

Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism Related Needs (ASGARN)

FY24 4th Quarter Meeting
May 21st, 2024

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



Meeting Guidelines

Goal 1:

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

Goal 2:

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



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 and public**, please wait for the appropriate open forum section to speak.



Roll Call

Governor Appointed:

Adam Shafer Jones
Christy Russell
Devan Southerland
Emily Arker
Lisa Wiederlight
Nicole Christine LeBlanc
Peggy Ann Pugh
Roger Thibaudeau

Coordinator Appointed:

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

MGA Appointed:

Del. Julie Palakovich Carr
Del. Michele Guyton

Ex-Officio

Ami Taubenfeld
Fatima Salem
Rachel London
Raymond Marshall
Rebecca Rienzi

Government designee:

Carmen Brown
Courtney Thomas-Winterberg
Janet Furman
Kim McKay
Victoria Rodriguez-Roldan, JD



Opening Remarks by Chair



Victoria Rodríguez-Roldán (she/her)
Statewide Autism Coordinator



Subcommittee Reports

Subcommittees Finish Workbook

Each of the subcommittees finish their workbooks.

Send out Reports

Draft reports shared with ASGARN. Subcommittees vote on approval.



June

Summer 2024

June

Early July

Summarizing Reports

Reducing report length and cleaning workbooks to increase readability by laypeople.

Autism Strategic Plan Release

Subcommittee Reports included in the appendix.



ASGARN Subcommittee Updates

Education

Housing &
Community
Integration

Safety
&
Trainin
g

Employment /
Transportation

Health



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



Upcoming Meetings

- Pending scheduling for 24-25 fiscal year



ASGARN Comments



Public Comments



Closing Remarks



Contact Us



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Statewide Autism Coordinator

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Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES