



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
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NEIL VAN ESS
Acting Chairman

CELINA GRAY
Acting Executive Director

MINUTES

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

October 15, 2013

Call to Order

The two hundred eighty fifth 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

Elected 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.

Approval of September Minutes

After a brief discussion, the September minutes were approved. (Y-9; N-0; ABS-5)

Presentation: The Importance of the Certified Prevention Specialist for the Field of Prevention

Diane Litterer, Executive Director of the New Jersey Prevention Network (NJPN), expressed to the Council members the importance of professionals in the prevention field having their Certified Prevention Specialist (CPS) certification. Ms. Litterer mentioned that there has been a decline in certifications in the past few years. A few reasons for this decline are because funders have stopped requiring agencies to have a CPS on staff and also because the broader prevention field is unaware of this credential.

Ms. Litterer pointed out that the Governor's Council has been very supportive of Alliance coordinators obtaining their CPS or Associate Prevention Specialist certification, specifically by sponsoring the CADCA trainings in 2012.

Rich Bowe gave an overview of the Certification Board which is in its 41st year. Currently there are 2,651 Prevention Specialists in the IC&RC, with 69 of them being from New Jersey.

Council members Barbara Sprechman and Wanda Moore offered their assistance in acting as a liaison between the Certification Board, NJPN and Council members for future discussion.

Guidelines Training Report

Rebecca Alfaro, Director of Prevention and Training shared with the Council that the strategic plan trainings have been completed and the turnout was tremendous.

A survey was sent out to the participants of this training and Ms. Alfaro will have a thorough analysis available soon to present to the Council.

Chairman's Report

Elected Chairman Van Ess announced that the Task Force on Heroin and Other Opiate Use by New Jersey's Youth and Young Adults hearing would be held on November 15th. The purpose of this hearing is to address treatment services within county jails and juvenile facilities.

Discussion of Bylaws

As per the bylaws committee, Kevin Meara presented to the Council the new bylaws, which were completely reflective of the 2010 bylaws and in keeping with the statute, with only minor changes made.

Elected Chairman Neil Van Ess asked for a motion to approve the August 20th changes to the bylaws. This motion was made by BettyAnn Cowling-Carson and seconded by Gregg Benson.

Discussion ensued by Dr. Kaldany from the Department of Corrections and Fred Zavaglia from the Department of Labor regarding clarification on the content that was presented for a vote.

Kevin Meara stated that the 2010 bylaws were being used as a foundation to look at what was being changed for 2012. The proposed changes to the 2012 bylaws are more reflective of the 2010 bylaws. Mr. Meara stated a more comprehensive review would be done in January as well as changes to the Administrative Code.

As per the statute, GCADA Counsel Michael Kennedy clarified that the Executive Director is a position appointed by the Governor with Deputy Director then being chosen by the Executive Director.

Discussion ensued by Paul Ressler and Debra Lancaster from the Department of Children and Families regarding the positions of Executive and Deputy Director as well as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson as outlined in the statute. Elected Chairman Van Ess stated that the by-laws being proposed were aligned with the statute as cited by Michael Kennedy.

Discussion ensued regarding the need to continue operating under the emergency by-laws. Michael Kennedy clarified that by working under the emergency bylaws, the Council would be operating under the 2010 bylaws.

Bill Haldeman from the Department of Education seconded the motion that was suggested by Dr. Kaldany to table the approval of the bylaws changes pending the comprehensive review in January. No vote was taken. Elected Chairman Van Ess stated that the first motion was to adopt the changes made to the 2012 bylaws.

After discussion, this motion was voted on and was not approved. (Y-6; N-9)

Elected Chairman Neil Van Ess then asked for a motion to suspend the 2012 bylaws under the 2012 Emergency Powers and revert to the 2010 bylaws in order for GCADA to operate as per the statute. Gregg Benson made this motion and it was seconded by Paul Ressler.

To clarify, Kevin Meara informed Council members that they had just voted down the new bylaws, which reflected the 2010 bylaws with the exception of minor changes, and that now in order to operate by statute, GCADA will have to vote under the Emergency Powers of the 2012 bylaws, to suspend the 2012 bylaws, and revert back to the 2010 bylaws they, in essence, just voted against.

Michael Kennedy stated that the Emergency powers were only in effect for 30 days and if there was no quorum, then the Council would automatically revert to the 2012 bylaws without the current proposed changes.

Elected Chairman Van Ess asked if Council would consider withdrawing their motion. No action was taken.

Elected Chairman Van Ess restated that the motion was to suspend the 2012 bylaws under the 2012 bylaws Emergency Powers in order for GCADA to revert back to, and operate under, the 2010 bylaws, in keeping with the statute.

After the discussion, a vote was taken and this motion was approved. (Y-13; N-1)

Acting Executive Director's Report

Acting Executive Director Celina Gray informed the Council members that the Opiate Task Force was in the process of being finalized. Ms. Gray shared that she had attended the quarterly county Alliance coordinator's meeting earlier in the month and was very pleased with the

positive energy in the room. She informed the Council that Sussex County Alliance coordinator, Nick Loizzi would be presenting the work of his Alliances at the December Council meeting.

Adjournment

Elected Chairman Neil Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 12:21 p.m.