

Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism Related Needs (ASGARN)

FY24 3rd Quarter Meeting
March 12th, 2024

Victoria M. Rodríguez-Roldán, J.D.
Coordinator of State Autism Strategy



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Meeting Guidelines

Purpose 1:

To create a safe, positive, and inclusive environment for the advisory group, participants, staff, and the public.

Purpose 2:

Create a safe space for diversity of contributors, thoughts, and ideas.



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Meeting Guidelines

- **Assume positive intent** on the part of advisory members, moderators, participants, and staff.
- **Listen actively.** Allow others to complete their thoughts, listening to listen, and not listening to respond.
- **One speaker at a time**, prioritizing those who haven't spoken yet.
- Default to **“both / and” thinking** instead of either/or thinking.
- **Members of the public**, please wait for the open forum section to speak.



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Roll Call

Governor Appointed:

Emily Arker
Devan Southerland
Roger Thibaudeau
Adam Shafer Jones
Nicole C. LaBlanc
Lisa Wiederlight
Peggy Pugh
Christy Russell

Coordinator Appointed:

Ryan Roddey
JaLynn Prince
Gregory S. Robinson
Lydia X.Z. Brown, JD
Jess L. Wilcox Cowing, PhD
Trevor Byrd
Nikki Stokes
Elizabeth Benevides
Melissa Rosenberg
Nancy Forsythe
Yoreidy Vasquez-Tavarez, PhD, ABPP
Rachel Leah Kraus, LCSW-C

MGA Appointed:

Del. Michele Guyton
Del. Julie Palakovich Carr

Ex-Officio

Fatima Salem
Rachel London
Raymond Marshall
Rebecca Rienzi
Ami Taubenfeld

Government designee:

Victoria Rodriguez-Roldan, JD
Carmen Brown
Lisa Belcastro
Courtney Thomas-Winterberg
Janet Furman



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Opening Remarks by Chair



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Staff Introduction



Ellis Z Sardorian (they/them)
Autism Strategy Program Administrative Coordinator



Mission & Vision Survey Results

Mission: Improving the quality of life of Marylanders on the autism spectrum as well as their families, caregivers and loved ones by ensuring and promoting opportunity, access and choice, so that they can lead healthy, fulfilling and self-directed lives as integral parts of our communities.

Vision: We envision a Maryland where people on the autism spectrum as well as their loved ones, families and caregivers experience a high quality of life by possessing the tools to live up to their highest potential and as independently as possible.



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Strategic Planning Timeline



January 2024

Subcommittees begin their work with regular meetings to draft a report on their subject. Coordinator starts writing a draft document.

Mid-April 2024

Subcommittees submit reports to the Coordinator of their recommendations and ideas for the strategic plan.

Memorial Day 2024

Coordinator has a draft to provide to MDOD leadership and to ASGARN at its June meeting.

End of State FY24 (June 30, 2024)

Submission of strategic plan to the state.



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Autism Strategic Plan

- Policy by state government to better serve autistic people and their loved ones
- Goal to ensure promotion of equality for all autistic Marylanders
 - ◆ Opportunity
 - ◆ Access
 - ◆ Choice



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ASGARN Subcommittee Updates

Education

Housing &
Community
Integration

Safety
&
Trainin
g

Employment /
Transportation

Health



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Current ASGARN vacancies

- Representative from the Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

Governor's Appointment

Qualified candidates encouraged to apply with the [Governor's Office of Appointments](#)

- Physical therapist
- Pediatrician



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Upcoming Meetings FY24

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March 12, 2024 1 PM - 2:30 PM

1

May 21, 2024 1 PM - 2:30 PM

2

Strategic Plan Launch



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ASGARN Comments



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Public Comments



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Closing Remarks



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Contact Us



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Statewide Autism Coordinator

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