



Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council

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WEEKLY UPDATE: September 24, 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.

PaRC Committee Meeting Updates

All PaRC Committee meetings are open to the public and are in full compliance of the Sunshine Act. Public Notice of the committee meetings are placed in the Patriot News and the PaRC Facebook Event Page. Agendas for each committee meeting will be available on the PaRC website's [Committee page](#). Meeting minutes, agendas, and other appropriate information will be posted on the PaRC website when approved.

Committee meetings are conducted through Zoom. Anyone interested in attending may reach out to PaRC staff for more information. Attending a Committee meeting is a great opportunity to learn more about the work members do to fulfill the PaRC Mission, especially if you are considering applying for membership. Everyone is encouraged to attend!

Please note, the following Committee meeting dates in October:

- Social Media Committee 10/6/2021 from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM
- CareerLink Committee 10/12/2021 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM
- Legislative Committee 10/19/2021 from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM
- Executive Committee 10/26/21 from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

New PaRC Website Coming Soon!

Social Media Committee members recently met to continue the planning and design process for the new PaRC website design project. We anticipate that

our new site will go live in early December 2021. The PaRC is thrilled to soon be providing a new fully accessible digital home for resources that will be a benefit to the Commonwealth's citizens and of course PaRC members and associates.

Upcoming Full Council Meetings

Due to the rise in COVID-19 cases and great uncertainty surrounding the pandemic, PaRC team members will continue to meet virtually for the upcoming **November 16th, 2021 Full Council Meeting via ZOOM from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM.**

The 2022 PaRC Full Council Meeting dates are:

- **February 23, 2022 (Wednesday)**
- **May 18, 2022 (Wednesday)**
- **August 3, 2022 (Wednesday)**
- **October 19, 2022 (Wednesday)**

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 meeting date in 2021:

November 16, 2021 – Virtual meeting from 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Please contact the PaRC Office to register

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

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, 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 MEMBER OPENINGS: The PaRC is accepting applications for candidates to fill the following categories of representation that are currently open:

- State Workforce Development Board
- Young Adult

As of July 2022, the categories of representation listed below will also be available. PaRC encourages all applicants to apply as early as possible to ensure a timely transition of membership:

- Business/Industry/Labor
- Cognitive Disabilities
- Intellectual Disabilities
- IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)
- Rehabilitation Counselor

If you are interested or know of someone who is interested in becoming a member of the PA Rehabilitation Council, please go to our website (www.parac.org) and fill out an application.

NEWS, RESOURCES, AND EVENTS OF INTEREST:

1.) National Center on Deaf-Blindness; Breaking Down Barriers to a Meaningful Adult Life

Read the remarkable story of a young man who's overcome seemingly impossible odds to become a successful college graduate, teacher, business owner, and passionate advocate for those in the deaf-blind community. Hear his advice about overcoming the challenges of being deaf-blind in school, the workplace, and in adult life.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://www.nationaldb.org/updates/new-article-breaking-down-barriers-to-a-meaningful-adult-life/>

2.) Impact; Feature Issue on Careers in The Arts for People with Intellectual, Developmental, and Other Disabilities

This issue features more than 25 articles including first-hand accounts by artists with disabilities along with scholarly articles assessing the uneven progress toward inclusion in the arts.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://publications.ici.umn.edu/impact/34-2/cover>

3.) Ask Me Anything, Interactive Q & A Webinars with an Expert in Employment

*Monday, September 27, 2021
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM EDT*

Question and Answer webinar about disclosing a disability and asking for accommodations in the workplace. The webinar will be conducted through Zoom. Once you complete the registration process you will receive an email with the Zoom link to join the webinar.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ask-me-anything-about-employment-disclosure-and-accommodations-tickets-158114136639>

4.) U.S. Department of Labor Blog; ODEP at 20: Leading Voices – Kathy Martinez

This year marks 20 years since the department’s Office of Disability Employment Policy was created. In honor of this milestone, ODEP Deputy Assistant Secretary Jennifer Sheehy recently talked to Kathy Martinez, who served as ODEP’s assistant secretary from 2009 to 2015.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://blog.dol.gov/2021/09/13/odep-at-20-leading-voices-kathy-martinez>

5.) Better Together: Brain Injury Survivors Building Community & Making a Difference

October 5, 2021 3:00 PM EDT

In this webinar, brain injury survivors, caregivers, and others with the lived experience of disability will learn ways to be successful when participating in team projects. Project leaders will learn what works and doesn’t work when engaging people with the lived experience of brain injury.

You may click the link provided for more information.

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2Sd4coK4SQur6VYMTfxJPg?j=1167222&sfmc_sub=6954352&l=6881_HTML&u=25835847&mid=515008575&jb=0

6.) National Disability Employment Awareness Month 2021

NDEAM is held each October to commemorate the many and varied contributions of people with disabilities to America’s workplaces and economy. Browse their website for ideas and resources for employers, community organizations, state and local governments, advocacy groups and schools to participate in celebrating NDEAM through events and

activities centered around the theme of “America’s Recovery: Powered by Inclusion.”

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/odep/initiatives/ndeam>

***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 **September 24, 2021**, all links have been verified. Please credit the PaRC Support Project for any information forwarded to others. Thank You.

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