

Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88280872147?pwd=mhv9dpynkDJnStrAjQG8GFh52GokL2.1>

| Meeting Date | Meeting Time | Meeting Location |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Wednesday, September 18, 2024 | 10:00am – 12:00pm | Virtual |

Member Name and Attendance

| ASD Advisory Body Members | | | | | |
|--|---|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| Jimnahs Miller, Chair | X | Lynn Ricci, Member | R | Patrick Heick, Member | R |
| Yana Razumnaya, Chair | R | Carole Ryan-Hanlon, Member | R | Melissa Paul-Perez, Member | X |
| Melissa Hoon, Member | R | Sarah Schlegel, Member | R | Marcia Eckerd, Member | X |
| Kimberly Mearmen, Member | R | Julie Wolf, Member | R | | |
| 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 | R | Tara Viens, OPM | R |
| Dorothy Papa-Santini, CSDE | X | Christine Weston, DSS | R | Lois Rosenwald | R |
| Stephanie Bozak, DCF | X | MaryBeth Miller, OEC | R | Kari Sassu | R |
| Krista Ostaszewski, DDS | X | Kolleen Kerski, OEC | | | |
| 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 | Tara Viens |
| | Call to Order: Tara 2 nd : Yana | |
| 2. | Public Comment | Tara Viens |
| | None | |
| 3. | Review & Approve Meeting Minutes | Tara Viens |
| | Motion: Lois 2 nd : Julie | |
| 4. | Carelon Updates | Jennifer Krom |
| | Jennifer Krom presented August data A copy of the slides is provided below Carelon Provider Forum will occur in October | |
| 5. | ASD Waiver Updates | Christine Weston |
| | Christine Weston, DSS Community Options Director ASD Waiver Manager Update: the job position is posted and closes on the 20 th they also have two care manager vacancies. Total of 440 slots available in the ASD waiver 236 individuals are assigned a case manager and active participants Working to onboard others from the waitlist 2,170 is the current waitlist count and DSS is working to assess waitlist Questions: Are the forms in plain language, yes we are working on this but we recognize that the waiver application may need to be revised. | |
| 6. | Workgroup Report Out | Tara Viens |

| | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education & Training (Lynn Ricci) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. We are trying to identify what exists and look at how to leverage existing programs. b. We had the discussion already, but RBT training may be something we look at and how to commit resources for that training. c. Kari reported out on a program at SCSU in the Office of Workforce & Lifelong Learning that is looking at viable options for workforce development and is open to discussing opportunities in the human service field. d. Lois expressed her concern with lack of providers and need for workforce development as it's a big concern for families. Yana agreed and expressed her frustration with finding support during the times she needs vs what is convenient for staff. 2. Housing (Stephen Beyers or Lois Rosenwald) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Waiting to hear on the housing pilot because we would like to focus on that this year. We are reaching crisis and this is a needed area. We could also use more natural supports or a mixed community. Camelot new apartment | |
| 7. | New Business | |
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2025 Meeting Dates <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. January 15th b. March 19th c. June 18th d. September 17th e. November 19th 2. 2025 Legislative Session begins Jan 8th – June 4th <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The council discussed legislative priorities, Tara will send out a survey to collect responses, there is consensus that we should limit the number of priorities we focus on to increase the likelihood of getting something accomplished. b. The council would like to create an adhoc workgroup to provide legislative updates to members on anything related to autism. c. The council would like to present policy priorities to legislators. Tara will reach out to the Human Services Committee to see if they can attend our November meeting. 3. State Agency Report Out <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. OPM Membership Updates <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Speaker Matt Ritter has appointed Melissa Paul-Perez to the council in the position of advocate and is looking for recommendations on someone to appoint in his district (Hartford) who is an adult with autism who may want to serve in this roll. If you know of someone you can have them reach out to me directly. They should provide a bio on themselves and let the speaker know why they are interested in serving. b. CSDE <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Autism Worksheet for special education eligibility is being revised by a stakeholder workgroup, Bryan will provide continued updates and let the council know when the final draft is completed. c. BRS <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. They did not receive the federal grant for vocational providers to help with workforce development, they are still working toward a solution with state resources by partnering with other agencies. This is a top priority for BRS. 4. Museums for all information shared by Yana <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. https://museums4all.org/for-visitors/ | |
| 8. | Adjourn at 11:17am | |
| | Motion: Kim 2 nd Kari | |