability, titled "Apprenticeship and the American Dream." The blog examines the many advantages of apprenticeships in today's economy for both employers and employees, including individuals with disabilities.

[Read the Apprenticeship Works Guides](#)

[Read the Apprenticeship and the American Dream](#)

## **4.) National Federation of the Blind:**

[2018 Washington Seminar](#) – Monday, January 29 through Thursday, February 1, 2018. Join over 500 members of the National Federation of the Blind for the [2018 Washington Seminar](#), an exciting opportunity to learn

about and advocate for legislative initiatives that will improve the lives of blind Americans.

### **5.) National Disability Institute:**

[Report Finds Adults with Disabilities Face Numerous Financial Challenges](#)

### **6.) National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research:**

#### **Let's Talk Employment: A Guide to Employment for Family Members -**

- The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Improving Employment Outcomes for Individuals with Psychiatric Disabilities](#) has published [Let's Talk Employment: A Guide to Employment for Family Members](#). The guide is designed for families who wish to support a family member in recovery in getting and keeping employment. It provides a narrative and links for 15 major topics related to employment, including vocational resources, disclosure planning, peer support, and more. The guide is a companion to the Family section of the [Repository of Employment and Vocational Recovery Resources](#). This project is also supported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

**ADA Live! History of Disability, Lessons from the Past --** The NIDILRR-funded [Southeast ADA Regional Center](#) will host [The History of Disability, Lessons from the Past](#), the 52nd episode of [ADA Live!](#), January 3rd, 2018, 1-1:30pm ET. This episode will explore significant turning points in the history of disability in the US, including discussion of the experiences of veterans of wars and conflicts. The presenters will discuss what the experiences of veterans can teach about disability today, including how the treatment of veterans has changed since the Civil War. No registration is required and questions may be submitted in advance.

**Release of 2017 Annual Disability Statistics Compendium --** The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Statistics and Demographics \(StatsRRTC\)](#) will host a release of the [2017 Annual Disability Statistics Compendium](#), February 13th, 2018, 9am-2pm ET at the National Academy of Sciences Building, Washington, DC, and via webcast. [The Compendium](#) is a web-based tool that pools disability statistics published by various federal agencies together in one place. When working on legislative and other matters relating to persons with disabilities, the Compendium will make finding and using disability statistics easier. The Compendium release event includes a roll-out of new data and statistics, and a panel of representatives from government agencies discussing trends and data usage. Registration is free and required for both webcast and in-person attendance

**ApprenticeshipWorks Guides for Youth, Educators/Service Providers, and Business** -- The US Department of Labor [Office of Disability Employment Policy \(ODEP\)](#) has released its [ApprenticeshipWorks Guides for Youth, Educators/Service Providers, and Business](#), which introduce young people with disabilities, employers, and service providers and educators to the benefits and opportunities of inclusive apprenticeship. ODEP's efforts in apprenticeship promote inclusive program models that fulfill employer needs by attracting a diverse array of candidates. Visit ODEP's blog post on [Apprenticeship and the American Dream](#) to learn more about the many advantages of apprenticeships in today's economy for both employers and employees, including employees with disabilities.

#### **6.) LEAD Center:**

**The FDIC Promotes the Economic Inclusion of People with Disabilities**-- The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) seeks to improve the financial inclusion of underserved populations, particularly those that are not using mainstream financial services, through the Alliance for Economic Inclusion (AEI). The AEI moves forward this national initiative through the establishment of broad-based coalitions of financial institutions, community-based organizations, and other partners in several markets. [Continue reading "The FDIC Promotes the Economic Inclusion of People with Disabilities"](#)

*Wishing everyone a safe and blessed  
Holiday!*

*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](http://www.parac.org) and fill out an application. Thank You.*

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