

**DSS Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council (ASDAC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**May 17, 2023**  
**(Virtual Meeting)**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81232924720?pwd=T05mL3EzT0J4OGVMQ21JL2V3WGtUdz09>

**Members Present:** Jennifer Abbatemarco, Judy Dowd, Jason Knight representing Representative Tammy Exum, Stephen Byers, Amy Dumont, Marcia Eckerd, Ann Gionet, Julie McKenna, Kathy Marchione, Julie McKenna, Jimnahs Miller, Krista Ostaszewski, Donyale Pina, Yana Razumnaya, Lynn Ricci, Lois Rosenwald, Carole Ryan-Hanlon, Kari Sassu, Sarah Schlegel, Doriana Vicedomini, Julie Wolf

**Members Absent:** Melissa Gagne, Andrew Komarow, Koleen Kerski

**Others:** Jennifer Krom

**Call to Order:** 10:00am

**Welcome and Roll Call**

**Approval of 3/15/2023 Meeting Minutes: Motion to accept by Lynn Ricci and seconded by Kari Sassu. Minutes accepted.**

**Public Comments:**

- Guy Balsamo, Father of 17-year-old son with autism, discussed a school situation resulting in suspension and a protective order against his son. Conversation of state law's consequences from the situation. Tried working with school to get son back in school but was unsuccessful. Lois Rosenwald and Mike Olesen will provide resources to the family.

**Public Emergency Update:**

**Supportive Housing:**

- Jimnah requested assistance in the leading the working group
- Lois Rosenwald and Stephen Byers offered to chair the meeting

**Carelon update by Jennifer Krom** (see attached presentation)

- April 2023 Data Review and Trends
- ASD Medicaid Authorizations as of 05/01/2023

- ASD Medicaid Youth Monthly Admissions as of 05-01/2023
- ASD Medicaid Youth Demographics as of 05/01/2023 Report
- ASD Provider Enrollment as of 05/01/2023
- ASD Care Coordination and Peer Specialist Activity
  - Referral List Statuses as of 04/10/2023

#### **Center of Excellence Update:**

- Currently still with the Contract Dept.
- Amy will provide update

#### **Autism Waiver Update by Amy Dumont:**

- Waiting list of individuals: 1978 individuals currently being served on the waiver
- 335 individuals on the waiver. 187 individuals with budgets are currently receiving services. 198 were taken off the waitlist. 50 of those are currently active and 148 are in the financial eligibility process.
- As of today, 148 providers are currently enrolled on the waiver
- 5 new providers enrolled since last meeting and 3 are in the application process
- Still provider struggles in some areas of the state
- New Case Manager, Meg Escanio has joined the autism unit
- Working with CMS contractor on other waivers/programs/amendments that may be available to provide support to more individuals
- Discussion of a smaller cap for services to serve more individuals

#### **ASDAC Open Positions:**

- Melissa Hoon and Michael Powers have applied for open position, Licensed professional working in the field of ASD
- Bill 6665 Letter of Support to move services from DSS to OPM was discussed and passed Appropriations Committee
- Bill 5001 passed Appropriations Committee which is an act concerning resources and support services, which is a long and involved Bill which has additional waiver slots available.
- Transportation practices for persons with disabilities
- Discussed looking at the IQ to identify programs
- Look at agenda for the January 2024 meeting

#### **Quality and Outcome Data Collection**

#### **New Business:**

- Jason provided link to Council, Finding your Legislature  
<https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/cgafindleg.asp>
- Jimnah reached out to Claudio at OSH and requested update on the Behavioral Health Parody Study.

**To Do:**

- Tri-Chairs to follow-up with Lynn Ricci and Ann Gionet
- Nate to provide sample of letters that go out to families to the Council
- Invite applicants, Melissa Hoon and Michael Powers to next meeting

**Adjournment: 11:59am**

Next Meeting: July 19, 2023