

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

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WEEKLY UPDATE April 2, 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@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 **April 2, 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> |

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|---|--|
| <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

Thursday April 22, 2021 Time 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 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.) March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

**By PennLive letters to the editor
March 29, 2021**

In 1916, an exhibition was hosted in Carlisle on “feeble-mindedness,” (a term of the day for people with intellectual disabilities). Over 1,200 people came to learn about the perceived “menace” that people with intellectual disabilities placed on the community. Solutions posed were isolation in state schools and eugenics practices to ‘weed out’ undesirable characteristics. At the end of the exhibition, attendees were asked to sign a petition to state legislators to support state schools. They readily signed.

To continue reading, go to :

<https://www.pennlive.com/opinion/2021/03/march-is-national-developmental-disabilities-awareness-month-pennlive-letters.html>

2.) Biden administration waives rule for disabled borrowers, but advocates say much more could be done

By Danielle Douglas-Gabriel

March 29, 2021

The Education Department is ensuring that 230,000 disabled borrowers approved for loan forgiveness are not derailed by paperwork during the pandemic, but advocates say the agency can help nearly twice as many by automating the process.

Anyone who is declared by a physician, the Social Security Administration or Department of Veterans Affairs to be totally and permanently disabled is eligible to have their federal student debt canceled. Those who benefit are subject to a three-year monitoring period, in which they must submit annual documentation verifying their income does not exceed the poverty line. To read more, go to:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2021/03/29/student-debt-disabilities-relief-biden/>

3.) Delayed Stimulus Payments May Come Soon For Social Security, SSI Beneficiaries

by Michelle Diamant

March 30, 2021

Stimulus checks for people with disabilities who receive Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits could start flowing after the payments were held up.

The Social Security Administration said late last week that it sent the IRS information needed to issue the \$1,400 economic stimulus payments to beneficiaries who qualify.

The move came after a group of lawmakers pressured Social Security officials to act. U.S. Reps. Richard E. Neal, D-Mass., John B. Larson, D-Conn., Bill Pascrell, Jr., D-N.J., and Danny K. Davis, D-Ill., said that the IRS had requested the files two weeks before the American Rescue Plan was signed into law on March 11 green-lighting the payments. To continue reading, go to: <https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2021/03/30/delayed-stimulus-payments-may-come-soon-for-social-security-ssi-beneficiaries/29269/>

4.) 3 ways to make technologies more inclusive for people with disabilities

by Ching-Shiuan Jiang

31 Mar 2021

AI can help describe surroundings for people who are visually impaired.

From colour contrast, to screen reader facilities, inclusive user interfaces are key to mobile-enabled services.

The market for assistive technology is on an upward trajectory.

Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies are drastically changing every aspect of our lives. McKinsey estimates that digital transformation during the pandemic has fast tracked progress for what would have been achieved in five years. So how do we ensure the benefits reach everyone in society, including people living with disabilities?

From key 4IR technology drivers to specific assistive products, here are three ways to make our technologies more inclusive for people with disabilities: To continue reading, go to:

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/03/3-ways-to-make-technologies-more-inclusive-for-people-with-disabilities/>

5.) 3 Ways To Help Disabled People Through The End Of The Pandemic

By Andrew Pulrang

March 31, 2021

We have already been through a couple of false endings to the Covid-19 pandemic. But finally, there really are solid reasons to think that it may really be ending, or at least becoming a different, less dangerous and disruptive problem than it has been for the last year. This is good news for disabled people, as it is for everyone. But this transition will be a lot easier if a few of our unique needs can be met.

People with disabilities have disproportionately suffered from the pandemic. We have been devastated medically, through our disability-related vulnerability and dangerous medical responses to it. We have been hindered practically, because of the extra difficulties we face in protecting ourselves. And like everyone else, we have been affected socially by a year of isolation and stress. To read more, go to:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/andrewpulrang/2021/03/31/3-ways-to-help-disabled-people-through-the-end-of-the-pandemic/?sh=662a3c482dcc>

6.) Alumni couple supports disability-focused entrepreneurship at Penn State

From Penn State News

March 31, 2021

Penn State alumni Robert and Linda Malecky have pledged a gift of \$125,000 to support the Summer Founders program, a 13-week entrepreneurial bootcamp. Together with a one-to-one

University match, this gift has established an endowment of \$250,000, which will fund teams of entrepreneurs developing products or services designed to positively impact the lives of people with disabilities.

The match was provided through the Economic Development Incentive Matching Program, which leverages University funds for select initiatives that will drive job and business creation in Pennsylvania. To continue reading, go to:

<https://news.psu.edu/story/652808/2021/03/30/administration/alumni-couple-supports-disability-focused-entrepreneurship>

7.) Disabled PageGroup CEO Explains How Top Job Candidates Always Screen For Inclusivity

By Gus Alexiou

March 31, 2021

Right now, as the jobs market grapples with the economic aftershocks of the global pandemic, companies in the process of hiring should have no problem sourcing eager and willing candidates.

Yet, for blue-chip firms, who consider themselves peerless within their sector — the intention is never to simply just make a hire. The aim is always to attract the most qualified candidates. The cream of the crop.

One man who knows a thing or two about what professional outfits are looking for is Steve Ingham, long-time CEO of global recruitment behemoth PageGroup. To read more, go to: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/gusalexiou/2021/03/31/disabled-pagegroup-ceo-explains-how-top-job-candidates-always-screen-for-inclusivity/?sh=21235a65f87d>



By [RVA News](#)

(Colorful circle made out of hands that says World Autism Awareness Day April 2)

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