

## **PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)**

Office Location / Mailing Address: 55 Utlely 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](mailto:racucpa@ucpcentralpa.org) [www.parac.org](http://www.parac.org)

### **WEEKLY UPDATE February 26, 2021**

**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](mailto: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 **February 26, 2021**, 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 2020 Annual Report can be found on our webpage or by clicking on the following link**

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

**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, 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 \*\*\***

<b>PaRC</b>	<b>OVR State Board</b>
Wednesday, February 17, 2021 Harrisburg  2-17-2021 PaRC Full Council Meeting.ics	Thursday, March 11, 2021 Virtual  3-11-2021 OVR State Board Meeting.ics
Wednesday, May 12, 2021 Harrisburg  5-12-2021 PaRC Full Council Meeting.ics	Thursday, June 3, 2021 Virtual  6-3-2021 OVR State Board Meeting.ics

<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>Tuesday, November 16, 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](http://parac.org/council_mtgs.html)**

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

**CareerLink/WIOA Conference Call**

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 March 19, 2021 at 9:30 AM

**Social Media/Outreach Committee Conference Call**

Wednesday March 3, 2021 at 9:30 AM

**Transition & Education Conference Call**

Thursday April 29, 2021 at 2:30 PM

The PaRC Social Media and Outreach Committee in partnership with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) produced 5 videos which are 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 5 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](http://www.parac.org)) and fill out an application.

## **1.) Forwarded from Linda Williams**

### **PENNSYLVANIA MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMERS' ASSOCIATION**

#### **Trauma 101: An Overview of Trauma-Informed Care**

#### **When**

18 Mar 2021

**1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

#### **Location**

Zoom

#### **REGISTRATION**

Trauma 101 Attendees – \$20.00

Register for this training at:

<https://pmhca.wildapricot.org/event-4163029>

#### **Trauma 101: An Overview of Trauma-Informed Care**

Research shows that 67% of the population has experienced at least one Adverse Childhood Experience. These trauma-based adversities are predictive of a multitude of toxic physical, mental, and social outcomes throughout a person's lifetime. As a society and as individuals we need to be better informed and prepared to prevent and address the traumatic impact of childhood adversities – for the health and well-being of our children, ourselves, and our communities.

In this two-hour training workshop, you will:

Enhance and enrich your knowledge of trauma

Be introduced to the Adverse Childhood Experiences study

Discover the basics of brain growth and the impact of toxic stress

Understand the four components of trauma-informed care

Be inspired by reasons for hope

**\*A certificate of attendance for 2 hours of training will be provided. \***

**\*\*You must be on video for the entire two-hour training to receive credit. This will be a virtual training using the ZOOM platform. \*\***

## **2.) When Does COVID-19 Become A Disability? 'Long-Haulers' Push For Answers, and Benefits By Gabriell Emanuel February 22, 2021**

When COVID-19 first arrived in the U.S., Jodee Pineau-Chaisson was working as the director of social services for a nursing home in western Massachusetts called Center for Extended Care in Amherst. By the middle of April, residents were getting sick.

In early May, Pineau-Chaisson was tapped for a particular duty: "I was asked to go on to the COVID-19 units to do FaceTime calls, so they could say goodbye to their family members," she recalls. "I was very scared."

She was worried about contracting the virus, but also felt like she owed it to her residents. So, at 55 years old and with no pre-existing conditions, Pineau-Chaisson put on an N95 mask, a white jumpsuit, and she entered the units to help. Three days later, she had COVID-19. To read more, go to:

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2021/02/22/966291447/when-does-covid-19-become-a-disability-long-haulers-push-for-answers-and-benefit>

## **3.) Forwarded from Janeen Latin**

Hello:

It has been nearly a year since the COVID-19 pandemic touched down here in the commonwealth, and life looks so different for all of us. How we work, how we play, go to school, shop, and socialize has changed dramatically. And yet, we are persevering.

