

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

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WEEKLY UPDATE March 5, 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 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 5, 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 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>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>Harrisburg</p>  8-4-2021 PaRC Full Council Meeting.ics	<p>Pittsburgh</p>  9-16-2021 OVR State Board Meeting.ics
<p>Tuesday, November 16, 2021 Harrisburg</p>  11-17-2021 PaRC Full Council Meeting.ics	<p>Thursday, December 2, 2021 Harrisburg</p>  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 Conference Call

Next Call: To be Determined

Executive Committee Conference Call

Wednesday March 3, 2021 at 2:00 PM

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) and fill out an application.

1.) Forwarded from Linda Williams



Young Adult Road Map (YARM)

April 2, 2021

From: 9 am to 3pm

The Young Adult Road Map is a step-by-step guide to navigating wellness, independent living, and transition services for young people in their teens and twenties in a way that is interesting and engaging.

Learning Goals

- Setting Goals – Identifying Strengths, Concerns and “The Big Picture”
- Learning System basics – learning how to navigate the Medical, Behavioral and Insurance Systems
- Building Relationships- learning and working with providers to meet goals and solve problems
- Managing Information- Using Personal records and data to tell your story
- Find Support- Creating a Network to meet challenges and seek community
- The Bridge to Everywhere- Using a five-point plan for navigating transition services.

This training is intended for anyone who works as a peer based practitioner or provides services for the youth and young adult demographic. Certificates of participation will be provided upon completion of this training

For complete registration and payment for training go to

<https://pmhca.wildapricot.org/event-4165881>

Cost for this training is \$39.99

2.) 5 Questions That Help Define The Outlines Of Disability Advocacy

Andrew Pulrang Contributor

Feb 28, 2021

What is the shape of disability activism?

There is a lot of natural variation in the large and diverse disabled population, and many different opinions among the smaller core of committed disability activists. But there are some beliefs, positions, and mindsets that shape the community of individuals and organizations loosely referred to as “Disability Activism.” They are not exactly boundaries or litmus tests. They are more

like magnets that draw disability advocates in certain directions. What are these key positions? How do we identify them? To read more, go to:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/andrewpulrang/2021/02/28/5-questions-that-help-define-the-outlines-of-disability-advocacy/?sh=d639f4c5e97f>

3.) CDC Urged To Prioritize COVID-19 Vaccines For People With Developmental Disabilities

by Michelle Diament

March 1, 2021

With access to COVID-19 vaccines varying dramatically for people with developmental disabilities, advocates want the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to update its prioritization plan to account for the high risk this population faces.

In a letter to CDC leadership late last month, 16 advocacy groups called for people with developmental disabilities who are living independently in the community or with family to be added to group 1B in the CDC's recommendations for the vaccine rollout. To continue reading, go to:

<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2021/03/01/cdc-urged-to-prioritize-covid-19-vaccines-for-people-with-developmental-disabilities/29216/>

4.) Forwarded from Linda Williams

OVR State Board of Vocational Rehabilitation Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Start time: 9:00 a.m.

End time: 12:00 p.m.

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic and Governor Wolf's stay-at-home orders, this meeting will be held virtually via an AT&T conference line. The public is invited to call in to this meeting using the following information:

Phone number: 877-692-8955

Access Code: 8177255

CART and sign language interpreters will be available for this meeting via Zoom. Anyone requiring these services can connect to the Zoom meeting via the link below. Please note that audio will not be available in the Zoom meeting.

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 827 6769 7399

Passcode: 159081

Those using a screen reader can connect via the following link:

[CART Link](#)

AT&T conference lines will be limited to 200 participants. Zoom for CART/interpreters will be limited to 100 participants. This meeting will be recorded, and the recording will be available following the meeting.

The agenda for this meeting is below. Anyone who would like to make public comment prior to the meeting may submit their comments via email at RA-LIOVR-STBOARD-CMT@pa.gov.

Additional auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Please send your request to RA-LIOVR-STBOARD-CMT@pa.gov.

5.) 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

6.) Expansion of remote tech can help safeguard care for people with disabilities

By Kat Jercich

March 02, 2021

A report released this past week from the ANCOR Foundation and United Cerebral Palsy found that telehealth can play an integral role in transforming the healthcare system to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their caregivers.

"Throughout the pandemic, we've been hearing stories from throughout our community of more than 1,600 community-based disability service providers that the flexibility to leverage telehealth and to deliver supports remotely have been game-changers," said Shannon McCracken, ANCOR's vice president for government relations, to Healthcare IT News. To read more, go to: <https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/expansion-remote-tech-can-help-safeguard-care-people-disabilities>

7.) Congress Weighs Stimulus Checks For Those With Disabilities, Funds For Services **by Michelle Diamant** **March 4, 2021**

A \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief plan under consideration in the U.S. Senate includes a major investment in home- and community-based services and stimulus payments for more people with disabilities.

The bill approved by the House of Representatives last weekend would funnel an estimated \$9.3 billion extra to states for Medicaid programs that enable people with disabilities to live in the community. To continue reading, go to: <https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2021/03/04/congress-weighs-stimulus-checks-for-those-with-disabilities-funds-for-services/29223/>

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