



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE

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KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

NEIL VAN ESS
Acting Chairman

MARY LOU POWNER
Executive Director

MINUTES

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

June 21, 2011

Call to Order

The two hundred sixty second 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).

Roll Call

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

Approval of Minutes – May 17th

The minutes from the May 17th meeting were approved by the members of the Council.

Discussion and Vote on Hooked on Fishing Resolution

The members discussed bill A288/S106 which would establish the "Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs" program in the Department of Environmental Protection and appropriate \$200,000 from the Drug Enforcement and Demand Fund (DEDR) to fund the program. Council members were concerned that while the program is an alternative activity, it is not of sufficient intensity or duration to produce desired outcomes. There was also concern that it was not evidence based, and that the legislation allowed for the purchase of fishing equipment making the program appear more about the promotion of angling than preventing substance abuse.

The Council members voted in favor of this resolution. (Y-10; N-0; ABS-4)

Executive Committee – No Report

Alliance Committee

The Alliance Committee will meet on Tuesday, July 12th.

Interdepartmental Advisory Panel – No Report

Planning Committee – No Report

Criminal/Juvenile Justice Subcommittee –

Criminal/juvenile Justice subcommittee chairman Jim Wojtowicz informed the Council members that he had reviewed the membership list and was in the process of reaching out to past members to renew their interest in the subcommittee. Mr. Wojtowicz hopes to reconvene this subcommittee next month.

Legislative Subcommittee –

The legislative subcommittee met on June 2nd.

The subcommittee discussed bill A2974/S2015 which would require local Boards of Education to employ Student Assistance Coordinators based on student enrollment. This bill is in the process of being rewritten and reintroduced in the legislature.

Bill A3636/S2443 was also discussed. This bill would establish a Medicaid Accountable Care Organization Demonstration Project in the Department of Human Services.

Kay McGrath informed the Council members that bill A3703/S2614 “Earn your Way Out of Prison Into Supervision, Treatment and Recovery Program” had stalled in the legislature.

The legislative subcommittee will not meet in the summer and will reconvene in September.

Treatment Subcommittee – No Report

Veterans and Military Ad Hoc Committee –

The Veterans directory is in the process of being updated for re-printing.

Executive Director’s Report

Mr. John Hulick introduced himself to the Council members as the new Acting Executive Director of the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. Mr. Hulick previously worked for the Governor in the public policy office and worked for sixteen years at the National Alcohol and Drug Dependence of New Jersey.

Mr. Hulick spoke of the Governor's vision for the Council and the development of a Blueprint for a Drug Free New Jersey 2020. This would be a visionary document that would provide an analysis of drug and alcohol services that are available throughout the state; identify efficiencies in these services; and, outline how services should be provided in the future. Governor Christie is also focusing on heroin and other opiate use among New Jersey's youth population.

Mr. Hulick welcomed new members Paul Ressler and Eric Arauz to the Governor's Council. Currently, there are eight public nominations to the Council that have been filed, three have been confirmed and one that passed a Senate Judiciary Committee vote on June 20th.

At the present time, Acting Executive Director Hulick is focusing on an assessment period within the Governor's Council. He is working on a staffing plan that makes sense and would like to utilize staff based on their skill set. He is also reaching out to the State Comptroller to make sure GCADA is in compliance with all requirements. Meetings have also been scheduled with Treasury as well as the Department of Personnel regarding the staffing plan.

Mr. Hulick invited all Council members to the Annual Alliance Summit which will be held on September 9th at the Princeton Hyatt. The Governor and the First Lady have been invited to this event.

The Recovery Walk will be held in September in Philadelphia. Mr. Hulick hopes that GCADA will be able to sponsor buses for this event.

Acting Chairman's Remarks

Neil Van Ess welcomed new member Paul Ressler and wished Acting Executive Director John Hulick well in his new position.

Public Comments

Salem County Alliance Coordinator, Brenda Banks shared her concern over the Governor's Council moving away from alternative activities. She stated they were very important and often times publicized the work of the Alliances.

Adjournment

Acting Chairman, Neil Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

John Hulick
Acting Executive Director