



# 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](mailto:parac@parehabilitationcouncil.org) [www.parac.org](http://www.parac.org)

## **WEEKLY UPDATE: September 10, 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 Meetings**

*"Not finance, not strategy. Not technology. It is teamwork that remains the ultimate competitive advantage, both because it is so powerful and rare."*

– [Patrick Lencioni](#)

We look forward re-uniting as a team and continuing to fulfill the PaRC mission. 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 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Full Council Meeting via ZOOM from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM.**

*"There is nothing more important in a group remote project than casual communication. Not just official emails and work updates, but the ability to sit back and chat."*

– [David Rabin](#)

It's always wonderful to be able to re-connect and re-engage with the diverse group of advocates and professionals that commit their time and efforts to the PaRC's Full Council Meetings each quarter. At the last Full Council Meeting in August, PaRC members voted to approve the following dates for Calendar Year 2022. **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 meetings are posted on  
[http://parac.org/council\\_mtgs.html](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, 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](mailto:chenovak@pa.gov).

## **Citizen Advisory Council**

**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, 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 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](http://www.parac.org)) and fill out an application.

## **NEWS, RESOURCES, AND EVENTS OF INTEREST:**

### **1.) US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR ANNOUNCES ALLIANCE WITH NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROFESSIONALS TO PROMOTE WORKPLACE DIVERSITY**

American Association for Access, Equity and Diversity will support disability policy.

Established by the department's [Office of Disability Employment Policy](#), the three-year alliance will include a range of collaborative activities and

provide tools and information for the organization's members in an effort to advance inclusion of people with disabilities in America's workforce.

You may click the link provided for more information.

[https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/odep/odep20210804?utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=ODEP\\_Newsletter\\_8-06-21](https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/odep/odep20210804?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ODEP_Newsletter_8-06-21)

## **2.) NARIC.COM News Items: Adventures in Accessibility Features Judy Heumann**

The latest episode of [Adventures in Accessibility](#), the podcast of the NIDILRR-funded [Rocky Mountain ADA Regional Center](#) (90DP0094), featured Judy Heumann, an internationally recognized leader in the disability rights and independent living movements. In the wide ranging interview, Ms. Heumann discussed her experience growing up with a disability, before the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act and other disability rights laws, and what has changed; the importance of resilience; working with community leaders; and the strength and diversity of the disability community.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://rockymountainada.org/podcast/ep-22-judy-heumann>

## **3.) Accessibilityonline.org Webinar: WCAG V2.1: Understanding the Basics**

*Wednesday, September 29, 2021*

*2:00 PM - 3:30 PM Eastern Time Zone*

The Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) are technical standards designed to make web content more accessible to people with a wide range of disabilities. This session will discuss:

- How the standards were developed and organized based upon the principles of accessible design (POUR)
- The relationship between Section 508 and WCAG V2.1 Level AA
- Why the accessibility guidelines are organized into levels and how that is important in developing/assessing your webpages.
- Most common level A accessibility errors.

This session will use lots of examples to show what accessible design looks like to the end user as well as the user experience when web page elements are not accessible. The session will not go into technical details and will not require knowledge of coding or technical language.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://www.accessibilityonline.org/ada-tech/session/?id=110956>

#### **4.) US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WILL HIGHLIGHT 'LEARN-AS-YOU-EARN' MODEL DURING NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK, NOV. 15-21**

The U.S. Department of Labor today announced the 2021 National Apprenticeship Week will be celebrated Nov. 15-21. The weeklong celebration allows labor and business leaders, educational institutions, career seekers and other partners to demonstrate support for apprenticeships in preparing a highly skilled, diverse workforce to meet the talent needs of employers and train Americans for good-paying jobs across multiple industries.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210907>

#### **5.) National Paralysis Resource Center Webinar on Supporting Students Going to College**

The National Paralysis Resource Center (operated by the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation) is hosting a webinar on attending college.

#### **Rolling into Higher Education: Supporting Students Living with Paralysis Attending College**

Wednesday, September 22, at 3:00 PM ET

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/national-paralysis-resource-center-webinar-supporting-students-going>

## **6.) NDRN.org Podcast: Panda Pod: The Dignity of Work**

Let's discuss Competitive Integrative Employment! In this episode of the *Panda Pod*, Cheryl Bates-Harris, NDRN's Senior Disability Advocacy Specialist, provides recommendations and actionable steps for employers to transition from a segregated model to a competitive model for workers with disabilities.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://www.ndrn.org/resource/panda-pod-episode-10/>

**\*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 10, 2021**, all links have been verified. Please credit the PaRC Support Project for any information forwarded to others. Thank You.

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