



Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council

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PaRC 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.

PaRC 2020-2021 Annual Report

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by Title IV of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires State Rehabilitation Councils (SRC) to submit an annual report to the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) and to the Governor of the State on the status of vocational rehabilitation programs operated within the State. The report also provides an excellent resource to learn more about the PaRC.

You may click the link provided to access the 2020-2021 PaRC Annual Report.

<http://parac.org/2020-2021PaRCAnnualReport.pdf>

The previous year's, 2019-2020 Annual Report can be accessed by clicking the following link.

<http://parac.org/reports/2020AnnualReport.pdf>

PaRC Committee Meeting Updates

Social Media / Outreach Committee continues to meet monthly and provide input toward the new PaRC Website Project. **Legislative & Public Awareness Committee** met with Pennsylvania State Legislators to inform and educate about the diverse issues affecting employment of people with disabilities.

All PaRC Committee meetings are open to the public. Agendas for each committee meeting will be available on the PaRC Facebook events page and website's [Committee page](#). Meeting minutes, agendas, and other appropriate information will be posted on the PaRC website when approved. Committee meetings are conducted through Zoom. Anyone interested in attending may reach out to PaRC staff for more information. Attending a committee meeting is a great opportunity to learn more about the work members do to fulfill the PaRC Mission, especially if you are considering applying for membership. Everyone is encouraged to attend!

Please note, the upcoming Committee meeting dates:

- Social Media Committee 1/5/2022 from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM
- CareerLink/WIOA Committee 1/11/2022 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM
- Transition & Education 1/13/2022 from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM
- Legislative & Public Awareness 1/25/2022 from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM

New PaRC Website Coming Soon

We anticipate going live in the coming months!

Upcoming PaRC Full Council Meetings

Due to uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, the PaRC will continue to meet virtually for the upcoming **February 23, 2022 Full Council Meeting via ZOOM from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM**. Please contact the PaRC Office to register.

PaRC Full Council meetings are held quarterly. The Public is welcome to attend. Agendas and minutes of all Full Council meetings are posted on http://parac.org/council_mtgs.html

Pennsylvania State Board of Rehabilitation

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 next State Board meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 3, 2022**. The public is welcome to attend all meetings. For details, please email Cheryl Novak at chenovak@pa.gov.

2022 PaRC and State Board meeting dates

(double click icon to add dates to your calendar)

****Location of 2022 PaRC meetings to be determined***

PaRC	State Board
Wednesday, February 23, 2022 Harrisburg  2-23-2022 PaRC Full Council Meeting.ics	Thursday, March 3, 2022 Harrisburg  3-3-2022 State Board Meeting.ics
Wednesday, May 18, 2022 Harrisburg  5-18-2022 PaRC Full Council Meeting.ics	Thursday, June 2, 2022 State College  6-2-2022 State Board Meeting.ics
Wednesday, August 3, 2022 Harrisburg  8-3-2022 PaRC Full Council Meeting.ics	Thursday, September 8, 2022 Pittsburgh  9-8-2022 State Board Meeting.ics
Wednesday, October 19, 2022 Harrisburg  10-19-2022 PaRC Full Council Meeting.i	Thursday, December 1, 2022 Harrisburg  12-1-2022 State Board Meeting.ics

***** PaRC Calendar Year 2022 – Please Mark your Calendars *****

Citizen Advisory Council

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.

The PaRC Social Media and Outreach Committee in partnership with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) produced videos of OVR individual and business success stories. 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 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 MEMBER OPENINGS: The PaRC is accepting applications for candidates to fill the following categories of representation that are currently open:

- State Workforce Development Board
- Young Adult

As of July 2022, the categories of representation listed below will also be available. PaRC encourages all applicants to apply as early as possible to ensure a timely transition of membership:

- Business/Industry/Labor
- Cognitive Disabilities
- Intellectual Disabilities
- IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)
- Rehabilitation Counselor

If you are interested or know of someone who is interested in becoming a member of the PA Rehabilitation Council, please go to our website (www.parac.org) and fill out an application.



Image Description: Holiday Card featuring pinecone and pine needles, holly leaf and berries, collage of torn papers, and the new Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council logo that contains an icon of the Capitol. The greeting says, "Hoping this reaches you in good health and cheer. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! May the joy of the holidays bless your home and heart."

