**Autism Commission**

**Birth to Fourteen Years Old**

**Subcommittee Meeting**

**Via-Zoom**

**August 7, 2024**

Present on Zoom: Carolyn Kain, Moses Nduati, Beth Jersky, Shari Krauss, Erin Sherman, Megan Glassberg, Dianne Lescinskas, Mary Kate Haswell, Stephanie Coburn, Julia Landau

Meeting Minutes: Dianne Lescinskas & Carol Gracia

Carolyn Kain called the meeting to order and welcomed all members of the Birth to Fourteen-Year-Old Subcommittee. The members voted and approved the February meeting minutes.

The meeting began with a presentation from the Office of the Child Advocate on Water Safety and Autism. The presenters were Bekah Thomas and Meg Crowley

**Highlights from the Presentation**

Overview of child fatality review

Premature death before the age of 18. The leading cause is drowning.

ASD and Fatal Injury

ASD Definition

ASD prevalence across Massachusetts

ASD and Unintentional Injury

Wandering and Elopement

Leading cause of death is drowning since 2017 in children with ASD

Literature Review Recommendations

Wandering and Elopement Prevention

Emergency Response to Elopement

Drowning Prevention

Recommendations

\*Each tier to work together

Prevention

Harm Reduction

Response

Preliminary Finding

Strengths in Services

Awareness, providers working with children

Room for Improvement in Services

Engaging PCPs

Curricula

Swimming Lessons

Consistence across regions

Preliminary Avenue for Recommendations

\*These are not approved

Prevention

Harm Reduction

First Response

Agency Coordination

List of Key Informants

*The focus of the rest of the meeting was a discussion about the water safety presentation.*

* Angel Fish – Adapative swim lessons
* New health framework – work with DESE; call all schools to uphold the framework. Call on DESE to create model curriculum
* Information from private schools? Special Education data pulled – most elopement is reported from the home.
* Prevention should be introduced earlier – by pediatrician, EI (before school age). EI is the first step in educating parents on safety measures.
* Access to swim lesson/summer camps; staff training, affordability
* Advocating for safety planning during the IEP process.

With no further the business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.