

## **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 March 12, 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 **March 12, 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>
<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>5-12-2021 PaRC Full Council Meeting.ics</p>	<p>Thursday, June 3, 2021 Virtual</p>  <p>6-3-2021 OVR State Board Meeting.ics</p>
<p>Wednesday, August 4, 2021</p>	<p>Thursday, September 16, 2021</p>

<p><b>Harrisburg</b></p>  8-4-2021 PaRC Full Council Meeting.ics	<p><b>Pittsburgh</b></p>  9-16-2021 OVR State Board Meeting.ics
<p>Tuesday, November 16, 2021 <b>Harrisburg</b></p>  11-17-2021 PaRC Full Council Meeting.ics	<p>Thursday, December 2, 2021 <b>Harrisburg</b></p>  12-2-2021 OVR State Board Meeting.ics

**[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**

Thursday April 15, 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.) ADA Concerns Raised Over COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout by Michelle Diamant March 8, 2021**

Federal authorities are being asked to step in amid concerns that sensory sensitivities, physical access, and other barriers may be keeping people with disabilities from receiving COVID-19 vaccines.

A group of 13 U.S. senators sent a letter early this month to top officials at the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division and the Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Civil Rights asking them to ensure that each state's process for

distributing vaccines is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act as well as Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. To read more, go to:

<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2021/03/08/ada-concerns-raised-over-covid-19-vaccine-rollout/29227/>

## **2.) Advocates urge Harrisburg to be more responsive about accessible parking, other issues impacting people with disabilities**

**Posted: Mar 12, 2021**

HARRISBURG, Pa. (WHTM) — Advocates have been trying to get Harrisburg to change one of its ordinances to make parking more accessible for residents with disabilities.

They say their calls for change going unanswered has become a pattern with the city.

The nonprofit Disability Rights PA says it reached out to Harrisburg a year ago about this parking ordinance. It says the city was initially responsive, but eventually, all communication stopped.

“It’s making it more difficult for them to live in their own community,” said Pam Auer, the director of advocacy and community engagement at the Center for Independent Living of Central PA. To continue reading, go to:

<https://www.abc27.com/news/local/harrisburg/advocates-urge-harrisburg-to-be-more-responsive-about-accessible-parking-other-issues-impacting-people-with-disabilities/>

## **3.) Push Is On for States to Ban Organ Transplant Discrimination**

**By Sara Reardon**

**MARCH 8, 2021**

Griffin Dalrymple is an energetic 7-year-old who loves going to school in Eureka, Montana. But two years ago, the boy described

by his mother, Jayci, as a “ball of fire” was suddenly knocked back by severe bacterial pneumonia that hospitalized him for two weeks.

As her son lay in the intensive care unit with a tube in his tiny lungs, Jayci began imagining worst-case scenarios. She worried that if Griffin ended up needing a lung transplant, he might be refused because he has Down syndrome. To continue reading, go to: <https://khn.org/news/article/organ-transplant-discrimination-disabilities-state-legislation/>

**4.) The Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC) is in search of a person or agency who can create an engaging and interactive website that attracts an audience seeking valuable and useful content related to the employment of people with disabilities.**

The mission of the Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC) is to inform and advise the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, the State Board of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Legislature, and the Governor on the diverse issue affecting employment of people with disabilities. All members of the Council are appointed by the Governor.

This project must fulfill a number of important duties and responsibilities including but not limited to:

- A website within \$3000 - \$4500 budget
- Build an informative and engaging website that increases visitor numbers, time spent on the site, and return visits
- Ability to track website visitors
- Design the site’s layout and organize the information in a way that is visually pleasing and easy to use
- Encompass all disabilities by creating a fully accessible site where all people can perceive, understand, navigate, and interact

- Integrate social media platforms to help drive traffic and a greater awareness of the mission of the PaRC
- Knowledge and creating a SEO (Search Engine Optimization) system
- Storage area for weekly newsletters on website with publicly accessible link
- Responds well to client's requests
- Possess excellent communication skills
- Strong portfolio and experience preferred
- **Deadline for submissions is March 31, 2021**
- **People with disabilities are encouraged to apply**

Please send serious inquiries with 3 portfolio examples to Michelle Gerrick at [michelle.gerrick@parehabilitationcouncil.org](mailto:michelle.gerrick@parehabilitationcouncil.org)

## **5.) How Covid Relief Will Help Disabled People, And What Was Left Out**

**Mar 11, 2021**

**By Andrew Pulrang**

The American Rescue Plan passed its final vote in the House yesterday, on a 220-211 vote along strict party lines. President Biden signed it this afternoon. The plan's best-known feature, a third round of economic stimulus checks to individuals and families, will start going out almost immediately. The bill seems to have strong support, not just among Democrats and Independents, but from a substantial percentage of Republican voters as well.

This is a major political victory for the new Biden Administration. And as many economists say, (though not all of them), the bill looks to be an essential toolbox for Covid-19 pandemic relief and economic recovery. This massive \$1.9 trillion package is also a significant win for disabled people in the U.S., though it won't deliver all that the disability community had hoped for. To continue reading, go to:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/andrewpulrang/2021/03/11/how->

[covid-relief-will-help-disabled-people-and-what-was-left-out/?ss=diversity-inclusion&sh=680f53a14fce](https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2021/03/12/biden-signs-stimulus-bill-sending-funds-to-disability-community/29238/)

## **6.) Biden Signs Stimulus Bill Sending Funds To Disability Community** **by Michelle Diamant** **March 12, 2021**

President Joe Biden signed a massive pandemic relief package sending billions to special education and home- and community-based services and providing stimulus payments for many with disabilities who haven't previously qualified.

The \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan signed Thursday provides the first major investment since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic a year ago in the hard-hit disability services system. To continue reading, go to:

<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2021/03/12/biden-signs-stimulus-bill-sending-funds-to-disability-community/29238/>

## **7.) One Year Into the Pandemic, the White House Aims to Prioritize People With Disabilities** **BY ABIGAIL ABRAMS** **MARCH 11, 2021**

One year ago, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization officially declared COVID-19 a pandemic. Since then, 29 million Americans have been infected and more than 500,000 have died.

With spring on the horizon, more Americans getting vaccinated every day, and President Joe Biden laying out an optimistic timeline in an address Thursday night, the country feels as if it is turning a corner. But in many ways, the pandemic recovery is just beginning. The first 50 days of Biden's presidency have largely been focused on helping Americans who have suffered during the pandemic, including by passing a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief bill. But in a historic first, the White House has also

named a disability policy director to sit on its Domestic Policy Council and ensure the government is prioritizing Americans with disabilities—including those with lingering disabilities caused by COVID-19. To keep reading, go to:  
<https://time.com/5946183/white-house-disability-policy-director/>

**Message from Linda Williams:** I Just wanted to thank all of you that I've known over the years for all of your work to improve the lives of persons with disabilities. I will be retiring the end of this month and am happy to inform you that Michelle Gerrick will be taking over as the new Director. Michelle has been with the PaRC for the past 9 years. Please join me in wishing her the best in her new position.

Keep up the good work that you do!

Best to all of you and take care of yourselves,

Linda

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