

Council 4/Council 5 of the Statewide Self Advocacy Network
April 15, 2026

Welcome and Introductions

Treasury Report: C4=\$4,698.00, C5=\$518.98

Old Business

A. DDAM 2026

a. [Templates](#)

B. [Budget Hearings](#)

C. [Conference Save the Date](#): 10-2-26

New Business

A. Autism Acceptance Month

B. [Best Buddies Friendship Walk - 4/12 @TCNJ](#)

C. [NJCDD Community Building Awards Nomination](#)

D. Connect with YAB

Announcements from Members/Advisor

Action Items for Next Meeting Adjourn the Meeting

Next meeting- May 20, 2026—on Zoom!

Participants:

Ellen, Jaime, Barb, Josie, Uchechi Obikwelu (4 folks with New Lisbon) 8

Started at 3:10

Ellen read agenda

Ellen talked about her testimony

-Autism Acceptance Month: I talked about puzzles pieces, and the change from awareness to acceptance, and identity first language.

-[Best Buddies Friendship Walk - 4/12 @TCNJ](#): no one went.

-[NJCDD Community Building Awards Nomination](#): went over the form, the categories, and how to nominate someone.

-Connect with YAB: Barb talked about meeting Jen Harrison and connecting with the YAB in August. The group would like to make videos about the importance of advocacy, how it benefitted their life, and how to get more involved.

-NDRN: looking for youth to join Myrta's cousin. Will send to Jen and Adara. Wants contact list to send to Raquel.

-Barb talked about DPS: March 23/24, only 2 days this year not 3. NJ was well represented. Monday they did the plenary sessions, break out sessions, and the caucus. Tuesday was the hill visit. Talked about DSP Wage, Waiting list down to the ground, HCBS, Medicaid cuts, special education, health care.

-Barb brought up wanting to do a summit to get more people involved. I thought we could turn it into a networking event. Recruitment event. The group would like to do this!

-Talked about the rally in Trenton, shared the page, talked about the purpose.

-Announcements: Ellen saw Project Hail Mary, watched Artemis II on TV and I showed the path Artemis II took to get to the moon. Jaime was kicked off medicaid last November. Ellen submitted her taxes.

-I talked about the special election that will take place on the 16th.