



## State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE  
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CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

NEIL VAN ESS  
*Acting Chairman*

CELINA LEVY  
*Acting Executive Director*

### MINUTES

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

May 20, 2015

#### Call to Order

The two hundred ninety-ninth 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 February, March and April Minutes

After a brief discussion, the minutes for February, March and April were approved.

**February (Y-7; N-0; ABS-8)**

**March (Y-8; N-0; ABS-7)**

**April (Y-9; N-0; ABS-6)**

#### Chairman's Report

Chairman Van Ess welcomed the members to the meeting. He informed the Council that he would like to begin meeting with the workgroup on updating the bylaws so the Council would not have to continue to revert to the bylaws from 2010.

He also shared that the Council would soon be hiring additional staff. A State Alliance Coordinator will be hired as well as a fiscal manager and an additional clerical support staff. Rebecca Alfaro has been promoted to Deputy Director and Katelyn Assenheimer has been promoted to the role of Administrative Assistant. Kevin Sullivan will be assuming the role of Director of Programs and Planning. Mr. Van Ess thanked the Council for their ongoing support and collaboration in this matter.

### **Presentation: NJ Department of Corrections – Overview of Services**

Dr. Herb Kaldany, Statewide Psychiatry Director for the Department of Corrections (NJDOC), and Adam Cortes, Program Supervisor of the Office of Substance Abuse Programming and Addiction Services with the Department of Corrections presented an overview of their services and programs.

Mr. Cortes explained the mission of the Office of Substance Abuse Programming and Addiction Services. Addicted inmates in the NJDOC system are provided with the tools and assistance necessary for them to become reintegrate into society after their release while still remaining drug free.

NJDOC provides services such as Therapeutic Community Housing, Residential Substance Abuse Treatment, and Alcoholics Anonymous/Narcotics Anonymous programs to their inmates. Other initiatives include family and parenting programs as well as career and resume writing skills to help them obtain a job upon release. The Department is committed to dispelling the myth that incarceration is simply just a “warehousing” of inmates and is doing so by connecting inmates with services within the community.

Dr. Kaldany shared an overview of the Mental Health Services that the NJDOC provides. The NJDOC currently contracts with Rutgers University to provide all health care services. They also service 12 state prisons and the Special Treatment Unit for Sexual Offenders. There are approximately 4,000 inmates who suffer from a mental illness and 2,000 that have drug or alcohol addictions.

Dr. Kaldany explained that prisons often become the first point of access for inmates to receive treatment for their illness. All inmates receive a physical, dental and mental health exam to determine what level of care is needed as well as housing. NJDOC provides psychotherapy, psychopharmacology and other additional substance abuse treatment services to those in need. Inmates are also assigned a social services staff member that can provide additional reentry services. He concluded by stating the integration of quality care for inmates will lead to better quality care for individuals as they return to the community.

### **Presentation: Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking**

Gina Hernandez, Vice President of Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey gave an overview of the organization as well as services that are offered to sexually exploited children in the state of New Jersey.

She shared that child sexual exploitation is one of the most hidden forms of child abuse in the United States and North America and is often thought of as a victimless crime. New Jersey is also a “hotbed” for these crimes.

The programs that are offered by this organization are created by individuals who had been victims of sex trafficking at a young age. Prevention programs are offered to young, at-risk girls to help them acquire the knowledge, attitude and skills to recognize signs of being recruited into sexual exploitation. Although programs are mainly geared towards girls, there are also several programs for younger boys to raise awareness. Ms. Hernandez also shared that this organization works closely with the Department of Children and Families.

Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey also provides professional trainings on domestic minor sex trafficking. These trainings provide an overview of services as well as offer prevention tools for professionals. The next training will be held on June 1<sup>st</sup> in New Brunswick. Ms. Hernandez invited the Council members to attend and shared her email if they had any additional questions.

**Resolution: Mental Health Awareness Month, Problem Gambling Awareness Month, and Alcohol Awareness Month**

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy read a resolution proposed by the Council and a proclamation from Governor Christie recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month. This resolution was voted on by the Council as well as resolutions from the months of March and April.

**Mental Health Awareness Month (Y-14; ABS-1; N-0)**  
**Problem Gambling Awareness Month (Y-14; ABS-1; N-0)**  
**Alcohol Awareness Month (Y-14; ABS-1; N-0)**

**Ethics Presentation – County Plan Review Recusal**

Kevin Sullivan stated that the FY16 County Alliance Plans would be presented to the Council for consideration at upcoming Council meetings. Mr. Sullivan stated that based on a recent clarification from the NJ Ethics Commission, Council members are no longer required to recuse themselves from reviewing a particular County Plan solely because they reside in the county. A potential conflict of interest could exist, and recusal from reviewing a particular County Plan may be required if a Council member, or a member's family or close friend, has a direct or indirect personal or financial interest in Alliance activity in a county. Mr. Sullivan asked that Council members contact him before May 29<sup>th</sup> if a member believes there may be a need for recusal from reviewing a particular County Plan.

**Acting Executive Director's Report**

Acting Executive Director Celina Gray stated that it was essential that the Council have a quorum at the June and July meetings as the county plans will be presented for Council vote. GCADA staff will work with departments that need assistance in providing a letter from the commissioner granting voting rights if the department designee is unable to attend.

Ms. Levy again shared that GCADA would soon be hiring additional staff. These changes have been vetted by the Governor's Office as well as the Department of Treasury's Office of Human Resources.

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.

### **Public Comment**

Mary Lou Powner from the New Jersey Association for Mental Health and Addiction Agencies announced that the agency will be holding a prevention conference on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Council members are invited to attend.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 12:33 p.m.