

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

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WEEKLY UPDATE December 31, 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 31, 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>Wednesday, February 17, 2021 Harrisburg</p>  <p>2-17-2021 PaRC Full Council Meeting.ics</p>	<p>Thursday, March 11, 2021 Virtual</p>  <p>3-11-2021 OVR State Board Meeting.ics</p>
<p>Wednesday, May 12, 2021 Harrisburg</p>	<p>Thursday, June 3, 2021 Virtual</p>

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

http://parac.org/council_mtgs.html

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

CareerLink/WIOA

Wednesday January 20, 2021 at 2:00 PM

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.) Respect is the new 'r' word

by DR RADICA MAHASE
December 28, 2020

LAST week I wrote about an incident in which the mother of a little boy with autism went to the supermarket and an elderly shopper told her, "Why don't you keep your retarded child at home?"

To be as direct as possible, for both the old and young to understand – that "R" word, the word "retarded" – it is a bad word. Generally, we assume that everyone knows this but given that people with autism are still being called retarded, we can instead assume that not everyone is educated or smart enough, have common-sense or respectful enough to know that the word "retarded" is offensive, hurtful, demeaning and disrespectful. To read more, go to:

<https://newsday.co.tt/2020/12/28/respect-is-the-new-r-word/>

2.) How The New Normal Of Remote Work Evens The Playing Field For Workers With Disabilities

By Marcy Klipfel Forbes Councils Member
Dec 28, 2020

Over 41 million members of the U.S. population live with a disability, including 12.4% of those ages 35 to 64. That is a lot of people of prime employment age. But demographics do not translate into employment. Historically, individuals with disabilities have been underemployed, even in the tight labor market we had before the pandemic began.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2019 — when unemployment was at a historic low and HR professionals were losing sleep over open requisitions and a lack of talent — just over 20% of individuals with a disability were working or seeking work. This is significantly less than the 69% of people without a

disability who were gainfully employed or looking for a job. And it is not a one-off. Stark labor force participation disparity was true across all age groups. To continue reading, go to:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbeshumanresourcescouncil/2021/12/28/how-the-new-normal-of-remote-work-evens-the-playing-field-for-workers-with-disabilities/?sh=37444a4f2a36>

3.) US government wants to make rental cars more accessible for those with disabilities

By Sean Szymkowski

Dec. 29, 2020

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration on Monday proposed a new rule that should make mobility far more accessible to those living with disabilities, especially those using a wheelchair. The government agency will move to allow rental-car companies to install hand controls and equip vehicles with rear-mounted transporters for wheelchairs or scooters -- essential to so many American drivers. To read more, go to:

<https://www.cnet.com/roadshow/news/rental-cars-wheelchairs-disabilities-us-government-nhtsa/>

4.) Alaska Airlines clamps down on emotional-support animals on flights

By Allyson Waller The New York Times

Dec. 29, 2020

If you are flying on Alaska Airlines starting in mid-January, do not plan on boarding with your support pig or miniature horse.

The airline, acting in the wake of new federal guidelines aimed at reining in a range of at times exotic animals that passengers have brought onto commercial planes as emotional-support animals, kept it simple in announcing Tuesday what it would allow: only qualified service dogs that are able to lie on the floor or be held in one's lap. To continue reading, go to:

<https://www.seattletimes.com/business/boeing-aerospace/alaska-airlines-clamps-down-on-emotional-support-animals-on-flights/>

5.) Navigating the education-to-career transition as a person with a disability

By GCDD

Dec 30, 2020

Cristian Rogers is a 19-year-old man with Down syndrome living in Johns Creek, Georgia. After graduating from high school, Rogers began working at his local Hilton Garden Inn in June 2018. He folds towels and bedsheets; organizes stockrooms and closets; and helps out in other parts of the hotel in a pinch. For instance, when the hotel lobby got very busy one morning, he was asked to jump in to assist with cleaning and bussing tables. Rogers did a great job because he is a team player. Denise Frier, Rogers' job coach through the organization Randy & Friends, Inc., has been crucial in helping him get acclimated to the work environment. According to the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center, a job coach is a "person who assists individuals with disabilities to find and maintain employment using supported employment services." To read more, go to:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/atlanta/news/2020/12/30/navigating-the-education-to-career-transition-as-a.html>

6.) 5 New Year's Resolutions For People With Disabilities

By Andrew Pulrang Contributor Diversity & Inclusion

Dec 31, 2020

Offering New Year's resolutions is risky, especially when you are giving advice to a group of people already drowning in advice, like the disability community.

Disabled people are constantly bombarded with advice all year, every year, mostly on how to solve problems we already know

how to solve ... or how to become, or at least appear to be, less disabled.

Still, there are a few goals to choose from for people with disabilities interested in committing to some useful self-improvement in the new year. Here are five ideas to consider: To continue reading, go to:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/andrewpulrang/2021/12/31/5-new-years-resolutions-for-people-with-disabilities-1/?sh=5bf855274830>



(black picture with Happy New Year 2020 written in gold)

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