



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE

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THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE RECOGNIZES APRIL AS ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

TRENTON (April 16, 2013) – The Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA) adopted a resolution recognizing April as Alcohol Awareness Month, and presented a proclamation by Governor Chris Christie, proclaiming April 2013 as Alcohol Awareness Month at its monthly meeting held in Trenton today.

Since 1987, the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence and its affiliates throughout the United States have designated April as "Alcohol Awareness Month." For this year's observance NCADD has chosen the theme, "Help for Today. Hope for Tomorrow" to draw attention to the pervasive impact that alcohol, alcoholism and alcohol-related problems have on young people, their friends, families and communities -- and to highlight the reality that help is available and recovery is possible.

"Alcohol is the number one drug of choice for young people, and one-third of adults will, at some point in their lives, meet the criteria for an alcohol use disorder," John Hulick, GCADA Executive Director stated. "Alcohol Awareness Month provides the opportunity to encourage New Jersey residents and youth to make healthy and safe choices." Throughout April, the Council is posting resources and information about alcohol abuse and alcoholism on its Facebook page, www.facebook.com/gcada.newjersey, for State residents to access.

"The Council recognizes the importance of Alcohol Awareness Month, and is fully committed to raising awareness about the dangers of alcohol abuse this month, and throughout the year." said Neil Van Ess, GCADA acting-Chairman.

More than 18 million individuals or 8.5% of Americans suffer from alcohol-use disorders. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the annual cost of alcoholism and alcohol abuse is estimated at \$225 billion. Underage drinking has particularly dangerous consequences. Youth who start drinking before age 15 are five times more likely to develop alcohol dependence or abuse later in life than those who begin drinking at or after age 21.

Member communities of the Alliance to Prevent Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, a program of GCADA, will be engaged in activities throughout Alcohol Awareness Month to raise awareness. The Alliance program has nearly 400 Alliances encompassing more than 500 municipalities throughout New Jersey which involve thousands of individuals and stakeholders who have made it their passion and commitment to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in their communities.

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