

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

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### **WEEKLY UPDATE August 14, 2020**

\*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 **August 14, 2020**, 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 2019 Annual Report can be found on our webpage or by clicking on the following link**

<http://parac.org/reports/2019AnnualReport.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 Calendar Year 2020 –Please Mark your Calendars \*\*\***

### **FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS**

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.

**November 18, 2020**

The agenda will be posted on the PaRC website.

[http://parac.org/council\\_mtgs.html](http://parac.org/council_mtgs.html)

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

**CareerLink/WIOA**

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**

Next Call: To be Determined

## **Social Media/Outreach Committee Conference Call**

Next Call: To be Determined

## **Transition & Education**

Next Call: Friday October 9, 2020 at 2:00 PM

The PaRC Social Media and Outreach Committee in partnership with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) produced 6 videos, 5 of which are OVR individual and business success stories, as well as a PaRC Recruitment video. 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 6 videos. Please feel free to share.

[PaRC Recruitment](#)

[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.) Google Releases Lookout 2.0 For Android Steven Aquino Contributor Diversity & Inclusion Aug 11, 2020**

Google today announced a new version of its accessibility-focused Lookout app for Android, releasing version 2.0 of the software.

Lookout uses artificial intelligence and machine learning to help blind and low vision users identify physical objects such as food labels, currency, and more. To continue reading, go to:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/stevenaquino/2020/08/11/google-releases-lookout-20-for-android/?ss=diversity#37b269d06454>

## **2.) Netflix Is Letting Some People Speed Up Playback. That is A Big Deal For Blind Fans**

**August 12, 2020 9:00 AM ET**

**JAMES DOUBEK**

Netflix is rolling out a new feature that will let some viewers change the playback speeds of movies and TV shows.

It might seem targeted toward people who want to binge as much TV as quickly as possible. But being able to play shows slower (at half speed or three-quarters speed) or faster (at 1.25 or 1.5 speed) is also a boon for blind and deaf viewers.

For people who are blind or have low vision, the reason why involves a feature called audio description. To continue reading, go to: <https://www.npr.org/2020/08/12/901317290/netflix-is-letting-some-people-speed-up-playback-thats-a-big-deal-for-blind-fans>

## **3.) NASCAR Driver With Autism Is Turning Heads At 190 MPH**

**by Taylor DesOrmeau, MLive.com/TNS | August 11, 2020**

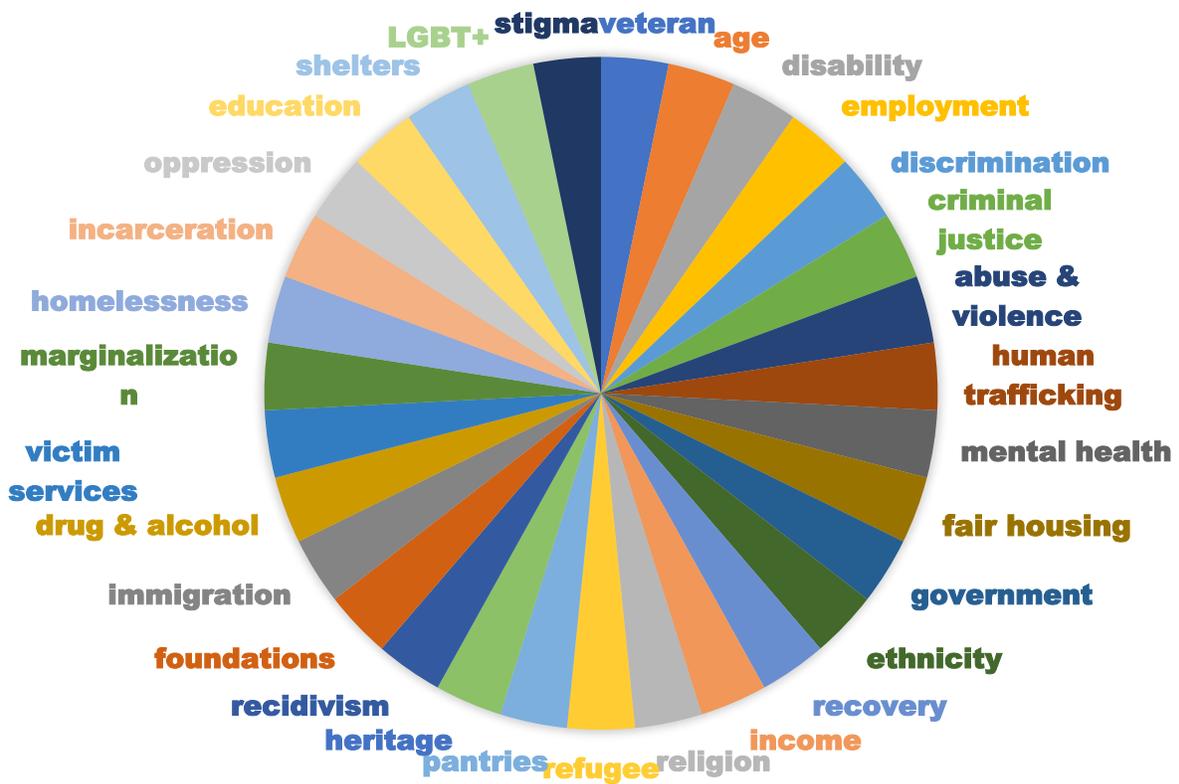
Sunday morning, 20-year-old Armani Williams was featured on "Good Morning America" for being the first driver in NASCAR to openly have autism.

