

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

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**WEEKLY UPDATE March 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 [katie.haley@ucpcentralpa.org](mailto:katie.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 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 	Thursday, March 11, 2021 Virtual 
Wednesday, May 12, 2021 Harrisburg 	Thursday, June 3, 2021 Virtual 
Wednesday, August 4, 2021 Harrisburg	Thursday, September 16, 2021 Pittsburgh

<p>Tuesday, November 16, 2021 Harrisburg</p>	<p>Thursday, December 2, 2021 Harrisburg</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 April 30, 2021 at 930 AM

**Social Media/Outreach Committee Conference Call**

Tuesday April 13, 2021 at 10:30 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.) Waiting Lists May Be Eliminated For Disability Services Provided By Medicaid** **by** **Michelle Diamant** **March 22,** **2021**

Work is underway on legislation that could fundamentally transform the nation's system of home- and community-based services, eliminating waiting lists and allowing people with disabilities to move across state lines without forfeiting critical services and supports.

A draft bill unveiled this month known as the HCBS Access Act would require Medicaid to provide home- and community-based services to everyone who is eligible and establish a minimum set of services that states must offer. The bill is also designed to help states create a network of providers and workers to deliver such supports. To continue reading, go to:

<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2021/03/22/waiting-lists-may-be-eliminated-for-disability-services-provided-by-medicaid/29252/>

## **2.) Why Recruitment Will Always Be A Reliable Vector For Disability Discrimination** **By Gus Alexiou**

**Mar 22, 2021**

When it comes to disability discrimination, or indeed, any other form of minority exclusion, there are few areas quite as murky and riddled with subterfuge as recruitment.

Unlike certain other aspects of diversity and social integration, at least on the level of individual job applications, there exists a necessary level of competition geared towards a winner-takes-all outcome.

Equally, the often secretive and subjective nature of the interview and application process can allow bias and non-inclusive practices to fester and hide in plain sight. To read more, go to:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/gusalexiou/2021/03/22/why-recruitment-will-always-be-a-reliable-vector-for-disability-discrimination/?sh=21e22e4343df>

### **3.) Calls Grow For April To Be Designated 'Autism Acceptance Month'**

**by Michelle Diamant**

**March 23, 2021**

April has long been known as "Autism Awareness Month," but advocates are pushing this time around for a federal designation of the month focused on acceptance instead.

The Autism Society of America is spearheading an effort calling on local, state and federal leaders across the nation to name April "Autism Acceptance Month." The group is seeking support from members of Congress and the White House for the designation.

To continue reading, go to:

<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2021/03/23/calls-grow-for-april-to-be-designated-autism-acceptance-month/29254/>

### **4.) Living with a disability is very expensive – even with government assistance**

**by Zachary Morris, Nanette Goodman and Stephen McGarity, The Conversation**

**MARCH 24, 2021**

Edward Mitchell is 34 years old and lives in Jackson, Tennessee, with a spinal cord injury caused by a hit-and-run accident that

happened when he was 17. He has plenty of expenses that all Americans have, like groceries and utilities. But to maintain his independence, he also has to pay for home modifications to accommodate his wheelchair, personal nursing care, dictation tools to help him write and adjustments to his car so he can drive himself to work. To read more, go to:

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-03-disability-expensive.html>

## **5.) Med Student's Disability Helps Him Connect With Patients**

**By Lisa Intrabartola**

**March 22, 2021**

When Tom Pisano started making rounds in his wheelchair, he worried his patients would consider him less capable than his Robert Wood Johnson Medical School peers.

However, he quickly found it had the opposite effect on patients and put them at ease.

"Patients are more willing to share what's really bothering them," said Pisano, 33, who was paralyzed from the chest down during a skiing accident at 19, during his first year of college. "Everyone has an internal struggle or challenge of some form, mine is just visible. That helps give me a connection with the patient."

On Friday, during what is nationally known as Match Day, Pisano was one of 162 soon-to-be physicians in RWJMS's Class of 2021 who discovered the name of the residency program where they will spend the next three to seven years training in the medical specialty of their choice. To continue reading, go to:

<https://www.rutgers.edu/news/med-students-disability-helps-him-connect-patients>

## **6.) Airbnb Tailoring Experiences To Neurodiverse Guests**

**by Shaun Heasley**

**March 26, 2021**

Airbnb is introducing a new slate of offerings specifically aimed at neurodiverse individuals, including those with autism.

The company unveiled a collection of online experiences this week “designed by hosts with neurodiverse guests in mind” as part of the company’s push to be more inclusive.

Though Airbnb is known primarily for short-term rentals, they also offer online experiences allowing people to explore new places or activities without leaving home. To read more, go to:

<https://www.disabilitycoop.com/2021/03/26/airbnb-tailoring-experiences-to-neurodiverse-guests/29262/>

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