

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

Office Location / Mailing Address: 55 Utley Drive,

Camp Hill, PA 17011

Voice: (717) 975-2004 or (888) 250-5175

TTY (717) 737-0158 Fax: (888) 524-9282

Email: [racucpa@ucpcentralpa.org](mailto:racucpa@ucpcentralpa.org) [www.parac.org](http://www.parac.org)

### **WEEKLY UPDATE September 25, 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 **September 25, 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: Friday October 2, 2020 at 9:30 AM

## **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.) Carrier Dome renovations make events accessible to fans with disabilities**

**By Christopher Scarglato ASST. CULTURE EDITOR**

**September 21, 2020**

Maddie Jones felt cramped in the Carrier Dome's revolving doors. It was Syracuse's first basketball game of the 2019 season against Virginia, and there was not much space for Jones — who has balance issues — and her guide dog, Copernicus. Inside the stadium, Jones needed to find a seat for the two of them.

"It was hard to find an area that could be in the student section, like that's where I had tickets to," Jones said. "So, I couldn't go sit somewhere else and have extra room." To read more, go to: <http://dailyorange.com/2020/09/carrier-dome-renovations-make-events-accessible-fans-disabilities/>

## **2.) Ginsburg Remembered For Impact On Disability Rights**

**by Michelle Diamant  
September 22, 2020**

Best known for standing up for women's rights, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg also played an outsized role in ensuring the rights of people with disabilities, advocates say.

Most notably, Ginsburg, who died Friday at the age of 87, wrote the majority opinion in the landmark 1999 ruling in *Olmstead v. L.C.* The decision affirmed the right of people with disabilities to live in the community. To continue reading, go to:

<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2020/09/22/ginsburg-remembered-for-impact-on-disability-rights/28999/>

## **3.) This woman is making masks more accessible for people with hearing loss**

**21 Sep 2020**

**by Kate Whiting Senior Writer, Formative Content**

Many people around the world now wear masks regularly, but for people with hearing disabilities they can create a real challenge.

Without seeing people's lips, they do not know if they are being addressed.

Tiffany Yu, a World Economic Forum Global Shaper, is distributing windowed masks around the US for free, allowing people to see others' mouths.

The masks are not just for people who are deaf or hard of hearing - everyone benefits from being able to see when others smile. To read more, go to:

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/09/face-masks-hearing-loss-disability/>

#### **4.) College Students With Disabilities at Higher Risk of Drug Abuse: Study**

**By Staff Writer On Sep 21, 2020**

College students with physical and cognitive disabilities use illicit drugs at significantly higher levels than their non-disabled peers, a study by Rutgers University has found. They were also more likely to be current marijuana and cocaine users and to have tried heroin.

Nearly one-fourth of the disabled students reported that they were currently using illegal drugs. The misuse of prescription psychotherapeutic medications was also prevalent. To continue reading, go to: <https://thecollegepost.com/students-disabilities-drug-abuse/>

#### **5.) The Coronavirus Is Creating A Mental Health Crisis For Health Care Workers**

**By Jeffrey Young**

**09/21/2020**

Front-line care workers have been called heroes throughout the coronavirus pandemic. Many of them do not feel like it.

Instead, they feel besieged and traumatized not only by the suffering and death they've witnessed, but by a health care system they believe is showing it doesn't value them, a disjointed and ineffective governmental response, and members of the public who deny the reality of all that suffering and death. To continue reading, go to: [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/health-care-workers-covid-mental-health\\_n\\_5f625a6ac5b6c6317cfed815](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/health-care-workers-covid-mental-health_n_5f625a6ac5b6c6317cfed815)

## **6.) New Online Tool From Pa. Dept. Of Education Will Help School Districts Track Their “Equity Journey”**

**By Mary Niederberger Pittsburgh Current Education Writer  
September 21, 2020**

The state Department of Education today launched an “Equitable Practices Hub” that is aimed at getting school districts to perform a deep analysis of equity practices and make the changes needed to ensure that academics, discipline and extracurricular activities are available to all students on an equal basis.

“We’ve made it a one-stop shop for LEAs (Local Education Agencies) to find out where they are in the equity journey,” said Nikole Hollins-Sims, special advisor around equity to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. To read more, go to: <https://www.pittsburghcurrent.com/new-online-tool-from-pa-dept-of-education-will-help-school-districts-track-their-equity-journey/>

## **7.) Nonprofit Wants To Create 101,000 Jobs For People With Autism**

**by Candice Williams, The Detroit News/TNS  
September 22, 2020**

DETROIT — The Autism Alliance of Michigan is setting an ambitious goal to address the employment needs of state residents on the autism spectrum — to create 101,000 jobs across the state within 10 years.

