

Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council

**MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Meeting Location
09/08/2025	2:00pm – 3:00pm	Zoom

Member Name and Attendance

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

	Agenda	Responsible Person(s)
1.	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	<b>Kim Mearman</b>
	Call to Order	
2.	<b>Presentations</b>	<b>Kim Mearman</b>
	<p>CT Council on Developmental Disabilities</p> <p>Walter Glomb presented on the councils' legislative priorities for the 2026 session. The following are the legislative topics discussed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Housing</li> <li>2. Eligibility Requirements that include IQ</li> <li>3. Employment</li> <li>4. Workforce Shortage</li> <li>5. Transition to adulthood</li> <li>6. Civil Rights</li> <li>7. Transportation</li> <li>8. MH Services</li> </ol> <p>Rare Disease Advisory Council</p> <p>Lesley Bennett and Mary Caruso presented a background on rare diseases and how they overlap with autism. They will be hosting several public hearings and invited council members to participate, the dates and times have been provided below.</p> <p>The first public hearing will be at UConn (Farmington) on September 30<sup>th</sup></p> <p>The second public hearing will be held at Boehringer-Ingelheim (Ridgefield) on October 26</p> <p>The last hearing will be on December 9 at either at the CGA or JAX Labs</p>	

	<p>In addition, RDAC discussed the following legislative topics.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Emergency Protocols</li> <li>2. Waiver Accessibility and Waitlists</li> <li>3. Newborn Screening</li> <li>4. Insurance Coverage for GNOME Testing</li> <li>5. Insurance Protection for Off Label Drugs for Treatment</li> <li>6. Out of Pocket Cap on Insurance Costs</li> </ol>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>ASDAC Legislative Priority for the Special Session</b>	<b>Kim Mearman</b>
	<p>ASDAC members would like to advocate for the age cap to be removed from ABA services covered by insurance. Members held a voice vote to send letters to Rep Gilchrest and Rep Exum who originally sponsored bills in the last session.</p>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Policy Proposal</b>	<b>Kim Mearman</b>
	<p>ASDAC members reviewed a proposal on the ASD waiver, additional conversation and follow up is needed.</p>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>	<b>Kim Mearman</b>
	<p>Meeting ended at 3:04 pm</p>	