

**DSS Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council (ASDAC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 26, 2018**

**Members Present:** Representative Cathy Abercrombie, Jill Caron, Judy Dowd , Marcia Eckerd, Ann Gionet, Bill Halsey, Brian Klimkiewicz , Jim Loomis, Jimnahs Miller , John Molteni, Siobhan Morgan, , Donyale Pina, Kari Sassu, Yana Razumnaya, Lynn Ricci, Nikki Richer, Lois Rosenwald, Doriana Vicedomini

**Others Present:** Amy Dumont, Dori Papa

**Members Absent:** Melissa Gagne, Zachary Laudano, Kathy Marchione, Aileen McKenna, John Pelegano, Carole Ryan-Hanlon,

**Call to Order:** 10:10am

**Welcome and Introduction by Bill Halsey**

**No Public Comments**

**Review and Approval of 5/16/2018 Meeting Minutes –**

Motion to approve by Doriana Vicedomini and seconded by Cathy Abercrombie.  
Meeting minutes were approved as presented.

**Update on Tri-Chair Position:**

- Proposal Committee met and resulted in a tie.
- Bill Halsey recommended the nomination process to begin again for the Tri-Chair position and for nominations to be sent to [William.Halsey@ct.gov](mailto:William.Halsey@ct.gov) and [Lisa.Bonetti@ct.gov](mailto:Lisa.Bonetti@ct.gov).
- Announcement – John Molteni will be resigning from the Council the end of November as he has accepted a position at Hospital for Special Care and will no longer meet the parameters of his role on the Council.
- Council requests nominations for “Representative of an institution of higher education in the state with experience in the field of ASD.”
- Suggestions to send out requests for nominations to universities.
- Email nominations and resumes to [William.Halsey@ct.gov](mailto:William.Halsey@ct.gov) and [Lisa.Bonetti@ct.gov](mailto:Lisa.Bonetti@ct.gov).
- Nomination Committee to reconvene

**Update on Funding:**

- Evaluation team met to review proposals and recommended that all 4 proposals proceed (Autism Services and Resources Connecticut, Inc., The Center for Children with Special Needs, The Hospital for Special Care, Suffield Public Schools)
- All four proposals had at least one item that needed to be clarified or rectified before a contract could be executed.

- Commissioner requested a budget narrative on all 4 proposals. All proposals must be resubmitted to the DSS Contract Unit.

**New Business:**

- Jill Caron, parent of a child with ASD, Jimnahs Miller, parent of a child with ASD and Bryan Klimkiewicz, Special Education Bureau Chief State Department of Education, were introduced as new members of the council.
- ASDAC Retreat – Wednesday, October 31, 2018 at:  
Hospital for Special Care – 9am to 4pm (See attached Agenda)
- October 4, 2018 informational forum on autism at LOB 10am – 1pm

**Adjournment:** 11:46am

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, November 21, 2018 at 10:00am**

Legislative Office Building  
Room 2A

**10/31/2018 ASDAC Retreat:**

- Retreat to develop priorities, goals, structure of Council for the upcoming year
- Bill advised Council to email thoughts/ideas direction of the ASDAC within the next couple of weeks
- Abercrombie would like to present agenda for the next Legislation Session Committee where monies will be spent

**Retreat Agenda**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. History: ASDAC – Lois, Ann, Nikki, Jim
  - Feasibility Study – Bill Halsey
  - Original Retreat – Doriana
  - Subcommittees – Leads
3. Current Spending in the State for ASD Services
4. Presentations
  - SDOE Current ASD Programs & Initiatives – Bryan and Dori
  - Therapies, Programs in Israel – Yana
  - Models from other States - Jimnahs
5. Identify Priorities (vote by sticker)
6. Re-establish sub-committees based on priorities selected

7. Break out in subcommittee
8. Sub-committee work:
  - a. Identify sub-committee chair or chairs
  - b. Schedule meetings going forward
  - c. Identify and articulate specific goal of the sub-committee
  - d. Identify deliverables and due dates and responsible person(s)
9. Reporting out of subcommittee
10. Develop legislative proposal(s) for Rep. Abercrombie
11. Conclude with two positive experiences shared from family or individual with autism because of programs funded by the state

**Discussions:**

- Pilots
- Evidence-based outcomes
- Questions regarding current structure of Autism Division
- Changes in Division
- Sub-committees
- Suggestion to arrange for a facilitator for retreat