



Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council

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PaRC Newsletter: February 3, 2022

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 PaRC Full Council Meeting

Due to uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, the PaRC will continue to meet virtually for the upcoming **February 23, 2022 Full Council Meeting via ZOOM from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM**. Please contact the PaRC Office to register in advance of this meeting.

PaRC Full Council meetings are held quarterly. The Public is welcome to attend. Agendas and minutes of all Full Council meetings are posted on http://parac.org/council_mtgs.html

PaRC 2020-2021 Annual Report

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by Title IV of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires State Rehabilitation Councils (SRC) to submit an annual report to the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) and to the Governor of the State on the status of vocational rehabilitation programs operated within the State. The report also provides an excellent resource to learn more about the PaRC. For a printed copy of the Annual Report, please send a request to parc@parehabilitationcouncil.org

You may click the link provided for access to the 2020-2021 PaRC Annual Report. <http://parac.org/2020-2021PaRCAnnualReport.pdf>

The previous year's, 2019-2020 Annual Report can be accessed by clicking the following link. <http://parac.org/reports/2020AnnualReport.pdf>

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.parc.org) and fill out an application.

Sharing Your Success

PaRC Social Media / Outreach Committee would like to highlight OVR Employment Success Stories on the PaRC website, social media, Annual Report, and other communications. If you or someone you know would be interested in sharing an important employment related milestone achieved with the assistance of OVR services, please let us know. Such achievements may include attaining a dream job, a promotion, an important anniversary of successful integrated competitive employment, or other successes.

Spotlighting the important work and successful attainment of employment that is made possible through OVR services is the foremost mechanism for the PaRC to fulfill its mission. Please feel free to contact us with your information, questions, or comments at parc@parehabilitationcouncil.org

PaRC Committee Meeting Updates

The PaRC **Executive Committee** met recently to continue member recruitment efforts to ensure that the Council stays within compliance of the mandated Categories of

Representation. Members who attended the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Conference in December gave an oral report on the conference. The Committee also held discussion and planning for the February Full Council Meeting. The PaRC **Ad hoc Bylaws Committee** continues to review and provide adjustments and revisions to the PaRC Bylaws and Member Handbook. **Social Media / Outreach Committee** continues to meet monthly and provide input toward the new PaRC Website Project. **Legislative & Public Awareness Committee** met recently to work on the Council's State and Federal Position Papers to include the recommendation of supported legislation and made plans to hold meetings with State Legislators to inform and educate on the diverse issues affecting employment of people with disabilities. The **CareerLink / WIOA Committee** met recently and held discussion regarding accessibility at CareerLink physical locations, accessibility certifications, and how recent COVID-19 variant/concerns have affected CareerLinks statewide. The **Transition and Education Committee** held discussion and received updates on OVR Transition Services and Surveys, the Hiram G. Andrews Center, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education Annual Conference scheduled from March 2 to March 4, 2022. The **OVR Policy/State Plan / Customer Satisfaction Committee** has planned to review the final draft of the 2-year modification to the Combined State Plan when available and will begin to discuss and develop with OVR the next Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment project that will start in October 2022 and run until September 2025.

All PaRC Committee meetings are open to the public. Agendas for each committee meeting will be available on the PaRC Facebook events page and 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 upcoming Committee meeting dates:

- **Social Media Committee 2/3/2022 from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM**
- **OVR Policy/State Plan and Customer Satisfaction Committee 2/10/2022 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM**
- **Social Media Committee 3/2/2022 from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM**

New PaRC Website Coming Soon

The Social Media Committee has been working diligently on the new PaRC Website Design Project and will be presenting to Full Council during the upcoming public meeting on February 23rd. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, we anticipate the site going

live shortly afterwards. Links and information will be provided at that time to promote the all new PaRC website that members hope will serve as a great resource for everyone!

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, March 3, 2022**. The public is welcome to attend all meetings. For details, please email Cheryl Novak at chenovak@pa.gov.

