



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
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MINUTES

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

NEIL VAN ESS
Acting Chairman

CELINA GRAY
Acting Executive Director

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse April 9, 2014

Call to Order

The two hundred eighty eighth regular meeting of the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Elected Chairman Neil Van Ess.

Open Public Meetings Act Statement

Chairman Van Ess announced that notice of this meeting was provided in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 – 10:4-21).

Roll Call

Katelyn Assenheimer called the roll. Members present and absent were noted for the record. Chairman Van Ess announced that this would be an informational meeting due to lack of quorum.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Van Ess stated that he was very pleased about the release of the report by the Task Force on Heroin and Other Opiate Use by New Jersey's Youth and Young Adults last month. He also presented Tom Calcagni, First Assistant Attorney General, with a service recognition award from GCADA for his time and effort working with the Task Force on the creation of the report.

Mr. Calcagni thanked the Council for the recognition and said that working with the Governor's Council and the Task Force has been one of the most rewarding experiences of his career thus far.

The Prevention Works Project

Donna DeStefano, Regional Coalition Project Director for Prevention First, presented to the Council the work she has done on the Prevention Works Project. Ms. DeStefano has been in the prevention field for a number of years, starting with the Rumson/Fair Haven Alliance in Monmouth County. She is also a member of the Overdose Prevention Committee.

Ms. DeStefano shared that she began this program while dealing with a daughter in recovery and realizing that there were not many resources available to parents. The purpose of this project is to get parents talking to their children about the dangers of

prescription drug misuse and abuse. The project is sponsored through a grant by the Actavis pharmaceutical company. She also created a website called "Parents in Connection for Kids" which includes resources throughout the state for parents who are dealing with children that have drug addiction issues. A public service announcement has also aired on Nickelodeon television network entitled "What's Your Thing?" and it encourages children to become involved in activities in their community and school to stay drug free.

The Prevention Works Project has been very well received by Monmouth, Ocean, Morris and Union counties and she hopes that it will be made available throughout the state with information specific to each county.

Mental Health First Aid

Kathi Bedard, Chief of Special Populations and Activities within the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services of the Department of Human Services, spoke to the Council about the Mental Health First Aid program.

Mental Health First Aid is a stigma busting, trauma informed care program that was first established in Australia. The program came to the United States in 2008 and it consists of an eight hour course that raises awareness that people may have had a traumatic experience in their life and teaches people how to help with these issues if they encounter someone in crisis.

The Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services has trained 30 people so far, with hopes that these trainers will present the classes throughout the state. Celina Gray, GCADA Acting Executive Director, is working with the Division to secure training for the County Alliance Coordinators as well. This training would consist of two days and last approximately five hours each.

Regulation Readoption

Kevin Sullivan presented an overview of the regulation changes to the Council members. These practices and procedures were established in 1990 and expire every seven years, with May 21st being the 2014 date of expiration. Mr. Sullivan informed the Council that the proposed edits to the regulations are minor such as updating the reference to "Division of Addiction Services" to "Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services", and changes "Request for Proposal" to "Strategic Plan" in reference to the County Alliance Plans.

The amended regulations proposed for readoption were vetted and approved by the Governor's Counsel before being sent to the Governor's Council for consideration. After the Governor's Council approves these changes, the regulations will then be sent to the Office of Administrative Law where they will be made available for public comment for a 60 day period. At the conclusion of this comment period and upon final approval, they will be published in the New Jersey Register.

Due to lack of quorum, the Council was not able to vote on these regulations. Chairman Van Ess stated that it was imperative that members do their best to attend the May meeting so that these regulations can be voted on.

Acting Executive Director's Report

Acting Executive Director Celina Gray informed the Council that GCADA has been working on a public announcement of an anti-stigma campaign on addiction due out before Memorial Day. This campaign is in collaboration with the Division of Consumer Affairs, the Department of Education, the Attorney General's Office, the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services as well as a number of other private sector entities. It is a "living" campaign consisting of billboards which will appear on mass transit throughout New Jersey. Each message will be targeted to different populations within the community. This launch will be held in Monmouth County at the Centra State facility or Freehold High School.

Ms. Gray also shared that an information hotline with resources for people struggling with heroin and other opiate abuse would soon be available. This information line is being made possible with the help from the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services as well as the Actavis pharmaceutical company.

Patty DiRenzo shared with Ms. Gray that August 31st is International Overdose Awareness Day. Ms. Gray suggested that the Council create a resolution in July or August recognizing this day.

Ms. Gray informed the Council that she along with Chairman Van Ess and Rebecca Alfaro had recently met with the New Jersey State Comptroller. During this meeting they addressed current staffing issues as well as the possibility of an RFP to bring in professionals to look at the current program structure for the Municipal Alliance Program.

A workgroup meeting for Council members will soon be announced. Ms. Gray stated that this would be a very comprehensive orientation regarding the Alliance structure as well as other functions within GCADA.

Announcement

Paul Ressler invited Council members to a celebration of the first anniversary of the Overdose Prevention Act on May 2nd at the Old York Country Club in Chesterfield.

Lynn Kovich informed the members that there would be a conference for prescribers and primary care doctors on May 31st. She will forward the information regarding location to anyone who is interested in attending.

Adjournment

Elected Chairman Neil Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.