

MINUTES
Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
April 21, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

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

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT

Acting Chairman Neil 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).

PLEDGE OF ALEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by the Council members present.

ROLL CALL

Susan Massaro called the roll. Members present and absent were noted for the record (see attached record).

Acting Chairman's Remarks

Approval of Minutes

Acting Chairman Van Ess asked for a motion to approve the March 17, 2010 minutes as presented to the Council.

John Gluck motioned to approve the March 17, 2010 minutes as presented to the Council; seconded by Harry Morey. A roll call vote was taken (see attached vote sheet) and the motion carried.

Certified Prevention Specialist Presentation

Executive Director Mary Lou Powner introduced Rich Bowe and Steve Liga who will be doing a presentation on Certified Prevention Specialist.

Rich Bowe thanked everyone for allowing them to present to the Council information on the Certified Prevention Specialist. New Jersey was one of the very first boards in the country to develop a Prevention Specialist certification and has been in operation since 1996. .

Mr. Bowe introduced Steve Liga, CEO and Executive Director of Middlesex County National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence. Mr. Liga began in the field as a clinician working in treatment and then went into policy work. He also worked in county government and as the Mercer County Alliance Coordinator which exposed him to the field of prevention. Mr. Liga stated a disclaimer saying that some of things he was going to say could be taken out of context and seem critical to both the professionals and volunteers. Mr. Liga is very passionate about prevention. He gave a history on prevention which didn't exist until the eighties. Around the mid nineties there was a movement to professionalize the field and that is the way the first certified prevention specialist came about. Mr. Liga gave a brief overview of what problems arose among the professionals and volunteers and how they worked on solving this matter by revamping the certification program including changes to the number of course. He feels that what they have done in New Jersey is put together a system for educating people who want to do prevention and this training will allow all prevention people to do good work that will have documented results and outcomes in their communities. Mr. Liga is hoping that this program is something that the Council can look at and possibly endorse and distribute to the alliances.

Acting Van Ess thanked both Mr. Bowe and Mr. Liga for presenting to the Council and asked if there were any questions. There were many questions and suggestions made by Council members and both Rich Bowe and Steve Liga responded to them. Executive Director Powner also suggested that both Mr. Bowe and Mr. Liga meet with the Alliance Coordinators to discuss this issue.

Discussion and Vote on Resolution correcting 2009 Award Total

Executive Director Powner explained to Council members that the amounts for the counties were correct on the resolution that was passed in December 2009 but a county had been added and the total was not corrected to show the additional funds.

Acting Chairman Van Ess asked for a motion to approve the corrected figure on the resolution.

Gregg Benson motioned to approve the corrected figure; seconded by John Gluck. A roll call vote was taken (see attached vote sheet) and the motion carried.

Executive Committee – No Report

Alliance Committee

Harry Morey, Chair, reported that there was no meeting in April and the next one will be on May 11, 2010.

Interdepartmental Advisory Panel - No Report

Planning Committee

Acting Chairman Van Ess reported that there was no meeting and if anyone was interested in chairing the Planning Committee to please let Executive Director Powner know.

Criminal/Juvenile Justice Subcommittee

Executive Director Powner explained that the GCADA staff has been contacting members who have served in the past to see if they are still interested in serving and seeking new members as well.

Legislative Subcommittee

Kay McGrath, Chair, reported that the Legislative Subcommittee met on April 1, 2010 and revisited the subject of parity and the State Health Benefits Commission request that public employees be exempted from the new federal parity requirements. The committee also looked over and discussed the response to Executive Director Powner's letter asking why the commission took this direction.

Kay McGrath motioned to approve GCADA writing a letter to the SHBC expressing their disapproval of their action and asking them to reconsider; seconded by Harry Morey. A roll call vote was taken (see attached vote sheet) and the motion carried.

The Legislative Subcommittee also discussed the state parity bill S796. They voted and approved a resolution to be drawn up and sent to Senator Vitale expressing our support and urging an Assembly companion bill be introduced as well. The resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

There was a discussion on student surveys and passive versus active consent laws. There is currently a senate bill (S1696) by Senator Turner, but there is no companion bill in the assembly. The committee agreed to drafting a resolution in support of S1696 with language asking for the assembly to introduced a companion bill. There was some discussion regarding this issue and Mr. Vermeire asked for a copy of the bill.

Nick Petrozzino went over the tracking report and Candice Singer discussed the second chance bills.

Jim O'Brien discussed the cuts in the Governor's budget for treatment and made a number of suggestions that would be better made to the full Council. Ms. McGrath discussed this with Executive Director Powner and she has invited him to come and discuss these suggestions with the Executive Committee. Mr. O'Brien suggested having the Commissioner from Banking and Insurance come and speak to the Council regarding their funding and a need to move into insurance reimbursement.

NCADD will be conducting another Day of Advocacy on May 19, 2010. The event last year was very successful.

Hank Kurz from the Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey reported to the subcommittee on Operation Medicine Cabinet.

The committee also discussed the program that the Mercer County Council will be holding. They are inviting Assemblywoman Watson Coleman to speak regarding an overhaul of New Jersey's correction policy to assist offenders with re-entry.

Acting Chairman Van Ess suggested that the Legislative Subcommittee consider holding a legislative breakfast and Ms. McGrath agreed to discuss it with the subcommittee.

Treatment Subcommittee

Gregg Benson, Chair apologized for not making the Treatment Subcommittee meeting last month. The committee discussed planning for a statewide treatment conference in collaboration with the Certification Board.

They also discussed planning for regional public hearings regarding some of the issues confronting the field, especially with the budget cuts and the need to continue to deliver services. They will be bringing these hearings out to the communities, the public and providers.

The Treatment Subcommittee also discussed having Father Ed Redding from the Licensure Board come to discuss upgrades to the licensure of Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselors. Father Redding will be at the subcommittee's June meeting.

The subcommittee also discussed the Vivitrol Pilot Program through DAS. Vicki Fresolone will be at the May 19, 2010 meeting to do a presentation to the full Council. Mr. Benson gave a brief overview of this pilot program and the medication.

Veterans and Military Ad Hoc Committee – No Report

Other Business

Acting Chairman Van Ess thanked Executive Director Powner for her work over the last two weekends on the response to the Comptroller's recent report evaluating changes GCADA has made in response to deficiencies identified in its initial report, as well as a response to a request for information from the Department of Treasury which is evaluating the independent agencies affiliated with the department.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Powner reported that she e-mailed to the Council the comptroller's recent report that contains our response. She felt that this time they were much more interested in speaking with members of GCADA including the acting chairman.

Ms. Powner mentioned that membership is being looked at now and hopefully the vacancies will be filled soon.

Ms. Powner reported that we have not heard back from GCADA counsel DAG Michael Kennedy regarding any changes to the by-laws. She will email them to everyone again and they will be put on the agenda for next month's meeting.

GCADA was invited to participate in a workgroup at the Department of Education on the subject of student surveys. There is a proposal allowing student surveys to be done online. The state stakeholders would be able to decide what the core components of the survey are and at the county level there will be an authorized overseer. With this online

survey there will be the core components for the state but counties would be able to add information that is needed for their different municipalities.

Public Comments – No Public Comments

Adjournment

Acting Vice Chairman Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:51 a.m.

Mary Lou Powner
Executive Director