



Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council

Mailing Address: 55 Utley Drive Camp Hill, PA 17011
phone (717) 975-2004 (888) 250-5175 fax (888) 524-9282 TTY (717) 737-0158
Email: parac@parehabilitationcouncil.org www.parac.org

WEEKLY UPDATE: August 13th, 2021

PaRC 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.

Upcoming Full Council Meeting

"Growth is never by mere chance; it is the result of forces working together." – James Cash Penney

With the summer racing by we would like to remind everyone that our next opportunity to work together is fast approaching. The August Full Council Meeting will remain virtual with the hope of returning to in-person meetings beginning in November. **Please mark your calendars for August 25th, 2021 from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM to attend via ZOOM.** As always, more information on agenda items and how to connect to the conference call will be made available in the coming weeks both online and through the Public Notice posted in the Patriot News.

We are also pleased to share that the speakers that council members requested from the **Office of Equal Opportunity** have been secured for the Full Council meeting in August. Jim Kayer, Director of OEO, will be available to speak to Full Council from 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM and has asked his team to also join him. We are especially grateful for this opportunity and of course excited for PaRC members and associates, the team from OVR, and everyone interested in attending to grow and work together!

The PaRC 2020 Annual Report can be found on our webpage or by clicking on the following link:

<http://parac.org/reports/2020AnnualReport.pdf>

***** PaRC Calendar Year 2021 – Please Mark your Calendars *****

FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS

PaRC Full Council meetings are held quarterly. The Public is welcome to attend. Please refer to the following information regarding the final two meeting dates in 2021:

August 25, 2021 - Virtual meeting from 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Please contact the PaRC Office to register

November 16, 2021 – In person meeting held at the Harrisburg Hilton from 9:30 AM until 3:30 PM

Agendas, recordings and minutes of all meetings are posted on http://parac.org/council_mtgs.html

Look for information soon regarding 2022 Full Council meeting dates!

Pennsylvania State Board of Rehabilitation

The Pennsylvania State Board of Rehabilitation meets quarterly to hear reports from directors of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) as well as the Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council (PaRC), the Client Assistance Program (CAP), and the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC).

These meetings are chaired by the Secretary of Labor and Industry. The next State Board meeting will be held on **Thursday, September 16, 2021**. This meeting will be held virtually, with details on how to connect coming soon. The Board does plan to meet in person in Harrisburg on **December 2, 2021**. The public is welcome to attend all meetings. For details, please email Cheryl Novak at chenovak@pa.gov.

Citizen Advisory Council

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, etc. for information on the nearest CAC.

The PaRC Social Media and Outreach Committee in partnership with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) produced videos of 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 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 currently reviewing applications for the following categories: **Young Adult, Sensory Disability, and Community Rehabilitation Provider**. If interested in applying for any of these positions, please go to our website (www.parac.org) and fill out an application.

NEWS, RESOURCES, AND EVENTS OF INTEREST:

1.) Disability Advocates Warn \$400 Billion Community-Based Services Plan Could Get Chopped

by Michelle Diamant | July 23, 2021

An ambitious Biden administration plan to invest \$400 billion to transform the nation's home and community-based services and get people with disabilities off waiting lists is in jeopardy, advocates say.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2021/07/23/disability-advocates-warn-400-billion-community-based-services-plan-could-get-chopped/29422/>

2.) THE INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY INCLUSION; COVID-19 Publications and Resources

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, public agencies, day and employment service providers, people with disabilities and family members have had to quickly adjust to changes in how services and supports are provided. The publications and resources provided here have been developed to help guide professionals, individuals, and families through this challenging time as we

develop new approaches to providing day and employment services, vocational rehabilitation, and supporting community life engagement.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://covid19.communityinclusion.org/>

3.) ThinkWork! Employment Success Stories

This site highlights the employment successes of people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) who are working in paid jobs in their communities. Through the use of innovative, front-line employment support practices, these individuals are earning money, forming networks, and contributing to their communities. Learn more about these people and the promising practices that led to their success.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://www.thinkwork.org/project/real-work-stories>

4.) ThinkWork! Podcast; Episode 1: Work-Based Learning in Tennessee

Authors; Anya Weber, Blake Shearer

In our first episode, Anya Weber from the ThinkWork team interviews Blake Shearer from the Tennessee Department of Education. Blake directs the state's work-based learning initiative for special populations. On the podcast, he discusses the importance of teacher leadership, and shares strategies that are leading to successful employment outcomes in Tennessee.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://www.thinkwork.org/episode-1-work-based-learning-tennessee>

5.) StateData: The National Report on Employment Services and Outcomes Through 2018

StateData.info allows users to find, sort, and analyze data related to employment for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). This project promotes Employment First and systems change efforts nationwide by supporting outcome-based management and planning.

The site includes data from state IDD agencies, and vocational rehabilitation outcomes and services from the Rehabilitation Services Administration. It also features data from the Social Security Administration, state mental health agencies, the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, the National Core Indicators Project, and the U.S. Department of Labor.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://www.statedata.info/>

State Employment Snapshot: Pennsylvania

How many individuals participate in integrated employment services provided by the state intellectual and developmental disability agency?

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://www.statedata.info/statepages/Pennsylvania>

6.) ACL.GOV; 30 Years of Community Living

On July 12, 2021, three ACL grantees released 30 Years of Community Living book for Individuals with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities. Featuring infographics, photos, and accessible language, as well as personal perspectives on community living and inclusion shared by people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (ID/DD) who served as advisors to the project, [the free digital book](#) explores the evolution of integration and inclusion of people ID/DD in American society. The book was written collaboratively by the directors of three longitudinal studies funded by ACL's Projects of National Significance program.

Employment: The number of people with ID/DD working in competitive, integrated employment grew from a few thousand to nearly 150,000, and the number of people receiving supports to work in the community quadrupled. However, those numbers still represent a small fraction of the people with ID/DD who would like to be working in the community. Although 60 percent of people with ID/DD would like to be working in a paid job, alongside people without disabilities, only 20 percent of people with ID/DD are. Similarly, only about 1 in 5 people who receives employment or day services from a state ID/DD agency received support to work in an integrated job.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://acl.gov/30years>

***If you no longer wish to receive this update, please contact Chris Todd at Christopher.Todd@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 **August 13, 2021**, all links have been verified. Please credit the PaRC Support Project for any information forwarded to others. Thank You.

PLEASE LIKE US ON FACEBOOK! 