



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 May 17, 2011

Call to Order

The two hundred sixty first 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 15th and April 19th

The minutes from the March and April meeting were approved by the members of the Council.

Vote to Approve 2011 Atlantic County Award

The 2011 Plan for Atlantic County was approved by the members of the Council. (Y-12; N-0; ABS-6)

Discussion and Vote on Resolution A3350/S2497

Kay McGrath gave an overview of Bill A3350/S2497 which would allow licensing authorities to grant a license to certain child support obligors under certain circumstances.

These individuals have been incarcerated due to alcohol and/or drug-related crimes. This bill would shorten the amount of time for an obligor who is in arrears of no more than six months to obtain his or her license as long as they show a good faith effort in paying this

money back. The licensing board involved would review each instance on a case by case basis.

After discussing this bill, the Council members approved the Resolution.

Executive Committee – No Report

Alliance Committee

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

Interdepartmental Advisory Panel – No Report

Planning Committee

Betty Ann Cowling-Carson reported that the Planning Committee met on April 19th after the Council meeting and discussed the Resolution regarding Child Support Obligor. Other resolutions were discussed, but more information is needed before any further action can be taken.

Criminal/Juvenile Justice Subcommittee – No Report

Legislative Subcommittee – No Report

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

Mary Lou Powner informed the Council members that two nominees were scheduled for confirmation on the Judiciary Senate Committee on Thursday, May 19th.

Ms. Powner also informed the members that she had filed for early retirement effective June 1. She has been involved in public service since 1983 and was appointed Executive Director by Governor Christine Whitman in 1998. Ms. Powner said that she will continue to be involved in the field and intended on doing some teaching and consulting. She also plans to advocate for the county and local planning systems.

Ms. Powner thanked former Executive Director Riley Regan, who is in attendance today, for influencing her early in her career.

Mary Lou Powner also thanked Marge Beattie who she has worked with for 26 years. Their careers started together in Ocean County and then Mrs. Beattie took the risk of giving up her civil service job to

join Ms. Powner to head the fiscal unit of the Governor's Council. Mrs. Beattie has indicated that she too will be applying for retirement sometime in the near future.

Ms. Powner also acknowledged members of the Council for all their dedication and hard work throughout the years. She noted that while there have been differences in opinions they have not been personal and everyone worked with good intentions.

Lastly, she recognized Acting Chairman Neil Van Ess for stepping up and taking on the role of acting chairman for the past three years when he thought he would only be in this position for a few months. The former Chairman resigned suddenly with no notice. She presented him with a plaque for his years of service on the Council.

Acting Chairman's Remarks

Neil Van Ess praised Ms. Powner for her years of service and presented her with a plaque to acknowledge all the work she has done with the Governor's Council.

Public Comments

Members of the Council and County representatives thanked Ms. Powner and wished her well in her retirement from the state.

Adjournment

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

Mary Lou Powner
Executive Director