



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

September 21, 2016

Call to Order

The three hundred and twelfth 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 2016 Minutes

After a brief discussion, the minutes for May, June and July were approved.

May (Y-15; N-0; ABS-0)

June (Y-10; N-0; ABS-5)

July (Y-9; N-0; ABS-7)

Chairman's Report

Chairman Neil Van Ess thanked the public members and designees for helping to achieve quorum for this meeting.

He stated that he has attended numerous volunteer ceremonies, yet he is always very moved by the dedication of the volunteers who would be recognized today. Mr. Van Ess also thanked the County Coordinators for providing support and guidance to the Alliance Program.

Council Business

International Overdose Awareness Day Resolution –

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy read a resolution recognizing August 31st as International Overdose Awareness Day in New Jersey. After a vote, the resolution was approved. **(Y-16; N-0; ABS-0)**

Suicide Awareness Month Resolution –

Ms. Levy read a proclamation from Governor Christie recognizing September as Suicide Awareness Month. A resolution was read as well and after a vote, the resolution was approved. **(Y-16; N-0; ABS-0)**

Recovery Month Resolution –

Celina Levy read a resolution recognizing the month of September as Recovery Month. After a vote, the resolution was approved. **(Y-16; N-0; ABS-0)**

Presentation – “2016 Volunteer of the Year Award Ceremony”

GCADA Deputy Director Rebecca Alfaro shared with the audience that the Alliances represent the largest network of community-based anti-drug coalitions in the nation with over 380 Alliances encompassing over 500 municipalities statewide. The Alliances provided over 3,000 programs to the communities in the past year and volunteers have also helped to provide over one million New Jersey residents with alcoholism and drug abuse prevention messaging. Ms. Alfaro introduced the County Volunteers of the Year and presented each with a plaque in recognition of their service.

Ms. Alfaro introduced the W. Cary Edwards State Volunteer of the Year Award winner, Diane Myers of the Buena/Buena Vista/Weymouth Municipal Alliance in Atlantic County. Ms. Myers has been an active member of the Alliance for over 23 years and has sought ways to secure more community support for the program. Among her contributions, Ms. Myers has dedicated her time to the Buena Vista Regional High School (BRHS) Project Graduation even on behalf of the Municipal Alliance. This event provides a safe alcohol and drug free place for high school seniors to celebrate their accomplishment. It has helped many of the community's students safe on one of the most dangerous nights for high school students when risky decisions are often made. Ms. Myers was presented with a plaque for her service and commitment to the Buena/Buena Vista/Weymouth Municipal Alliance.

Ms. Alfaro thanked the volunteers for their dedication and commitment to the Alliance Program and invited the volunteers and their guests to a luncheon immediately following the meeting.

Acting Executive Director's Report

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy shared that Francis Ebigbola is no longer with GCADA, but Viktoria Vasilantonaki will be filling the role of Fiscal Manager starting October 3rd.

Ms. Levy and Ms. Alfaro have begun working on the protocol for the Master Plan and will be presenting the outline for development process before the end of the year. An intern has been working with both of them as well to aid in the process.

Ms. Levy expressed her gratitude for the volunteers that were recognized at today's meeting, the Council members for providing expertise and support as well as the County Coordinators for the work they do and their commitment to the ongoing improvement efforts.

Other Council Business

Public Member Frank Greenagel shared with the Council that Governor Christie had signed legislation allowing the use of medical marijuana for those suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Adjournment

Mr. Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:23 a.m.