

Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council

**MEETING MINUTES**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81334733634?pwd=ePnlZ4BDnw2srd7dft2NjKybE84pEa.1>

Meeting ID: 813 3473 3634

Passcode: 897275

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Meeting Location
01/15/2025	10:00am-12:00pm	Zoom

Member Name and Attendance

ASD Advisory Body Members					
Jimnahs Miller, Chair	R	Lynn Ricci, Member	R	Patrick Heick, Member	R
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	R	Julie Wolf, Member	R	Melissa Paul Perez, Member	R
ASD Supporting Agencies & Other Participants					
Kathy Marchione, ADS BRS	R	Ann Gionet, DPH	R	Zani Imetovski, OPM	X
Bryan Klimkiewicz, CSDE	X	Stephen Byers, DRCT	R	Tara Viens, OPM	R
Dorothy Papa-Santini, CSDE	X	Christine Weston, DSS	R	Rep Tammy Exum, Legislative Representative	R
Stephanie Bozak, DCF	X	MaryBeth Miller, OEC	R	Kari Sassu	R
Krista Ostaszewski, DDS	X	Kolleen Kerski, OEC	R	Lois Ronsenwald	R
Jennifer Abbatemarco, DMHAS	R	Judy Dowd, OPM	R	Susan Stange, DSS	R
Attendance Key: <b>R</b> = attended remotely, <b>I</b> = attended in-person, <b>X</b> = absent					

	Agenda	Responsible Person(s)
1.	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	<b>Jimnahs Miller, Chair</b>
	Call to Order	
2.	<b>Public Comment</b>	<b>Jimnahs Miller, Chair</b>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rep. Tammy Exum reported on TCB's intention to increase the age of coverage for "behavior therapy" to 26 years old in CGS 38a-488b &amp; 38a-514b. The council agrees with the need to increase coverage however we respectfully ask that the age cap is removed completely.</li> <li>Sen Lesser asked about data on rates of ASD in CT, specifically within DDS. The council is asking legislators to fund a statewide needs assessment to replicate one completed in PA. Information on this assessment is provided in the Power Point Presentation.</li> <li>Sabrina Cameron expressed support for ASDAC priorities but shared concern about workforce being able to support the need across the state and the service array that is available for people who are currently waiting for services.</li> </ol>	
3.	<b>Review &amp; Approve Meeting Minutes</b>	<b>Jimnahs Miller, Chair</b>
	November Minutes are approved (Motion by Lynn Ricci and 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Kim Mearman)	
4.	<b>ASDAC 2025 Legislative Priorities</b>	<b>Kim Mearman, Member</b> <b>Patrick Heick, Member</b>
	Please see slide deck in attachment.	

<b>5.</b>	<b>Carelon &amp; Agency Updates</b>	<b>Jennifer Krom, Carelon</b>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Carelon's Presentation on ASD services is attached below.</li> <li>2. DSS will provide detailed information on waiver services for distribution. They are still working toward filling case management positions and onboarding waiver slots within current appropriations. Christine Weston introduced Susan Stange, the new DSS waiver manager.</li> <li>3. Ann Gionet, DPH reported out about their Maternal &amp; Child Health Needs Assessment that is completed every 5 years and will share when meeting is occurring. Ann also shared a training opportunity on the legislative process for people. Information flyer is attached below.</li> <li>4. Tara Viens, OPM offered to send out legislative information relevant to ASDAC on a bi-weekly basis and offered to show anyone interested how to follow/track bills.</li> </ol>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>	
	Next meeting will be held on March 19 <sup>th</sup> 2025 via zoom from 10:00am – 12:00pm	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>	<b>Jimnahts Miller, Chair</b>



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## CT MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH COALITION

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Virtual Legislative 101 Workshop  
Tuesday, January 28, 2025  
From 9:30 AM to 11:15 AM

*Note: The workshop will run from 9:30 to 11 with an additional 15 minutes added for those who might have questions not covered during the training.*



STATE CAPITOL BUILDING  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

This legislative workshop is designed for those interested in understanding the state legislative process and how to influence it.

Trainer: [Alison Johnson](#), Public Policy Consultant

Alison makes the complex clear in advocacy, public policy, and project management, drawing on the power of collective action and the written word. She is a consultant to nonprofit organizations and state agencies and has been in private practice since 1997, analyzing legislation and working with networks of leaders to help them move an agenda forward.

This training will provide the knowledge and skills to:

- understand the stages of the legislative process, including how bills are raised;
- submit testimony;
- identify key committees for maternal and child health;
- identify points of public influence;
- be able to track legislation on-line; and
- understand the opportunities and challenges for influencing lawmakers.

To register and receive the handout designed for this training, contact Marijane Carey at [mjcarey95@aol.com](mailto:mjcarey95@aol.com).

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