

Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council

**MEETING MINUTES**

Housing Subcommittee

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Meeting Location
08/14/2025	11:00am – 12:00pm	Zoom

Member Name and Attendance

<b>ASD Advisory Body Members</b>				
Jimnahs Miller, Chair		Meghan Gallagher, Member	X	Patrick Heick, Member
Yana Razumnaya, Chair		Carole Ryan-Hanlon, Member		Marcia Eckerd, Member
Melissa Hoon, Member		Sarah Schlegel, Member		Christine Faressa, Member
Kimberly Mearmen, Member		Julie Wolf, Member		Melissa Paul Perez, Member
Kari Sassu, Member				
<b>ASD Supporting Agencies &amp; Other Participants</b>				
Kathy Marchione, ADS BRS		Ann Gionet, DPH		Zani Imetovski, OPM
Bryan Klimkiewicz, CSDE	X	Stephen Byers, DRCT	X	Tara Viens, OPM
Dorothy Papa-Santini, CSDE		Christine Weston, DSS		Lois Rosenwald, Parent
Stephanie Bozak, DCF		MaryBeth Miller, OEC		Susan Stange, DSS
Krista Ostaszewski, DDS		Kolleen Kerski, OEC		Tobey Partch-Davies, DRCT
Jennifer Abbatemarco, DMHAS		Judy Dowd, OPM	X	Jennifer Krom, Carelon

Attendance Key: **R** = attended remotely, **I** = attended in-person, **X** = absent

	<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Responsible Person(s)</b>
1.	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	<b>Stephen &amp; Lois</b>
	Call to Order	
2.	<b>Discussion &amp; Proposal</b>	<b>Stephen &amp; Lois</b>
	ASD Supportive Housing Pilot Update Tara explains that the pilot project, which aims to provide supportive housing for people on the autism spectrum, has faced roadblocks including the loss of housing vouchers due to department cuts. OPM is committed to moving forward by reallocating some of the service dollars from the budget to fund the vouchers, though this means the program will need to be picked up by the general fund sooner than anticipated. The project was originally planned for 15 housing vouchers with housing-specific case management, but they may need to scale back depending on budget constraints, with more details will be provided at the September council meeting.	
3.	<b>Housing Legislation</b>	<b>Stephen &amp; Lois</b>
	Nothing specific to autism has been proposed in the housing legislation	
4.	<b>Community Membership &amp; Engagement</b>	<b>Stephen &amp; Lois</b>
	The Housing Subcommittee discussed their research on housing models for the autism community, noting that Connecticut lags behind other states in this area. Stephen mentions they need more committee members and community involvement, with Tara confirming that community members can participate in subcommittees and offers to connect interested individuals to the subcommittee chairs. Tara advises the committee to consider different approaches for their housing initiative, such as creating a nonprofit like Virginia's model or seeking appropriations for residential support in the autism waiver and mentions that housing needs will be included in the recently approved autism needs assessment.	

<b>5.</b>	<b>New Business</b>	<b>Stephen &amp; Lois</b>
	The committee discusses the need for a follow-up meeting with more members present to plan their lobbying strategy, with Stephen agreeing to send around potential dates. They also identify the importance of including self-advocates with autism on the committee, particularly those who have successfully navigated independent living situations. Jennifer mentions a parent who has created a successful housing arrangement for her son with autism, and Tobey suggests learning from special needs trust administration examples. The committee plans to meet monthly or bi-monthly moving forward.	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>	<b>Stephen &amp; Lois</b>
	Next meeting will be held on TBD	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>	<b>Stephen &amp; Lois</b>

DRAFT