That is why I am proud to introduce *One Lens: Sharing Our Common Views*, a virtual photo and storytelling exhibition to give each and every Pennsylvanian the opportunity to share their COVID-19 stories through photography. *One Lens* is our chance to show what it is like to experience this extraordinary moment in history. Because art has the power to heal us, and by telling our stories, we can honor our efforts during this time, recognize our achievements, and help sustain each other as we continue the fight. To continue reading, go to:



One Lens Invitation  
- First Lady Frances \

#### **4.) NCD announces new Chairman Andrés Gallegos Source: National Council on Disability January 22, 2021**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22, 2021 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- The National Council on Disability (NCD) – an independent, nonpartisan federal agency that advises the President, Congress and other federal agencies on disability policy – announces Andrés J. Gallegos, of Chicago, Illinois, as its new Chairman.

The designation of Mr. Gallegos as Chairman of the Council was made official by the White House on January 20, signed by President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. To read more, go to:

<https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2021/01/22/2163002/0/en/NCD-announces-new-Chairman-Andr%C3%A9s-Gallegos.html>

#### **5.) Forwarded from Michelle Leahy**

**A Lehigh Valley company is helping people with autism find fulfilling jobs**

**By Drew Anderson  
February 14, 2021**

There are many people with autism who are unemployed or have unfulfilling jobs, but a national program with Lehigh Valley ties wants to change that.

It's all part of Computer Aid Inc.'s (CAI) Autism2Work. Autism2Work is a nationwide program that helps people with autism find a fulfilling job and helps those people flourish in the position. To continue reading, go to:

[https://www.wfmz.com/news/area/lehighvalley/a-lehigh-valley-company-is-helping-people-with-autism-find-fulfilling-jobs/article\\_870d0454-6953-11eb-95ad-27c81446a4d1.html](https://www.wfmz.com/news/area/lehighvalley/a-lehigh-valley-company-is-helping-people-with-autism-find-fulfilling-jobs/article_870d0454-6953-11eb-95ad-27c81446a4d1.html)

## **6.) Ed Department: Schools Serving More Students Under IDEA**

**by Shaun Heasley  
February 23, 2021**

An increasing number of American schoolchildren are receiving special education services and nearly all of them spend at least some of their day in class with their typically-developing peers.

New data from the U.S. Department of Education shows that over 6.3 million children ages 6 to 21 were served under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in 2018, the most recent year for which information is available. That accounts for 9.5% of all students, up from 8.5% in 2009. To read more, go to: <https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2021/02/23/ed-department-schools-serving-more-students-under-idea/29209/>

## **7.) Vaccination plans must include disability community's needs**

**by Bonnielin Swenor and Sabrina Epstein, Johns Hopkins University  
February 24, 2021**

The Johns Hopkins Disability Health Research Center recently launched the COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization Dashboard to decipher how state policies have—and have not—prioritized the

needs of people with disabilities in vaccination plans. The website, created with the Center for Dignity in Healthcare for People with Disabilities, interprets public information so that the disability community can understand the varying qualification rules and application processes. To continue reading, go to: <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-02-vaccination-disability.html>

## 8.) Forwarded from Linda Williams

Wednesday March 3, 2021

A dark red rectangular graphic with white text and a starry background. At the top, it says "YOU'RE INVITED!". Below that, in large bold letters, is "PMHCA Membership Committee Meeting". A paragraph of text follows, explaining the purpose of the committee. At the bottom, it provides the Zoom link and a QR code.

YOU'RE INVITED!

# PMHCA Membership Committee Meeting

*PMHCA has begun a membership committee made up of individuals interested in ensuring that we represent you and your needs. This committee will address membership retention and recruitment as well as look at ways we can keep our members engaged and up to date on all of our advocacy efforts.*

Please join us on the first Wednesday of every month at 10 am on Zoom.

ZOOM LINK: [ZOOM.US/J/95976114150](https://zoom.us/j/95976114150)



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