

Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Meeting Location
03/19/2025	10:00am – 12:00pm	Zoom

Member Name and Attendance

ASD Advisory Body Members					
Jimnahs Miller, Chair	X	Lynn Ricci, Member	R	Patrick Heick, Member	X
Yana Razumnaya, Chair	R	Carole Ryan-Hanlon, Member	R	Lois Rosenwald, Member	R
Melissa Hoon, Member	X	Sarah Schlegel, Member	R	Christina Faressa, Member	R
Kimberly Mearmen, Member	R	Julie Wolf, Member	R	Kari Sassu, Member	R
Melissa Paul, Member	R				
ASD Supporting Agencies & Other Participants					
Kathy Marchione, ADS BRS	R	Ann Gionet, DPH	R	Zani Imetovski, OPM	X
Bryan Klimkiewicz, CSDE	X	Stephen Byers, DRCT	R	Tara Viens, OPM	R
Dorothy Papa-Santini, CSDE	X	Christine Weston, DSS	R	Susan Stange, DSS	R
Stephanie Bozak, DCF	X	MaryBeth Miller, OEC	X	Jennifer Krom, Carelon	R
Krista Ostaszewski, DDS	R	Kolleen Kerski, OEC	R		
Jennifer Abbatemarco, DMHAS	R	Judy Dowd, OPM	R		
Attendance Key: R = attended remotely, I = attended in-person, X = absent					

	Agenda	Responsible Person(s)
1.	Welcome & Introductions	Tara Viens
	Call to Order	
2.	Public Comment	Tara Viens
	No Public Comment	
3.	Review & Approve Meeting Minutes	Tara Viens
	Jan Meeting Minutes Motion by Lynn Ricci 2 nd by Kim Mearman	
4.	Agency Updates	Agency Staff
	<p>OPM – ASD Needs Assessment, DSS applied for a grant option to complete the statewide ASD needs assessment and OPM is working with DMHAS on a contract for the Supportive Housing Pilot.</p> <p>BRS – BRS is 100% federally funded and housed in US Dept of Ed, cost of living adjustment was removed and that is 1.5% of their funding, Community Rehabilitation Program CRP's are in high demand, several areas in the state that are not accepting any referrals, or there is a waitlist, this is a lack of availability that BRS has never seen, they are looking for additional options. BRS has been dealing with the economy impact, staff vacancies and turnover of 10% and they are still recovering from 2022 silver wave retirement. Kathy said to let her know if you are hearing of any access issues so she can address.</p> <p>SDE – not in attendance</p> <p>DMHAS – none</p> <p>OEC - none</p> <p>DCF – not in attendance</p> <p>DPH – 2 surveys to collect needs data for resident (any adult) and youth, can distribute, health related questions, open till april 11th LINKS/INFO is below.</p> <p>Dear Connecticut Resident or Youth,</p>	

	<p>We value your opinion and want to hear from you! The Connecticut Department of Public Health Title V Program is inviting you to participate in an anonymous survey designed to better understand needs and priorities in Connecticut. It will take about 10 minutes of your time to complete.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Resident surveys are available in English and Spanish. ➤ Youth surveys (11-21 years old) are available in English and Spanish. <p>Feel free to share these survey links and attached flyers with other community members and youth to ensure everyone has a chance to be heard! Surveys will remain open until April 11th.</p> <p>Please contact Chantelle Archer at Chantelle.Archer@ct.gov if you have any questions or if you would like to learn more about the Needs Assessment for the Title V Block Grant.</p> <p>Thank you for your valuable contribution to our state!</p> <p>DDS – no updates DSS – PPT presented is on website</p>	
5.	Carelon Report	Jennifer Krom
	PPT is on the website	
6.	Subcommittee & General Updates	Lynn Ricci
	<p>Education & Training – you can access minutes and recording on the website.</p> <p>Yana shared a reminder on how to be a good ally to those with ASD, she provided a link to guidance and information on why people with Autism don't like the "puzzle piece" https://autismacceptance.com/book/being-an-ally/</p> <p>Please do not use Puzzle Pieces as symbols to represent Autism or Autistic Experience. The Puzzle piece as a symbol has a long history of use by non-autistic led organizations and groups. It also A majority of the autistic community has rejected the puzzle piece due to its history being used by organizations run by neurotypical or non-autistic people that claim to speak for autistic people or that are the experts on Autistic experience.</p> <p>Dr Schlegel asked about interest in seeing a presentation on supportive housing by Our Stomping ground, the group is interested and we can arrange for a presentation at the next council meeting or during a subcommittee meeting.</p>	
7.	Legislative Update	Tara Viens
	<p>HB 7049: the section on BCBCA regulations and task force was moved to 7109, the task force was assigned to MAPOC, this bill has been moved out of committee HB 7109: was moved out of HS Committee and includes the language for insurance coverage up to 26 years old. HB 7108: was moved out of committee and includes data collection on profound autism within DDS, it also recommends that the first 2 recommendations of the LON/IQ study be implemented along with some additional tasks specific to my position and DDS. HB 7076: ASDAC is submitting a letter to oppose the change in special education law ending at age 22 SB 1413: was JF'd out of committee, this will focus on inclusive programs at the CT state universities for people with IDD and ASD SB1415: moved out of committee, this will increase funding for direct support staff SB1358: JFS out of committee, increase non-profit funding</p> <p>Monday 28th Autism: Raising Awareness at the Capitol June 18th Next Meeting at 10:00am</p>	
8.	Adjourn	Tara Viens
	11:15am	