2022 PaRC and State Board meeting dates

(double click icon to add dates to your calendar)

****Location of 2022 PaRC meetings to be determined in August & October 2022***

PaRC	State Board
Wednesday, February 23, 2022 Virtual/Zoom  2-23-2022 PaRC Full Council Meeting.ics	Thursday, March 3, 2022 Virtual/Zoom  3-3-2022 State Board Meeting.ics
Wednesday, May 18, 2022 Virtual/Zoom  5-18-2022 PaRC Full Council Meeting.ics	Thursday, June 2, 2022 State College  6-2-2022 State Board Meeting.ics

<p>Wednesday, August 3, 2022</p>  <p>8-3-2022 PaRC Full Council Meeting.ics</p>	<p>Thursday, September 8, 2022 Pittsburgh</p>  <p>9-8-2022 State Board Meeting.ics</p>
<p>Wednesday, October 19, 2022</p>  <p>10-19-2022 PaRC Full Council Meeting.i</p>	<p>Thursday, December 1, 2022 Harrisburg</p>  <p>12-1-2022 State Board Meeting.ics</p>

***** PaRC Calendar Year 2022 – Please Mark your Calendars *****

Videos

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](#)

NEWS, RESOURCES, AND EVENTS OF INTEREST:

1.) New Legislation Regarding the Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities (MAWD) Program

Pennsylvania's expansion of the Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities (MAWD) program through Act 69 of 2021, went into effect in January 2022 and allows for those receiving MAWD benefits to keep or gain competitive integrated employment, accept raises and promotions, and work more hours without having to sacrifice vital benefits.

You may click the links provided for more information.

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Documents/INDIVIDUAL%20PAGES/MAWD/MAWD-Workers-with-Job-Success-Act-69-FAQ.pdf>

<https://www.phlp.org/en/news/mawd-expansion-signed-into-law>

2.) QM2021-0306: SRC Training Series

This is a four-part training series on the partnership of the State Rehabilitation Councils (SRC) and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR). This training is free, but you must create a Learner Login to enroll.

You may click the links provided for more information.

<https://catalog.ii-training.org/>

<https://catalog.ii-training.org/product?catalog=1635282032uTjPR>

3.) ADATA.ORG Webinars; ADA National Network Information, Guidance and Training on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Accessible Social Media 2.0

Tuesday, March 15th, 2022 from 2:00 PM EDT - 3:30 PM EDT

This webinar will provide an overview of the basics of making content accessible on various social media platforms.

You may click the links provided for more information.

<https://adata.org/event/accessible-social-media-20>

Title I and Reasonable Accommodations, Virtual

Thursday, February 10th, 2022 from 1:00 PM EST - 4:00 PM EST

Topic: Employment (ADA Title I), Non-Discrimination, Reasonable Accommodation

You may click the links provided for more information.

<https://adata.org/event/title-i-and-reasonable-accommodations-virtual-0>

4.) US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2022 HIRE VETS MEDALLION AWARDS

The U.S. Department of Labor announced recently that it is accepting applications for the 2022 HIRE Vets Medallion Award. The award is presented annually to employers that meet standards for excellence in the recruitment, hiring and retention of America's military veterans.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/vets/vets20220131>

5.) JAN Webinar: ADA and Accommodation Lessons Learned: Stay at Work/Return to Work Edition

Thursday, February 10, 2022 from 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Eastern

Stay at Work/Return to Work (SAW/RTW) initiatives are designed to retain valued employees and enhance productivity. These initiatives can include temporary or permanent job accommodations such as modified scheduling, job restructuring, transitional work, and reassignment. Various employment laws can interplay when navigating SAW/RTW situations, making it challenging for employers to know best business practices. Join JAN Consultants for a discussion about lessons learned and practical Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidance related to various RTW/SAW issues.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://askjan.org/events/index.cfm?calview=eventdetails&dtid=890A8FD7-08E5-5DE4-9B81ADA202A38F69>

***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 **February 3, 2022**, all links have been verified. Please credit the PaRC Support Project for any information forwarded to others. Thank You.

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