

MINUTES
Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
April 19, 2011

Call to Order

The two hundred sixtieth regular meeting of the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Alliance Committee Chair, Harry Morey, because Acting Chairman Neil Van Ess has been delayed in traffic.

Open Public Meetings Act Statement

Alliance Committee Chair Harry Morey 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 (see attached record).

Approval of Minutes – March 15, 2011

There was no vote on the meeting minutes from March 15th due to lack of quorum.

Vote to Approve 2011 Atlantic County Award

There was no vote on the 2011 Plan for Atlantic County due to lack of quorum.

Presentation by Jim Wojtowicz from Department of Corrections, Office of Drug Programs

Jim Wojtowicz from the Office of Drug Programs (Department of Corrections) spoke to the Council members on what his office and department offers to the community.

All programs offered are evidence based practices and maintain model fidelity. The Department offers support services which include drug and/or alcohol referral and treatment programs as well ancillary services such as marriage and child support.

The Department contracts for 1,400 Therapeutic Community beds in seven different programs, located in six treatment facilities throughout the state of New Jersey. Each client who participates in a program offered by the Department of Corrections (DOC) is assessed using the Addiction Severity Index (ASI) screening tool. These programs are strictly voluntary and not coercive.

The NJDOC is looking to establish a continuum of care with each offender giving them access to primary care as well as long-term and residential (halfway houses) care.

Mr. Wojtowicz invited anyone who is interested to come to the office and observe these programs. Executive Director Mary Lou Powner suggested that a Council meeting be held on the road at one of the facilities.

Executive Committee – No Report

Alliance Committee

The Alliance Committee will meet on Tuesday, May 10th.

Interdepartmental Advisory Panel – No Report

Planning Committee

The Planning Committee will meet immediately following today's Governor's Council meeting.

Criminal/Juvenile Justice Subcommittee – No Report

Legislative Subcommittee

The Legislative subcommittee met on April 7th. Dr. Jeffrey Brenner of the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers gave a presentation to the members in support of Bill A3636/S2443. This bill calls for a demonstration project in the Department of Health that would change the way health care services are administered by providers therefore decreasing the cost of healthcare in the State. The demonstration project would also improve the quality of care and avoid duplication of services.

Barbara Sprechman shared information on the first week of the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America (CADCA) training. The training was successful and well received by everyone who participated. The next training session will be held in June.

Treatment Subcommittee – No Report

Veterans and Military Ad Hoc Committee – No Report

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Powner discussed with the Council the first week of CADCA training. Seven counties were involved as well as staff from the Division of Addiction Services and New Jersey Prevention network affiliates. There will be two more weeks of training for this first cohort. It is hoped that these seven counties who have been trained first will implement what they have learned at the local level. By the fall of 2012, all 21 counties will have participated in this extensive training.

Mary Lou Powner informed the Council members that this may be her last meeting as Executive Director of the Governor's Council. The Governor's office has a new person in mind for her position, however it is not known when this person will be appointed or confirmed. The Appointments Office has offered her another position with the state, but she is not sure yet what direction she will take. Ms. Powner thanked all the members for their work and participation over the years.

Chairman Neil Van Ess expressed his concern at there being no discussion of a transition period until a new Director is appointed to the Council. It was suggested that a letter be written to the Governor's office requesting that Ms. Powner stay on board with GCADA until the new Director is familiar with the Alliances and other operations. Captain Van Ess said that he has no qualms making a direct call to the Governor's office with this request. Ms. Powner said she thought it was likely that her replacement was going to be John Hulick of the Governor's Policy Office and she had hoped he would be in attendance at today's meeting so the Council could be given more information.

Public Comments

No comments from the public.

Adjournment

Acting Chairman, Neil Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Mary Lou Powner
Executive Director