A few hours later, he was celebrating his first top 10 finish. To continue reading, go to:

<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2020/08/11/nascar-driver-autism-turning-heads-190-mph/28712/>

#### 4.) Forwarded From Linda Williams

To ensure we do our part to keep everyone safe, we have decided the 2020 PA Community Alliance Summit should be a virtual event this year. Plans are being formalized for a virtual Summit. Watch for more details to come.



#### 5.) Forwarded from Janeen Latin

# COLD vs. FLU vs. ALLERGIES vs. COVID-19

SYMPTOMS	COLD	FLU	ALLERGIES	COVID-19** (can range from mild to serious)
Fever	Rare	High (100-102°F), Can last 3-4 days	Never	Common
Headache	Rare	Intense	Uncommon	Can be present
General Aches, Pains	Slight	Usual, often severe	Never	Can be present
Fatigue, Weakness	Mild	Intense, can last up to 2-3 weeks	Sometimes	Can be present
Extreme Exhaustion	Never	Usual (starts early)	Never	Can be present
Stuffy/Runny Nose	Common	Sometimes	Common	Has been reported
Sneezing	Usual	Sometimes	Usual	Has been reported
Sore Throat	Common	Common	Sometimes	Has been reported
Cough	Mild to moderate	Common, can become severe	Sometimes	Common
Shortness of Breath	Rare	Rare	Rare, except for those with allergic asthma	In more serious infections

Sources: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. CDC. WHO.

\*\*Information is still evolving

## **6.) Chicago police hire first official focused on disability law by: Associated Press**

**Posted: Aug 9, 2020**

CHICAGO — A retired Chicago Police Department official is returning to work to oversee the agency's compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, authorities said Friday.

Deborah Pascua spent 27 years with the department. She is the first official assigned to oversee the agency's policy and training for maintaining the rights of people with disabilities.

The role is among the sweeping court-supervised reforms ordered for the department after the U.S. Justice Department found a history of racial bias and excessive use of force by Chicago police.

"Ensuring equal access to police services and facilities for persons with disabilities is a major priority for me because we all have family members or friends in the community impacted by a disability," Pascua said in a statement.

[https://apnews.com/00c4141fdd77b11094266f2930c51cfe#:~:text=CHICAGO%20\(AP\)%20%E2%80%94%20A%20retired,27%20years%20with%20the%20department.](https://apnews.com/00c4141fdd77b11094266f2930c51cfe#:~:text=CHICAGO%20(AP)%20%E2%80%94%20A%20retired,27%20years%20with%20the%20department.)