NEWS, RESOURCES, AND EVENTS OF INTEREST:

1.) New Research Funding Opportunities for Minority-Serving Institutions

New funding opportunities from ACL's [National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research \(NIDILRR\)](#) have been announced for the [Field Initiated \(FI\) Projects Program](#) for minority-serving institutions.

The purpose of the Field Initiated Projects is to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family

support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities. Another purpose is to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/new-research-funding-opportunities-minority-serving-institutions>

2.) ADATA.ORG Webinars

Ask an ADA Professional Questions: Service Animals

Wednesday, January 12th, 2022 from 2:00 PM EST - 3:00 PM EST

During this session, individuals will have the opportunity to ask ADA professionals questions related to service animals. To ensure your question is answered during the session, individuals are highly encouraged to submit their questions ahead of time via the registration website (the option to submit questions is available once you have registered for the session).

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://adata.org/event/ask-ada-professional-questions-re-service-animals>

Accessible Technology on Smartphones and Tablets for Users with Hearing, Cognitive, and Mobility Disabilities

Tuesday, January 18th, 2022 from 2:00 PM EST - 3:30 PM EST

This is the second session highlighting accessible technology on smartphones and tablets for persons with disabilities. In this session, the speaker will highlight mobile apps to improve independence for users with hearing, cognitive and mobility disabilities. There will be time following the presentation for questions.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://adata.org/event/accessible-technology-smartphones-tablets-users-hearing-cognitive-and-mobility-disabilities>

Top ADA Cases of 2021

Wednesday, January 19th, 2022:00 PM EST - 3:30 PM EST

2021 was a year of reopening, new or revised mandates as well as a new administration. This legal webinar will review key 2021 ADA decisions under all Titles of the ADA and discuss their potential implications on future ADA litigation. Start the New Year off right with a better understanding of the most important ADA cases decided in 2021 and the implications that they may have for the future!

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://adata.org/event/top-ada-cases-2021>

3.) CCD Education Task Force Letter on Section 504

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) [wrote to request](#) that the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) undertake actions to address district and school compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504).

You may click the links provided for more information.

https://www.ndrn.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/CCD-Education-Task-Force-Letter-on-504-Recs-1_Cyrus-Huncharek.pdf

<https://www.ndrn.org/resource/ccd-education-task-force-letter-on-section-504/>

4.) NDRN Provides Comments to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Strategic Framework

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is developing a Strategic Framework for its work for FY2022 through FY2026. DOT asked for comments on the goals it intends to prioritize. NDRN [provided comments](#) to emphasize three of the listed goals – equity, future design, and safety – to highlight the importance of these issues for the lives of people with disabilities.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://www.ndrn.org/resource/ndrn-provides-comments-to-the-u-s-department-of-transportations-strategic-framework/>

5.) Perkins eLearning course: Transition Planning for Students with Visual Impairments and Multiple Disabilities

This 5-week online course begins in January 2022. Early bird pricing available until January 10th.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://www.nationaldb.org/updates/perkins-elearning-course-transition-planning-for-students-with-visual-impairments-and-multiple-disabilities/>

6.) JAN Webinar: ADA and Accommodation Lessons Learned: Stay at Work/Return to Work Edition

Thursday, February 10, 2022 from 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Eastern

Stay at Work/Return to Work (SAW/RTW) initiatives are designed to retain valued employees and enhance productivity. These initiatives can include temporary or permanent job accommodations such as modified scheduling, job restructuring, transitional work, and reassignment. Various employment laws can interplay when navigating SAW/RTW situations, making it challenging for employers to know best business practices. Join JAN Consultants for a discussion about lessons learned and practical Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidance related to various RTW/SAW issues.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://askjan.org/events/index.cfm?calview=eventdetails&dtid=890A8FD7-08E5-5DE4-9B81ADA202A38F69>

***If you no longer wish to receive this update, please contact Chris Todd at Christopher.Todd@parehabilitationcouncil.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 23, 2021**, all links have been verified. Please credit the PaRC Support Project for any information forwarded to others. Thank You.

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