

# Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism-Related Needs

December 15, 2023  
1:00 pm



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# Housekeeping

- Members of the public - Please keep your microphones on mute until the public comment portion of the meeting.
- Advisory group members - Please keep microphones muted when not speaking.
- To be called on, please use the raise hand feature.
- Our office is able to provide accommodations with reasonable notice and at an individual's request. For this meeting, our office has not received any requests for accommodation.



# Roll Call

- Advisory Group Members - When your name is called, please say “here” and indicate your association to the group.
- Members of the Public - When name is called, please indicate your interest in the advisory group.



# Approval of Minutes

- Meeting Minutes - September 12, 2023



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# Opening Remarks

## Coordinator of State Autism Strategy

Victoria Rodríguez-Roldán



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# Compliance, Process, & Transparency

- Dedicated section of website to ASGARN.
- All meeting minutes, presentation materials, and advisory meetings dates listed.
- Process for Coordinator Appointment established.
- Membership Committee established.
- Clear, Accurate, and Updated membership list posted to MDOD website.



# Membership Committee Updates

- **Membership Committee Members:**  
Ami Taubenfeld, Emily Arker, Courtney Thomas-Winterberg
- **Purpose:** Review applications and advise coordinator in exercising appointing authority.



# Welcome of New ASGARN Members!!

Christy Russell

Trevor Byrd

Lydia X.Z. Brown, J.D.

Yoreidy Vasquez-Tavares, Ph.D.

Jess L. Wilcox Cowing, Ph.D.

Rachel Leah Kraus, LCSW-C



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# ASGARN Membership List

## **Governor Appointed:**

Emily Arker  
Shannon West  
Devan Southerland  
Rodger Thibaudeau  
Adam Shafer Jones  
Nicole LaBlanc  
Lisa Wiederlight  
Peggy Pugh  
Christy Russell

## **Ex-Officio Members:**

\*State Autism Coordinator (Victoria Rodriguez-Roldan)  
Dept. of Disabilities (Lisa Belcastro)  
Dept. of Human Ser. (Courtney Thomas-Winterberg)  
MSDE (Carmen Brown)  
Dept. of Health (Janet Furman)  
MD Speech-Lang-Hearing Assoc. (Fatima Salem)  
MD DD Council (Rachel London)  
ARC Maryland (Raymond Marshall)  
Pathfinders for Autism (Rebecca Rienzi)  
Itineris (Ami Taubenfeld)

## **MGA Appointed:**

Delegate Michele Guyton

## **Coordinator Appointed:**

Ryan Roddey  
JaLynn Prince  
Gregory Robinson  
Lydia X.Z. Brown  
Jess L. Wilcox Cowing  
Trevor Byrd  
Nikki Stokes  
Elizabeth Benevides  
Melissa Rosenberg  
Nancy Forsythe  
Yoreidy Vasquez-Tavares  
Rachel Leah Kraus

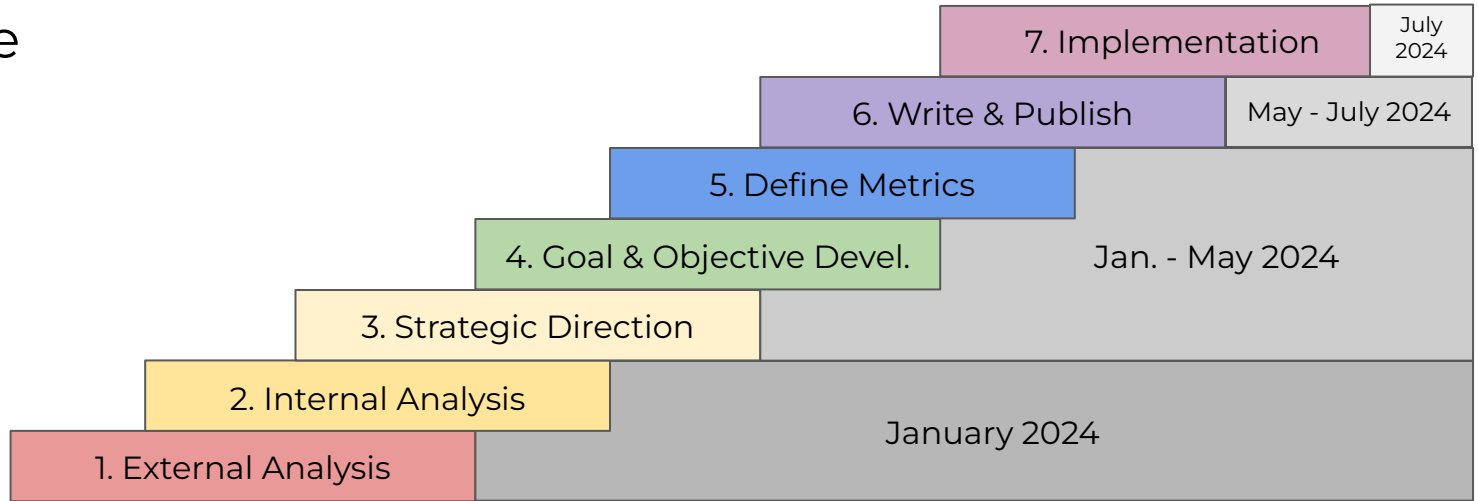


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\*Indicates Chair of ASGARN

# Strategic Plan for Autism Strategy

## Development Process & Timeline



# Strategic Plan Development Progress

- **External Analysis:**
  - Listening sessions
  - Stakeholder Engagement
  - Organization Engagement
- **Internal Analysis:**
  - Engagement across state government
- **Strategic Direction:** Begins today!
  - Mission and vision statement input (due mid-January).
  - Goals and objective planning will begin in next subcommittee meetings.



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# Statewide Autism Strategy Program

What's our Mission, Vision, & Guiding Principles? Let's Discuss!

Why is the work we are doing important?

How can we make a positive impact on autistic Marylanders?



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**VISION**  
Our preferred picture of the future

**MISSION**  
What we do, for whom, and the benefit

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES**  
Guidelines which set the foundation our organization will operate


What values do you think are most important for us to stick to?

What are the biggest issues we need to tackle?

# Legal guiding stars

- **Mandate of disability discrimination law as applied to autism**
- **Ensuring that autistic Marylanders have the tools to have the same chance at success as all other Marylanders.**
- **Uphold Maryland's laws and policies of diversity and inclusion where all Marylanders are included in all their intersecting identities.**



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# Submit Your Input!

Interim Activity ([Present Google Form](#))

- Submit your input on the ***Mission, Vision, and Guiding Principles*** for the Autism Strategy Program.
- Google form will be emailed.
- Activity due January 16th, 2024.



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# Subcommittee Preference Survey

- With so many new ASGARN Members, it's time to update our subcommittees!
- Subcommittees: Education, Employment/Transportation, Health, Housing & Community Integration, and Safety & Training.
- Rank your subcommittee preference 1 - 5.
- Take the survey now! [Link is in the chat.](#)



# Interim Subcommittee Work

- At their next meeting, subcommittee's will be presented the finalized Mission, Vision, and Guiding Principles of the Autism Strategy Program.
- Subcommittees will be working on their suggestions for Goals and Objectives to be included in the strategic plan.
- Suggestions will be presented by subcommittee chairs at next full ASGARN meeting.





# Open Forum

Advisory Group Members & Members of Public: To be called on, please utilize the raise hand function.



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# Closing Remarks by Chair



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# Motion to Adjourn

Next ASGARN Meeting: March 12, 2024



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