## **7.) Governor Cuomo Signs Legislation Prohibiting Housing Providers from Discriminating Against Persons with a Disability Who Have Support Animals**

**LEGISLATION HOUSING AUGUST 11, 2020 Albany, NY**

Governor Cuomo Signs Legislation Prohibiting Housing Providers from Discriminating Against Persons with a Disability Who Have Support Animals

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo signed legislation today (S6172/A7331) prohibiting housing providers from discriminating against a person who relies on an animal for assistance alleviating symptoms or the effects of a disability. Housing providers must now provide a reasonable accommodation by permitting a support animal to live in a home that otherwise would have prohibited pets. To read more, go to: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-signs-legislation-prohibiting-housing-providers-discriminating-against-persons>

## **8.) Forwarded from Passle Helminski**

**Which pups will make the grade as a service dog?**

**Canine science aims to increase the success rate by analyzing minds, genetics, and behavior**

**Karin Brulliard August 10, 2020**

DURHAM, N.C. — Yonder, 11 weeks old and 15 pounds, had two choices. In a white-walled room at Duke University, the wiggly Labrador mix faced a neon green squeaky squid toy and an upturned bowl topped with a piece of kibble. “Okay!” a researcher said perkily, and the puppy did not hesitate — she scurried straight toward the treat.

Yonder was bred for an exceptionally difficult job: to become a service dog for a human who needs her — by alerting to a doorbell or pulling a wheelchair while remaining composed and quiet, in crowds or on trails, and never chasing squirrels. Whether she is capable was being gleaned in this room, with tests aimed at measuring her problem-solving, self-control and communications with people. To continue reading, go to: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/science/2020/08/10/service-dogs-study-exam/?arc404=true>

## **9.) How to act if you think someone with a disability may need help**

**BARB ZABLOTNEY Aug 11, 2020**

Oftentimes while I am out in public living my life, I see people acting wildly and doing the wildest things to me.

This is the platform I advocated for during my time as Ms. Wheelchair Pennsylvania 2018. The best advice I can give is to treat people with disabilities like you would anyone else.

What do I mean by that?

If you would help a person without a disability with a task, chances are it is OK to help us with that task. For instance, holding the door open is common courtesy.

On the flip side, attempting to help a person with a disability transfer into their car may not be well received. This is because people do not typically help someone without a disability get into their personal car.

The best advice is to make eye contact with someone with a disability, smile and say "Hi, how are you doing today?"

You are making it a humanized experience and acknowledging them as a person while also not assuming instantly they need help because of having a disability. Then, if they do need help, it lets them know that you are a friendly face and they may feel more comfortable asking you for help if needed. It is OK to even bring up something friendly and neutral such as the weather to keep the conversation going a bit longer.

Talking about anything but the disability will make us feel fully included and not assumed to be helpless.

(Windber native Barb Zabloutney started as an advocate when she won the title of Ms. Wheelchair Pennsylvania 2018. Since then she co-founded the South Central PA United Spinal Chapter,

serves as President for Ms. Wheelchair Pennsylvania, and serves on several other nonprofit boards. She is currently employed as a consumer advocate at Laurel Medical Solutions.)

[https://www.dailyamerican.com/how-to-act-if-you-think-someone-with-a-disability-may-need-help/article\\_881cda94-dbe2-11ea-ad54-afc869fb2461.html](https://www.dailyamerican.com/how-to-act-if-you-think-someone-with-a-disability-may-need-help/article_881cda94-dbe2-11ea-ad54-afc869fb2461.html)

## **10.) Dominique Wilkins starts online dunk challenge for disability rights' legal fund**

**By Rashad Milligan Aug 12, 2020**

The greatest player in the history of the Atlanta Hawks is raising money for a large cause.

On July 30, Dominique Wilkins, Kalin Bennett and KultureCity teamed up to start the Dunk and Donate Challenge. As of Aug. 10, the fundraising goal is \$100,000. The money will go to create the Bennett Wilkins Legal Defense Fund, which will represent those with disabilities that have had their rights denied. To read more, go to:

<https://www.peachtreehoops.com/2020/8/12/21362463/dominique-wilkins-atlanta-hawks-online-dunk-challenge-for-disability-rights-legal-fund>

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