

Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Meeting Location
09/17/2025	10:00am – 12:00pm	Zoom

Member Name and Attendance

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

	Agenda	Responsible Person(s)
1.	Welcome & Introductions	Jimnahs Miller
	Call to Order Approved June Meeting Minutes	
2.	DSS Waiver Updates	Susan Stange
	Presentation is attached to the meeting information on our website	
3.	Carelon Updates	Jennifer Krom
	Presentation is attached to the meeting information on our website	
4.	Subcommittee Updates	Subcommittee Chairs
	<p>Legislative Committee The committee has met on several occasions and will continue to meet on the 2nd Monday of each month at 2:00 pm. The October meeting has been rescheduled for 10/6 to accommodate the holiday on 10/13. They are going to send a letter to HHS committee to encourage them to introduce the insurance legislation from last session that would increase the age of coverage for ABA therapy. If you have any proposals you would like to submit to the committee please complete the form on our website.</p> <p>Housing Subcommittee They met once since the last full council meeting, all information on that meeting is posted on our website.</p> <p>Education & Training We need a new chair, Jimnahs volunteered to serve in this role. We will set up a new meeting cadence and send this out to members.</p>	
5.	Agency Updates	Agency Designees
	<p>DPH Federal Maternal Block Grant Review occurred last week, and have begun their 5 year action plan</p>	

	<p>SDE</p> <p>IDEA federal grant was approved and only had a slight reduction in funding</p> <p>Part D grant was not approved, the state is appealing</p> <p>Discussion on collaboration with the state advisory council for education</p> <p>Upcoming public comment on autism eligibility guidelines</p>	
6.	New Business	Jimnahs Miller
	<p>*Discussed developing an ASDAC Report to highlight the councils work, there was member interest</p> <p>*Discussed Autism Awareness Day at the Capitol and how the council can be more engaged this year, Tara will reach out to see if we can get a date</p> <p>* The State of Connecticut Department of Social Services, in collaboration with several other state agencies, is preparing Connecticut's application for the Rural Health Transformation Program federal grant opportunity. We want to hear from you about rural health. Public comments are open now through October 3, 2025 at this link: https://portal.ct.gov/dss/rural-health-transformation-program/public-comment If you need help with sending comments, please contact Public.Comment.DSS@ct.gov.</p> <p>There is a lack of service availability in the eastern part of the state this could be an opportunity to address that gap with federal funding.</p>	
7.	Next Meeting	Jimnahs Miller
	<p>Next meeting will be held on November 19th if you have any agenda items, please email them to Tara prior to November 1st</p>	
8.	Adjourn	Jimnahs Miller
	<p>Meeting adjourned at 11:24pm</p>	