

Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council

**MEETING MINUTES**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81334733634?pwd=ePnlZ4BDnw2srd7dft2NjKybE84pEa.1>

Meeting ID: 813 3473 3634

Passcode: 897275

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Meeting Location
06/18/2025	10:00am – 12:00pm	Zoom

Member Name and Attendance

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

	Agenda	Responsible Person(s)
1.	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	Jimnahs Miller
	Call to Order	
2.	<b>Public Comment</b>	Jimnahs Miller
	No requests for public comments were received Melissa Hoon, wanted to add to discussion on hiring staff, supports accessing community college system, employee retention, and ongoing support forum.	
3.	<b>Approve March Meeting Minutes</b>	Jimnahs Miller
	Motion to approve by Lynn 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Christine Minutes are approved	
4.	<b>Carelon &amp; Agency Updates</b>	Jimnahs Miller
	Carelon Data Slides are posted on our website Carelon is offering a Risk Mitigation Training, more information can be found on their <a href="#">website</a> DSS Slides are posted on our website Highlighted the need to check <a href="#">Medicaid Matters Website</a> for federal updates	
5.	<b>Council Business</b>	Jimnahs Miller

	<p>(A) Council Partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jimnahs presented to the Rare Disease Advisory Council and was in contact with DCF as they are starting a parent to parent support for children with ASD.</li> <li>There is interest from members to set up learning opportunities during our scheduled meeting times.</li> </ul> <p>(B) March 2026 Meeting in Person?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The group would like to meet in person for our March 2026 meeting, Tara will coordinate with Rep Exum to reserve space.</li> <li>The group would also like to play a bigger role in the ASD day at the capital in April, Tara will reach out to Denise Drummond to help.</li> </ul> <p>(C) Subcommittee Updates and suggestions for this upcoming year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing – The group feels this subcommittee is valuable to continue</li> <li>Education &amp; Training – The group would like to continue and will need to find a new chair</li> <li>Legislative – Kim Mearman offered to chair this committee</li> </ul> <p>(D) Appointments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waiting on Looney’s appointment for Lois</li> <li>Open position for an adult with autism</li> <li>Lynn has officially retired, and we have notified the Governor of the need to replace her, Meghan Gallagher from HFSC has been suggested as a candidate to fill her position.</li> </ul>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>2025 Legislative Recap &amp; Priorities for 2026</b>	<b>Tara &amp; Jimnahs</b>
	<p>(A) Insurance Coverage for ABA till 26 – passed in the House and did not get called in the Senate, will try again in next session.</p> <p>(B) ASD statewide needs assessment was put in HB 7108, DSS is still waiting on final word from CMS for the MFP grant approval.</p> <p>(C) Special Education Reform &amp; Funding – there are concerns over proposed rate setting for special education out placements. We want to keep an eye on how this progresses wit CSDE and OPM.</p> <p>(D) IQ Study – interest from the group to continue advocating for increased access, agreed that we will need to wait and see how changes in Medicaid impact CT in federal budget.</p> <p>(E) There is interest from the group in the transition from school to work and opportunities in areas of interest to the individual not just “what is available”</p> <p>a. DSS shared that they have a new MOA with BRS to link Case Managers &amp; Job Coaches for system improvement</p> <p>(F) There is also interest in workforce development</p>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>	<b>Jimnahs Miller</b>
	Next meeting will be held on September 17 <sup>th</sup> on Zoom	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>	<b>Jimnahs Miller</b>
	11:45am	