

MINUTES
Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
October 19, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

The two hundred fourth regular meeting of the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse was called to order at 10:15 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 ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited 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

Mr. Van Ess welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were tabled until the November meeting due to the lack of a quorum.

Executive Committee – No Report

Alliance Committee

Harry Morey, Chair, reported that the committee met on October 12, 2010 and reviewed the committee's goals and objectives for 2011. They will be updated and ready for the next committee meeting.

The committee discussed plans for the upcoming CADCA Coalition Training Academy. The committee plans to establish a working group to review all the forms Alliances are required to complete and determine if the number of forms and paperwork required of grantees can be reduced.

The next meeting of the committee will be on November 9, 2010.

Interdepartmental Advisory Panel

Gary Vermeire reported that he and his counterpart department designees were gathering data to submit to the Council for inclusion in the annual state government component of the master plan. The information is due to the Council by November 8, 2010.

Planning Committee

Betty Ann Cowling Carson, Chair, reported that she was not able to attend the last meeting and asked if Executive Director Powner had anything to report. Ms. Powner reported that the planning committee members met with the executive committee prior to last month's Council meeting, discussed the format of this year's Master Plan, and decided to keep it the same as previous years.

Criminal/Juvenile Justice Subcommittee

Executive Director Powner stated that the criminal/juvenile justice subcommittee is scheduled to meet on November 18, 2010. This is the first meeting in over a year and the subcommittee will be reorganizing and setting goals for the coming year.

Ms. Powner also reported that she had a meeting with Wanda Moore, Assistant Attorney General and Director of the Office of Community Justice. Ms. Moore did a presentation last year for the Council regarding veterans' court initiatives. Due to the change in administrations, the crime prevention efforts of the Corzine Crime Plan were merged with the reentry planning efforts and are part of Ms. Moore's responsibilities. A member of Ms. Moore's staff will participate on the C/JJ subcommittee and we will continue to explore ways in which the GCADA and the Alliances can collaborate and coordinate with their efforts.

Legislative Subcommittee

Kay McGrath, Chair, reported that the legislative subcommittee met on October 7, 2010. Jon Gaspich, a member of the subcommittee and head of the Student Assistance Counselors Association, gave a presentation. Mr. Gaspich was seeking the support of the subcommittee and ultimately from the Council for an effort by the organization to replace or reinstate the 100 student assistance counselors that have been terminated due to the economic crisis. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this issue among the members present.

Ms. McGrath said the subcommittee had a new member Joe Williams who is head of the public policy committee of the New Jersey Prevention Network. Mr. Williams gave an overview of the top priority bills that NJPN are focusing on, including:

S2133 Prohibits possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages on private property by persons under 21 years of age;

S1658 Requires keg registration; makes the unlawful possession of an unregistered keg a petty disorderly persons offense; and

A2643 Creates new taxable category of alcoholic beverages called flavored malt beverages, imposes separate rate of taxation on new category pursuant to alcoholic beverages tax and allocates associated revenue.

Ms. McGrath stated that Executive Director Powner asked that the legislative subcommittee be more pro active in the coming year.

Robert Zlotnick stated that the National Recovery Walk, sponsored by the A&E TV Network, was held at Penns Landing last month. Although the walk was held just across the river from New Jersey, there were very few NJ community organizations, Alliances or citizens represented that day. There was a suggestion that a walk could be held in New Jersey in the future.

The subcommittee discussed an article appearing in the Trenton Times comparing Ricci's Law that was passed in New York to the one that was passed in New Jersey. Ricci's Law requires first-time convicted drunk drivers with a blood alcohol level above 0.15 percent to install an ignition interlock into their vehicles. Mr. Williams gave a brief overview about the law.

Treatment Subcommittee

Gregg Benson, Chair, reported that there was no meeting last month of the treatment subcommittee but the members were asked to submit via e-mail their thoughts on the 2011 goals and objectives of the subcommittee.

Mr. Benson stated that there will be a presentation on Vivitrol at the December 14, 2010 Council meeting by staff of the Division of Addiction Services (DAS). Mr. Benson asked if Don Hallcom of DAS knew if the Vivitrol pilot program had begun and Mr. Hallcom responded that the program is to start in January. Mr. Benson also mentioned that recent news came out that Vivitrol has been approved for the treatment of opiate addiction and that it is very costly treatment.

The next treatment subcommittee meeting will be immediately following the November 16 Council meeting.

Veterans and Military Committee

Neil Van Ess, Chair, reported that the committee met following last month's Council meeting and discussed the updating of the resource guide. GCADA staff member Nick Petrozzino has received several requests for the updated guide. Mr. Petrozzino reported that approximately 16,000 resource guides have been distributed statewide to date.

Other Business

Laura Hernandez Paine from the Department of Health and Senior Services updated the Council on the status of the tobacco control program. The program was created in 2000 with master settlement funding in the amount of \$30 million. Since then a variety of intervention programs have been initiated with this funding. However, beginning in July of 2010, this funding has been completely eliminated from the budget. Ms. Paine gave a brief overview of what is going to happen with some of the programs that were supported by the Department of Health and Senior Services. Ms. Paine left a summary of what she reported with Susan Massaro for anyone who would like a copy.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Mary Lou Powner discussed the upcoming CADCA coalition training. GCADA has reached out to both DAS's prevention staff and NJPN to participate in the training. GCADA would particularly like NJPN prevention affiliates to join their county colleagues in one of the planned cohorts of the training. The counties have been asked to identify potential county and municipal alliance participants; and additional prevention experts and providers are being invited. There will be a one day orientation at the Trenton Marriott on November 30, 2010. All Council members are invited and if interested should contact the GCADA office to sign up.

GCADA received notice from Don Hallcom that nominations were being accepted for the next round of Service to Science (STS) initiative of the North East Center for Addiction Prevention

Technology (NECAPT). A summary was prepared by Ms. Powner, forwarded to Mr. Hallcom and has been nominated to the NECAPT. A full application for the STS is due in November. She will keep the Council members updated on the progress of the application.

Ms. Powner told the Council members she has provided some information 'alcohol energy drinks', caffeinated alcoholic beverages, and reported that Assemblywoman Mary Pat Angelini has just introduced a bill that will prohibit the sale of these alcoholic energy drinks. A copy of the bill will be forwarded to Council members.

Ms. Powner provided a news article in Council member packets on Adam Jasinski that his conviction on drug charges. Mr Jasinski appeared on the reality television show Big Brother. He attended a couple of Council meetings in the spring and expressed interested in becoming a member. Mr. Jasinski had also been promoting himself as a speaker to the Municipal Alliances.

Executive Director Powner recently had a conversation with John Hulick from the governor's office regarding heroin use among young kids. There seems to be a spike in use of heroin possibly evolving from the pervasiveness of the abuse of prescription pain relievers. Ms. Powner suggested this may be an issue GCADA should target in the future.

Ms. Powner spoke briefly about GCADA's human resource needs. The Council's Administrative Assistant Susan Massaro is retiring at the end of this year. Evon Judkins, one of the two State Alliance Coordinators, is considering retiring in February; and Rebecca Alfaro will also be going out on maternity leave in the first quarter of 2011. Executive Director Powner has a meeting scheduled with the head of Department of Treasury Human Resources to discuss GCADA's current and future personnel needs.

Public Comments – No Public Comments

Adjournment

Acting Chairman Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

Mary Lou Powner
Executive Director