



NHCASD Emergency Meeting Minutes * June 6, 2025

ZOOM Meeting (Please note minutes supported by AI)

(Please Note: An emergency meeting of the Autism Council was called to discuss funding and expenditures related to funding set to expire at the end of the fiscal year.)

Members and Attendance

Name	Organization/Representing	Meeting Status
VACANT	(a) The governor, or designee.	VACANT
Kate Scheer (Alternate – TBD)	(b) The commissioner of the department of education, or designee.	Present Virtual
Deirdre Dunn Tierney (Alternate – TBD)	(c) The commissioner of the department of health and human services, or designee.	Not Present
Amanda Merrill (Alternate: Iain Watt)	(d) The director of the division of public health services, department of health and human services, or designee	Present Virtual
Jessica Gorton (Alternate – TBD)	(e) The bureau chief of the bureau of developmental services, department of health and human services, or designee.	Present Virtual
Carolyn Lewis	(f) The bureau chief of the bureau of behavioral health, department of health and human services, or designee.	Not Present
Andrew Houtenville (Alternate – Lesley Blecharczyk)	(g) The director of the Institute on Disability, University of New Hampshire, or designee.	Not Present
Jane Bergeron-Beaulieu (Alternate- Shelly Fagen)	(h) A special education director, appointed by the New Hampshire Association of Special Education Administrators, Inc	Not Present
VACANT	(i) The president of the New Hampshire Medical Society, or designee.	VACANT
Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre (Alternate – TBD)	(j) A representative of the New Hampshire Developmental Disabilities Council, appointed by the council.	Present Virtual

Amy Frechette *	(k) An individual who has an AUTISM spectrum disorder, appointed by the governor.	Present Virtual
VACANT	(l) A family member of a person who has an AUTISM spectrum disorder, appointed by the governor.	VACANT
Marissa Berg (Alternate – TBD)	(m) A representative of the Community Support Network, Inc., appointed by such organization	Present Virtual
Michelle Ronayne Ronayne (Alternate: Jena Motolla)	(n) A representative of the New Hampshire Psychological Association, appointed by the association.	Not Present
Vernon Clough (Alternate – TBD)	(o) The director of the office of Medicaid business and policy, department of health and human services, or designee.	Present Virtual
1. VACANT	(p) Up to 5 additional members, nominated by the council and appointed by the governor.	1. VACANT
2. VACANT		2. VACANT

3. VACANT		3. VACANT	
4. VACANT		4. VACANT	
5. VACANT		5. VACANT	
Gina Cannon *	(q) A person who has an AUTISM spectrum disorder, appointed by the council	Present Virtual	
Nancy A. Wells (Alternate: Paula MacKinnon) Alternate: Juliane Taylor	(r) A representative of the New Hampshire Nurses' Association, appointed by the association	Not Present	
Kathryn Greenslade (Alternate: TBD)	(s) A licensed speech-language pathologist, appointed by the New Hampshire Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Inc	Present Virtual	
A QUORUM WAS REACHED (*) delineates family member of/or individual with a disability which counts toward an in-person quorum.			



Guests or Members of the Public

Kelly Erhart	Member of the Public	Virtual
Louis Espisito	Member of the Public	Virtual
Moira Ryan	Member of the Public	Virtual

Quorum was met.

Quorum Confirmation and Attendance

Marissa Berg facilitated a roll call to confirm attendance and quorum for the meeting, noting that Kelly Ehrhart is not yet a voting member pending her governor's appointment. The council confirmed that they had eight members present, which met the quorum requirement for the emergency meeting.

Financial and Budget Discussion (Meeting Minutes supported with AI)**Discussion on Autism Council Funding and Accessibility Initiatives**

- Marissa Berg highlighted the urgency of utilizing the Autism Council's funding balance before the state reclaims it.
- The council considered various initiatives, such as acquiring a meeting owl to improve accessibility for families across the state and creating a website to fulfill legislative obligations and provide necessary resources.
- Gina contributed by discussing training opportunities aimed at benefiting individuals and families with autism.

Training Curriculum Development for Care Providers

- Gina Cannon highlighted the importance of reframing the perception of children with challenging behaviors and proposed a training curriculum based on Ross Green's philosophy. The curriculum aims to help care providers assess missing skills and develop collaborative strategies to address challenging behaviors. Training options include in-person and virtual formats, with specific costs outlined for each.

Discussion on Contracting and Resource Options for Families

- Marissa Berg and Kate Scheer discussed the upcoming vote on a contract aimed at supporting families with autism. Kate emphasized the need for updated fiscal reports for transparency and suggested exploring various resource options, such as advocacy and summer camp funding. They also addressed the challenges of understanding legal guidelines and the accessibility of meeting locations.

Training Options Discussion

- Amy Frechette expressed uncertainty about the training options proposed by Gina, questioning if they were prepared to vote on training A or B without sufficient information.
- Marissa Berg noted that she and others had not received the relevant handouts.
- Gina acknowledged that the materials had not been sent to the entire group, prompting Marissa to offer to pull up PDFs for the next training.

Proposal for Sexuality and Relationship Training for Individuals with Autism

- Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre proposed two training series by Catherine McLaughlin aimed at individuals with autism and their families. The first series would be a smaller online training for individuals, while the second would be a full-day session for parents and guardians, addressing similar topics.
- The urgency of utilizing available funds by June 30 was emphasized, as the council aims to support the community effectively.

Emergency Meeting Discussion on Funding and Infrastructure

- Marissa Berg emphasized the urgency of making information accessible as the council lacks a proper website.
- Kathryn Greenslade raised concerns about planning conferences without knowing travel expenses, while Isadora suggested providing virtual options for participants. The group expressed uncertainty about voting on funding decisions due to insufficient information.

Website Accessibility and Information Sharing

- Marissa Berg emphasized the limitations of Facebook for storing videos and documents, advocating for a website to meet compliance requirements.
- Isadora expressed concerns about the lack of timely updates on the BDS page due to reliance on DHHS. Jessica Gorton suggested linking to the Quality Council's website for more timely information.

Funding and Equipment Discussion

- Louis Esposito highlighted the benefits of a centralized platform for meeting notices and resources, advocating for improved accessibility for the Autism Council.
- Marissa Berg suggested a vote on purchasing an Owl meeting device, a Zoom Pro account, and a domain name, noting the urgency to use the funds before they are returned to the state. The discussion included input from members regarding the necessity of these purchases and the potential for future training opportunities.

Voting on Funding

Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre made a motion to fund a Zoom Account, Website Fees and OWL and Gina Cannon seconded.

Kate Scheer: No

Amanda Merrill: Yes

Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre: Yes

Amy Frechette: Yes

Marissa Berg: Yes

Vern Clough: Yes

Gina Cannon: Yes

Kathryn Greensdale: Yes

Jessica Gorton: Yes

Amy Frechette made a motion to adjourn. Amanda Merrill seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Carrie Duran, Administrative Support with the assistance of AI.