The Bingham Farms-based nonprofit launched what it calls its “moonshot” goal during a virtual gala this month, a plan that comes as the nonprofit winds down the celebration of its 10-year anniversary.

“It has to be about jobs,” said Colleen Allen, president, and CEO of the Autism Alliance of Michigan. “A job is really the end goal for most individuals. As sort of our overarching true north, let us put out a really bold, audacious goal for the organization. It’s really a goal for our state.” To continue reading, go to:

<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2020/09/22/nonprofit-create-jobs-autism/28991/>

## **8.) Forwarded from Linda Williams**

**You are invited to attend Senator Casey's Virtual Aging Conference this Friday, September 25, from 10:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.** The Conference will be broadcast live starting at 10:15 a.m. You can join the Conference at <https://casey.senate.gov/aging-conference> or on the Senator's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SenatorBobCasey/>.

The Conference will examine the impact of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) health crisis on the safety of nursing homes residents and discuss strategies to expand access to long-term services and supports.

Individuals can register for the Conference by emailing your name, organization and zip code to [Casey\\_Events@aging.senate.gov](mailto:Casey_Events@aging.senate.gov). While registration is not required, by doing so, you will receive an email ahead of the Conference with the agenda and additional resources. **If you have already registered for the Conference, there is no need to register again.** There is no cost to attend this Conference.

If you are having trouble viewing the conference on the day of the event, please clear your browser's cache and open or close the browser. Instructions can be found online on how to clear your particular browser's cache.

ASL interpreters and closed captioning will be available during the Conference. The Conference is open to the general public, so please consider sharing this invitation with others who may be interested.

Senator Casey hopes that you will be able to attend the Conference.

## **9.) Her Family Feared Her Disability Would Prevent Her From Finding A Job. They Helped Her Create A Beaded Bracelet Business.**

**By Allison Norlian**

**Sep 23, 2020**

As Emily Morrissey prepared to graduate from high school, her family feared for her future. 22-year-old Morrissey has cerebral palsy, a congenital disorder of movement, muscle tone, and posture. Cerebral palsy affects everyone differently; for Morrissey, she was born with both physical and mental disabilities.

She had trouble finding jobs, and when she managed to get hired, they were not good fits. Her family, from Midlothian, Virginia, was determined to assist her in finding her place in the workforce. To continue reading, go to:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/allisonnorlian/2020/09/23/her-family-feared-her-disability-would-prevent-her-from-finding-a-job-they-helped-her-create-a-beaded-bracelet-business/#468685312b3>

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

December 15, 2020 (2:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

There are many different tools that can be used in Person Driven Planning. This webinar will review several different tools for IEP teams to consider, including: Life Course Tools; Making Action Plans (MAPS); Planning for Alternative Tomorrows with Hope (PATH); and Rehabilitation for Empowerment, Natural Supports, Education, and Work (ReNEW). Each tool will be described by a person trained in its use. Presenters will share their experiences and field questions from participants.

Benefits Counseling – Key to the Plan

February 16, 2021 (2:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

The Social Security Administration (SSA) administers disability benefits for more than 8.5 million people. Depending on the type of benefits, payments may go to qualifying family members of the



disabled person. Webinar participants will learn about the social security eligibility factors, basic information on how to apply for social security, and the information and documents needed to complete the application. Although the SSA offices are currently closed to the public, questions can be answered by calling 1-800-772-1213 or by visiting our site [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).

### Empowering Youth in PA - Resources for Self-Determination and Self-Advocacy

April 20, 2021 (2:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

Self-determination and self-advocacy are more than just buzz words; they are critical to post-school success. During this webinar evidenced-based practices and resources for youth, families, and stakeholders to increase youth-centered practices through the introduction of the Transition Discoveries Youth Development Toolkit.

### REGISTRATION

Please register online by visiting the PaTTAN website at [www.pattan.net](http://www.pattan.net).

### CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions regarding registration, contact:

PaTTAN Pittsburgh – Paula Quinn, [pquinn@pattanpgh.net](mailto:pquinn@pattanpgh.net), 412-826-6880

For questions regarding content, contact:

PaTTAN Pittsburgh – Hillary Mangis, [hmangis@pattanpgh.net](mailto:hmangis@pattanpgh.net), 412-826-6878

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