



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
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NEIL VAN ESS
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CELINA LEVY
Acting Executive Director

MINUTES

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

March 18, 2015

Call to Order

The two hundred ninety seventh regular meeting of the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Elected Chairman Neil Van Ess.

Open Public Meetings Act Statement

Chairman 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. Acting Chairman Neil Van Ess informed the Council that this meeting would be for informational purposes only due to the lack of a quorum.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Van Ess welcomed the members to the meeting. He informed the Council that he would be working with the Council to update the 2010 Bylaws as well as reestablishing committees.

Presentation: "Problem Gambling: Having the Conversation"

Donald Weinbaum, Executive Director of the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey, gave a presentation to the members on the work of the Council. March has been designated "Problem Gambling Awareness Month" with the theme being "Having the Conversation".

The goals of this campaign are to educate the public as well as reducing the stigma of gambling which is the most challenging. At the present time, the Council is working with over fifty different agencies and departments throughout the State.

Terry Elman, Education Coordinator of the Council expressed the importance of having a conversation with someone as well as encouraging them to attend a meeting if you suspect they might have a gambling problem.

Mr. Weinbaum also invited a member in recovery who shared his personal and family experiences to put a face to gambling addiction. He shared that this is a progressive illness and that gambling awareness and education are very important to those suffering from this addiction.

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy informed the Council that Don Weinbaum would be retiring from his position as Executive Director of the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey. Mr. Weinbaum was presented with a plaque to honor his work and achievements during his tenure as Executive Director at the Council. Ms. Levy also read a resolution recognizing the month of March as "Problem Gambling Awareness Month". This resolution will be voted on at the April meeting.

Acting Executive Director's Report

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy shared that Rebecca Alfaro had conducted focus groups in six counties throughout the State and received very informative feedback. She asked that Ms. Alfaro give a brief Alliance update to the Council members.

Ms. Alfaro stated that it was time to review the County Plans. She explained that this year there would be four review teams and each team would have no more than five plans to review. Staff will internally review the plans and deficiencies that were to be corrected and the review teams will begin meeting via phone conference in early April. Ms. Alfaro also shared that due to the Council's concern regarding the approval of plans with low scores, the counties would receive their deficiencies by April 30th and they would have 30 days to correct the deficiencies before they are voted on by the Council. An orientation will take place via phone for review team members as well as any interested Council members.

Ms. 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. She stated that these groups were breaking down silos and had unprecedented collaboration between departments and organizations.

The New Jersey Recovery Rally will be held the week after the Philadelphia Recovery at Liberty State Park in Jersey City. Ms. Levy will share more information on this event as it becomes available.

Ms. Levy announced that the New Jersey Prevention Network Conference in Atlantic City had great attendance despite the snowstorm that we received the night before. She shared that the Governor's Council Addiction Campaign material was displayed throughout the conference.

Adjournment

Elected Chairman Neil Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m.