

Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Meeting Location
11/19/2025	10:00am – 12:00pm	Zoom

Member Name and Attendance

ASD Advisory Body Members					
Jimnahs Miller, Chair	R	Meghan Gallagher, Member	R	Patrick Heick, Member	X
Yana Razumnaya, Chair	X	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	R
Kari Sassu, Member	X	Lynne Altschuler, Member	R	Lois Rosenwald, Member	R
ASD Supporting Agencies & Other Participants					
Kathy Marchione, ADS BRS	X	Ann Gionet, DPH	X	Zani Imetovski, OPM	X
Bryan Klimkiewicz, CSDE	R	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	R	MaryBeth Miller, OEC	R	Jennifer Krom, Carelon	R
Krista Ostaszewski, DDS	X	Kolleen Kerski, OEC	X		
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	Jimnahs Miller
	Call to Order	
2.	DSS Waiver Updates	Tara Viens
	<p>DSS could not participate today so Tara read the information provided.</p> <p>A copy of the PPT will be provided on the website</p> <p>Council Members had some additional questions for follow up.</p> <p>Will the presentation being developed for providers be shared with the council for comment/feedback?</p> <p>How can we improve rates to attract providers?</p> <p>Has DSS received any feedback from providers on how the enrollment process? (Provider Perspective)</p> <p>Does DSS have a direct hire option on “rewarding work” like DDS?</p>	
3.	Carelon Updates	Jennifer Krom
	<p>A copy of the PPT will be provided on the website.</p> <p>Conversation on language interpretation options within Carelon service array.</p>	
4.	Subcommittee Updates	Tara Viens
	<p>Legislative Committee: Tara shared an update from the committee on the special session held last week.</p> <p>***Jimnah will attend the bill signing that increases private insurance coverage for behavior therapy to age 26 in the insurance statute.</p> <p>Housing Committee: Did not meet, Melissa Hoon had volunteered to chair this subcommittee and Lois will Co-Chair</p> <p>Education & Training: Did not meet, Jimnah will get a meeting scheduled.</p>	
5.	Agency Updates	

	<p>SDE is gathering input to ensure the document is clear, accurate, and ready to be disseminated. If you are interested in providing feedback, please review the New Draft Autism Eligibility Worksheet and complete a brief Autism Eligibility Worksheet survey. The survey will remain open from 10/31/25 through 11/30/25. This information has also been posted on SDE website so please share this information with your colleagues and networks.</p> <p>The direct link to the posting can be accessed here: Bureau of Special Education</p>	
6.	New Business	Members
	<p>-Need a volunteer to develop a one-page end of year report for ASDAC Christine and Jimnah will work on this with Tara</p> <p>-ASDAC will be assisting with the planning of the ASD Awareness Day at the Capitol, planning will begin in February, please let Tara know if you are interested in participating.</p> <p>-Approved meeting minutes for September: Sarah made a motion and Megan 2nd</p> <p>-Snap Information for People with ASD: The department has published information on work requirements at the following site: SNAP Benefits For Everyone Hosted by MyPlaceCT At this site you can click into the DSS Work Rules Pre-Screener. This will help people quickly screen themselves against the rules. SNAP Work Rules Pre-screener A summary of the work rules are published: Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents or ABAWDs- ABAWD Work Rules</p> <p>**Tara encouraged people to provide feedback on resources to DSS if there is misunderstanding.</p> <p>-Reminder to fill out policy form for any ideas you want legislative committee to discuss. Link to form on the website.</p> <p>-Discussion on 2026 meeting dates, Tara will send out a survey to members for official vote.</p>	
7.	Next Steps	
	Next meeting will be held on January 21 st at 10:00 am	
8.	Adjourn	
	Meeting ended at 11:38 am	