

Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

Legislative Subcommittee

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Meeting Location
January 12, 2026	2:00pm-3:00pm	Zoom

Member Name and Attendance

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

	Agenda	Responsible Person(s)
1.	Welcome & Introductions	Kim Mearman
	Call to Order	
2.	Review & Approve Meeting Minutes	Kim Mearman
	Motion made to approve November minutes by Dr Schlegel and 2 nd by Kari Sassu	
3.	Updates	Tara Viens
	Rural Health Grant has a project for expanding ACCESS mental health to include an ASD expert Needs assessment contract is moving forward at DSS	
4.	Discussion	Kim Mearman
	<p>Topics legislative priorities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ABA coverage for Medicaid to age 26 and preference is coverage for entire lifespan 2. Rate increases for ASD waiver <p>Suggestion, children who are struggling to get SSI determination and reports of people getting kicked off, should we explore a need for benefits counselors for ASD. Need to better identify the issue people are having and we can start doing outreach. Make this topic a priority for March meeting.</p> <p>Supportive Decision Making is being worked on and additional support is needed for their legislative proposal.</p> <p>Improve access to skilled MH workers who have experience in ASD, how do we address recruitment and retention in the workforce. (April Topic)</p>	
5.	Next Steps	

	Next meeting will be held on Monday February 9, 2026 at 2:00pm	
8.	Adjourn	

DRAFT