

Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council

Legislative Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Meeting Location
11/10/2025	2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Zoom

Member Name and Attendance

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

	Agenda	Responsible Person(s)
1.	Welcome & Introductions	Kimberly Mearmen, Chair
	Call to Order Approve October Minutes Carole motion to approve Kari 2 nd October minutes are approved	
2.	Legislative Updates & Outreach	Kim Mearmen, Chair
	Short Session will be next week	
3.	Identify Top 3 Legislative Priorities for 2026	Kimberly Mearmen
	<p>Priority 1: Insurance Mandate to Eliminate Age for ABA Committee will continue to advocate for lifespan coverage of ABA services</p> <p>Priority 2: Autism Waiver Reform Some questions of interest proposed by the Committee for DSS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What is the min usage required to stay eligible on the waiver? What is the average service utilization? What percentage of people are utilizing total services below \$25,000? Not all underutilization is due to staffing some providers report that people are only using bare minimum to stay eligible “just in case they need services later.” Do you have any data to show the 	

	<p>difference between people who “need” waiver services but cant find staff vs people who are holding a spot?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Waitlist? First come first serve do we need to look more at functional need who are currently Medicaid eligible? Are we evaluating service options, for example we don’t have any day programming options for those who are graduating from high school and are not attending college? How is DSS addressing the workforce challenges? If additional services and slots can be added, is there provider capacity? Has DSS discussed “Age Out Planning” for the ASD waiver like how DDS does age out planning for their eligible participants? What is the age range of people on the waitlist? <p>Regarding Needs Assessment Suggestion to request redacted files through all payers claim system who have dx of ASD</p> <p>**Ask Susan from DSS to attend next meeting to share more specific waiver data with subcommittee**</p> <p>Additional Policy Suggestions Autism and Mental Health – Building capacity through provider training and access to expertise Employment Options Adult Primary Care for IDD and ASD Pre-Service training as an option for increasing expertise in ASD (LEND)</p>	
4.	New Business & Discussion	Kimberly Mearmen
	Profound Autism Alliance Meeting on Tuesday November 18 th at 7:30pm if anyone would like to join contact Tara or Adrienne Benjamin (aadriennebb@gmail.com) for the link.	
5.	Adjourn	Kim Mearmen
	Meeting ended at 3:00 pm	