COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

AUTISM ADVISORY COUNCIL

House Committee Room B, Room 205
General Assembly Building, Richmond

August 17, 2026
2:00 p.m.

AGENDA

I. **Call to Order** - *Chair*

II. **Welcome and Introduction of Members**

III. **Presentation: Vocational Rehabilitation Program and Employment Transition Services**
Karen Akom, Ed.D, Director of Field Operations, Virginia Commonwealth University, Center on Transition Innovations
Donna Bonessi, Director of Employment Services and Special Programs, Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services
Patti Hodge, Statewide Transition Specialist, Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services

IV. **Presentation: Autism Training for General Education Teachers**
Jennifer O'Berry, MSEd, BCBA, LBA, Specialist, Autism, Intellectual Disabilities, & Assistive Technology, Virginia Department of Education
Samantha T. Gregory, Ed.S, NCSP, Coordinator of Specially Designed Behavior Intervention and Improvement, Virginia Department of Education

V. **Discussion**

VI. **Public Comment**

VII. **Adjournment**

Members of the Commission

Delegate Laura Jane Cohen, *Chair*
Senator Stella G. Pekarsky, *Vice Chair*
Senator Tara A. Durant
Delegate Patrick A. Hope
Delegate Kathy KL Tran
Delegate Philip A. Scott
Commissioner Nedra Moncrief-Craig (ex officio)
Commissioner Cameron Webb (ex officio)
Commissioner Duke Storen (ex officio)
Superintendent Jenna Conway (ex officio)
Steve Ford (ex officio)
Commissioner Daryl Washington (ex officio)
Teri Morgan (ex officio)
Conner Cummings
Beth Davis
Parthenia Dinora
Ann Flippin
Jaime Hanks
Whitney King
Giovanni Knight
Ethan Long
Mia Louria
Brian McCann
Tonya Milling
Rose Nevill

Staff

Brooks Braun, Senior Legislative Counsel, Division of Legislative Services
Lucas Childers, Associate Legislative Counsel, Division of Legislative Services
Lindley Starzer, Senior Program Coordinator, Division of Legislative Services
Tiffany Harris-Greene, Committee Operations Coordinator, House Clerk's Office

Access the meeting here: https://house.vga.virginia.gov/now_playing
Additional information about the Commission can be found here: https://dls.virginia.gov/commissions/aac.htm?x=mtg