



# Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council

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## **PaRC Newsletter: March 25, 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.*

***It is with great sadness that we share the passing of [Sherry Taylor](#). Sherry was currently the Executive Director of the West Virginia State Rehabilitation Council and a founding member as well as the Vice President and Treasurer of the National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils (NCSRC). The tributes that have been circulating across the Country are a true testament to her kind spirit and big heart. Sherry was passionate about helping others and considered a champion for all whom she served. We will miss her support of the PaRC. We extend our condolences to Sherry's family and colleagues.***

### **PaRC Full Council Meetings**

Due to a scheduling conflict with another Board meeting the PaRC August 3<sup>rd</sup> Full Council meeting has been moved to **August 10, 2022 from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM.**

Additionally, the remainder of the 2022 Full Council meetings will remain virtual.

Members of the public are welcome to attend. Please contact PaRC staff to request Zoom link and information to attend. CART (Communication Access Realtime Translation) and ASL (American Sign Language) interpreters are provided during PaRC Full Council meetings. For additional accommodations during Full Council meetings and/or for any accommodation required during PaRC Committee meetings, please contact PaRC staff ten days prior to the meeting date. Anyone who would like to make Public Comment prior to any meeting may submit comments to [parc@parehabilitationcouncil.org](mailto:parc@parehabilitationcouncil.org) or at 717.975.2004.

### **Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA)**

As an important part of the Council's mandated responsibilities, members of the PaRC OVR Policy & State Plan / Customer Satisfaction Committee have been working with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) to begin the review of the CSNA Statement of Work that will help guide the next CSNA cycle beginning in October 2022 and ending in September 2025. In conjunction with the PaRC, OVR is required to conduct and interpret a CSNA every three years. The CSNA is designed to meet and satisfy the State Plan requirements in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. This vital project is completed to identify needs for individuals with disabilities that can be addressed through the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program.

## **2-Year Modification to the State Plan**

As mandated, the Council assisted OVR with a review of the Combined State Plan during the 2-year modification period. During the February 2022 Full Council meeting, OVR provided an update on the 2nd comment period and presented the final draft of the plan for Council's consideration. Members voted to approve the 2-year modification to the State Plan.

## **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](mailto: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**

Please help spread the word. The PaRC is accepting applications for candidates to fill the following categories of representation that are currently open:

- Business/Industry/Labor

- 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
- Parent Training and Information Center (PEAL Center)
- 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.

## **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](mailto:parc@parehabilitationcouncil.org)

## **PaRC Committee Meeting Updates**

The PaRC **Executive Committee** has continued recruitment efforts to ensure that the Council stays within compliance of the mandated Categories of Representation. 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 with State Legislators to inform and educate on the diverse issues affecting employment of people with

disabilities. The **OVR Policy/State Plan / Customer Satisfaction Committee** has begun to discuss and develop with OVR the next Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA) 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 4/6/22 from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM**
- **CareerLink/WIOA Committee 4/12/22 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM**
- **Transition & Education Committee 4/14/22 from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM**
- **Legislative & Public Awareness Committee 4/26/22 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 which was presented to Full Council during the most recent public meeting on February 23rd. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, we anticipate the site going live in the coming weeks. 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, June 2, 2022**. The public is welcome to attend all meetings. For details, please email Cheryl Novak at [chenovak@pa.gov](mailto:chenovak@pa.gov).

## 2022 PaRC and State Board meeting dates

(double click icon to add dates to your calendar)

***\*Location of all PaRC meetings will remain virtual for Calendar Year 2022***

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

**\*\*\* 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.) US Department of Education Launches Real Pay for Real Jobs Initiative for People with Disabilities**

“Economic security should be available to all Americans,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. “Providing individuals with disabilities with a high-quality education and the services that they need to thrive will result in real pay for real jobs, empowering them and leading to greater social and economic inclusion.”

You may click the links provided for more information.

<https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/us-department-education-launches-real-pay-real-jobs-initiative-people>

[The Notice Inviting Applications is available in the Federal Register](#)

### **2.) US Department of Justice Issues Web Accessibility Guidance Under the Americans with Disabilities Act**

“We have heard the calls from the public on the need for more guidance on web accessibility, particularly as our economy and society become increasingly digitized,” said Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke for the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division. “This guidance will assist the public in understanding how to ensure that websites are accessible to people with disabilities. People with disabilities deserve to have an equal opportunity to access the services, goods and programs provided by government and businesses, including when offered or communicated through websites.”

You may click the links provided for more information.

<https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/us-department-justice-issues-web-accessibility-guidance-under>

[Guidance on Web Accessibility and the ADA](#)

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

#### **Accessibility in the Federal Workspace**

*Thursday, April 7th, 2022 from 2:30 PM EDT - 4:00 PM EDT*

This webinar will review accessibility requirements for employee work areas in the ABA Accessibility Standards (ABAAS), including provisions for accessible routes, parking, entrances, workspaces, break rooms, locker rooms, and other areas.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://adata.org/event/accessibility-federal-workspace>

#### **Ask an ADA Professional RE: Barrier Removal Requirements for Privately Owned and Operated Businesses under the ADA**

*Wednesday, April 13th, 2022 from 2:00 PM EDT - 3:00 PM EDT*

During this 90-minute session, individuals will have the opportunity to ask ADA professionals questions about Barrier Removal Requirements for Privately Owned and Operated Businesses under the ADA.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://adata.org/event/ask-ada-professional-re-barrier-removal-requirements-privately-owned-and-operated-businesses>

### **4.) U.S. Access Board Provides Recommendations and Resources to Assist Federal Agencies in Advancing Priorities for Accessibility**

Under Executive Order on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) in the Federal Workforce (14035), federal agencies must ensure that their workplaces are fully accessible to all employees, including those with disabilities.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://www.access-board.gov/news/2022/03/08/u-s-access-board-provides-recommendations-and-resources-to-assist-federal-agencies-in-advancing-priorities-for-accessibility/>

### **5.) CAPE – Center for Advancing Policy on Employment for Youth**

## Expanding Apprenticeships as a Career Pathway for Youth and Young Adults with Disabilities

This brief highlights the benefits of apprenticeships, including pre-apprenticeship, registered and non-registered apprenticeship programs as a viable career pathway for career seekers with disabilities.

You may click the link provided for more information.

<https://capeyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2022/03/Final-PDF-UA-Accessible-CAPE-Youth-Apprenticeship-Brief-March-2022.pdf>

**\*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 **March 25, 2022**, all links have been verified. Please credit the PaRC Support Project for any information forwarded to others. Thank You.

**PLEASE LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!** 