

Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism Related Needs (ASGARN)

FY25 2nd Quarter Meeting
December 10, 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
Anne Blackfield
Victoria Rodriguez-Roldan, JD



Opening Remarks by Chair



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



Autism Strategic Plan

- Strategy document for 2024-2029
 - Work plans with action items to be released over time
- Current status
 - Approved by Governor's office
 - With graphic designers



Autism Work Plan

- Released annually
 - 2025 one released alongside Autism Strategic Plan
- Overarching activities for 2025 include
 - Autism Resource Website (creation)
 - Data collection, focused on existing data
 - Identifying opportunities
 - Developing partnerships
 - Participating in the legislative process



Current ASGARN vacancies

Ex Officio

- 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

- Tuesdays from 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM
 - February 11, 2025
 - June 10, 2025

What would you like to see in subsequent meetings?



ASGARN Comments



Public Comments



Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES

Closing Remarks



Contact Us



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Statewide Autism Coordinator

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