



## State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE

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*Governor*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

NEIL VAN ESS  
*Acting Chairman*

CELINA LEVY  
*Acting Executive Director*

### MINUTES

#### **Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse**

**June 17, 2015**

#### **Call to Order**

The three hundredth 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 May 2015 Minutes**

After a brief discussion, the minutes for May 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 stated that the improvement plan was an ongoing process in order to provide the highest level of prevention programs to the community.

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 Passaic due to professional affiliations within the county;**  
**BettyAnn Cowling-Carson – recused from Camden due to being the Camden County Alliance Coordinator;**  
**Donna DeStefano – recused from Monmouth due to her agency providing prevention services for local Alliances in Monmouth County;**

**Susan Neshin – recused from Monmouth due to her agency receiving funding from 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 explained that the scoring process was the same as last year and the score sheets in the packets reflected last year's scores as well as this year's scores for comparison. Ms. Alfaro stated that plans up for approval today had to have resolved all deficiencies for 75% of the participating municipal alliances in the county before they would be presented to the Council for consideration. George Myers and Kevin Sullivan each gave an overview of their respective review. They stated that the quality of the plans improved from last year's submissions.

Ms. Alfaro explained that counties were assigned to tiers based on their scores and each tier had its own set of requirements. She also stated that no funding would be given to any county until 100% of the deficiencies noted on the improvement plan checklists were corrected. Melita Jordan from the Department of Health stated that she was concerned about the low score from Hudson County and the lack of clarity of the drug priority and budget. Ms. Jordan suggested that the Council receive quarterly reports of the progress that each county has made in correcting these deficiencies.

Ms. Alfaro explained that this was not a competitive proposal process, therefore there was no threshold for scoring and counties with low scores were still entitled to funding based on the formula in the legislation. She stated that the improvement plan was very important for this reason.

Kevin Luckie from the Department of Community Affairs inquired if there was a high turnover with the county coordinators and whether this affected the quality of the plans. Public member BettyAnn Cowling-Carson stated that the turnover for local alliances on the municipal level was very high. She also stated that these coordinators were often volunteers and received a very small stipend for their work and do not have the same level of expertise as professionals in the field. Celina stated that she welcomes any and all efforts to raise awareness and offer prevention to the community; however, any group who chose to do so with GCADA funding must be in accordance with GCADA's guidelines.

Neil Van Ess thanked the coordinators for their hard work and acknowledged the improvement in the county plans from last year. Neil Van Ess asked Rebecca to introduce the county coordinators in the audience.

After the introduction of coordinators, the following resolutions for funding the FY16 County Plans were approved:

**Joint County Plan Resolution (Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Sussex) (Y-12; N-0; ABS-2)**  
**Recusals – Robert Zlotnick**

**Camden County Plan Resolution (Y-11; N-0; ABS-2)**  
**Recusals – BettyAnn Cowling-Carson and Robert Zlotnick**

**Passaic County Plan Resolution (Y-12; N-0; ABS-2)**  
**Recusals – Gary Altman**

### **Acting Executive Director's Report**

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy stated that it was essential that the Council have a quorum at the July meeting as she hopes the remainder of county plans will be presented for Council vote. If the department designee is unable to attend the July meeting, GCADA staff will work with departments that need assistance in providing a letter from the commissioner granting voting rights to a designee's alternate.

Ms. Levy thanked the county coordinators for their efforts in submitting the county plans. She stated to the Council members 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. These committees are working on creating a clearinghouse for mental health services that will offer users a website of resources to navigate the mental health system. Ms. Levy stated that Council members may be asked for their additional input for resources.

Ms. Levy shared that Daytop in Pittsgrove is holding a ribbon cutting ceremony today for their new facility.

An art exhibit focusing on heroin addiction is being sponsored by the Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey. The deadline for exhibits is July 29<sup>th</sup>. Thirty finalists will be chosen and their artwork will be displayed at the Gallery Walk in Newark.

### **Other Council Business**

Robert Zlotnick thanked Acting Chairman Neil Van Ess and Acting Executive Director Celina Levy for inviting Bill Elliott of the HERO Campaign to the April meeting. He also shared that Atlantic Prevention Resources would be celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the fall.

### **Public Comment**

John Gaspich from the Association of Student Assistance Professionals of New Jersey asked that the Council review Senate bill S1694 and Assembly bill A2260 which requires school districts to employ a certain number of student assistance coordinators based on district enrollment. He stated that SACs should not be confused with guidance counselors and that their focus was on socialization and the avoidance of drug addiction.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:26 a.m.