



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
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NEIL VAN ESS
Acting Chairman

CELINA LEVY
Acting Executive Director

MINUTES

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

July 15, 2015

Call to Order

The three hundredth and first 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

Mr. 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.

Approval of June 2015 Minutes

After a brief discussion, the minutes for June were approved. (Y-9; N-0; ABS-5)

Chairman's Report

Chairman Van Ess welcomed the members to the meeting. He thanked the public members and department designees for their attendance at this meeting. He stated that the Council would be voting on the FY16 County Plans and thanked the county coordinators and municipal alliance coordinators for their efforts. He also asked that the coordinators in the audience introduce themselves.

Chairman Van Ess announced to the Council that Lynn Kovich, designee from the Department of Human Services would be leaving her state position. He thanked her for her years of hard work and dedication to the Council and presented her with a plaque.

Chairman Van Ess asked that any members who need to recuse themselves from voting on a specific FY16 County Plan to please state their name and the reason for recusal.

The following members stated their recusals for the record:

Gary Altman – recused from Bergen due to professional affiliations within the county;
Gregg Benson – recused from Morris due to professional affiliations within the county;
Donna DeStefano – recused from Ocean due to her agency providing prevention services for local Alliances in Ocean County;
Gisele Pemberton – recused from Union due to professional affiliations within the county;
Robert Zlotnick – recused from all counties due to his agency providing prevention services (Forest Friends) to Alliance programs in multiple counties.

Council Business – FY16 County Plan Resolutions

Rebecca Alfaro thanked the volunteers who participated on the FY16 County Plan Review Team for their work in scoring the county plans. She also thanked the County Alliance Coordinators for their quick resubmissions of the corrected deficiencies. She stated that county Alliance programs will continue to be held to the highest standards so that the highest level of prevention programming will be provided to New Jersey residents..

Public member Gisele Pemberton said that the plans have shown marked improvement this year. She stated that this spoke very well of both the Governor's Council and the coordinators.

After a vote the following resolutions for funding the FY16 County Plans were approved:

Joint County Plan Resolution (Morris, Ocean, Union and Warren) (Y-10; N-0; ABS-4)
Recusals – Gregg Benson, Donna DeStefano, Gisele Pemberton and Robert Zlotnick

Bergen County Plan Resolution (Y-12; N-0; ABS-3)
Recusals – Gary Altman and Robert Zlotnick

Acting Executive Director's Report

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy stated that it was essential that the Council have a quorum at the September meeting as she hopes the remainder of county plans will be presented for Council vote.

Ms. Levy thanked the county coordinators for their efforts in submitting the county plans. She stated to the Council that questions are always welcome regarding these plans.

Acting Executive Director Levy shared that she continues to work with the Adult Suicide Prevention workgroup as well as the Stakeholder's Communications group through the NJ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and that these committees are all connected to the Governor's Facing Addiction Task Force. Ms. Levy stated that the clearinghouse for mental health services, that will offer users a website of resources to navigate the mental health system, has received very positive reception thus far.

Ms. Levy announced that the position for a GCADA fiscal manager had been posted through the Department of Treasury's office of human resources and the two positions for GCADA State Alliance Coordinators would also be posted soon.

The Volunteer of the Year luncheon will be held following the Council meeting on September 17. Nominees that the counties have submitted for the W. Carey Edwards Award have been sent to the review team and are due back to GCADA by August 1st. Further information will be sent out regarding this event closer to the date.

Other Council Business

Robert Zlotnick announced that the Hero Campaign would be celebrating its 15th anniversary on Sunday, July 19th.

Adjournment

Chairman Van Ess announced that the meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 19th would be cancelled and the Governor's Council would reconvene in September. He then adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.