



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

May 17, 2017

Call to Order

The three hundred and eighteenth 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 and April Minutes

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

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

April (Y-8; N-0; ABS-7)

Chairman's Report

Chairman Van Ess welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked the Council members who participated on the FY18 County Plan review team for their work in reviewing the plans. He also thanked the county coordinators for their hard work in achieving the compliance threshold required for presentation to the Council. Mr. Van Ess also mentioned that he would like to set up a presentation at a future Council meeting regarding nicotine addiction and alcoholism due the family issues he has experienced.

Presentation: “Problem Gambling: Having the Conversation”

Neva Pryor, Executive Director and Dan Trolaro, Assistant Executive Director of the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey (CCGNJ) gave an overview to the Council on the work they have been doing. Ms. Pryor and Mr. Trolaro both stressed that prevention is key.

CCGNJ advises the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services and provides the executive and legislative branches of the state government with information relevant to problem gambling.

The Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey operates a free, 24/7 helpline at 1-800-GAMBLER that provides help and resources to those who struggle with problem gambling as well as their family members and friends. This service is also available through text and email. The goal of this hotline is to provide a single point of contact for those who are struggling with this addiction.

CCGNJ has also partnered with the skill-based gambling game company, GameCo, Inc. and together they have incorporated the 1-800-GAMBLER logo and responsible gaming messages within the game while it is being played.

The Council will hold its 35th annual statewide conference on September 15th.

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy read a resolution designating March as “Problem Gambling Awareness Month”. After a vote, the resolution was passed. **(Y-15; N-0; ABS-0)**

“Alcohol Awareness Month” Resolution

Celina Levy read a resolution designating the month of April as Alcohol Awareness Month. After a vote, the resolution was passed. **(Y-15; N-0; ABS-0)**

“Mental Health Awareness Month” Resolution

Celina Levy read a resolution designating the month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month. After a vote, the resolution was passed. **(Y-15; N-0; ABS-0)**

FY18 County Plans

Kevin Sullivan, GCADA Director of Programs and Planning informed the Council that the FY18 County Plans would be up for a vote. This is the fourth year of a five year grant cycle. All counties have met the approval threshold to be brought to the Council for consideration. Mr. Sullivan asked that the Council members who had previously informed the GCADA ethics officer of the need to recuse themselves from voting on the FY18 County Plans to state their reason for recusal for the record.

Gisele Pemberton – recused from Union due to professional affiliations within the county;
Donna DeStefano – recused from Union due to professional affiliations within the county;

Neil Van Ess – recused from Passaic due to personal affiliations within the county.

After a vote, the 21 County Plans were approved.

FY18 Joint County Plan Resolution (Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Passaic, Salem, Somerset, Sussex and Warren) (Y-14; N-0; ABS-0)

FY18 Camden County Plan Resolution (Y-14; N-0; ABS-0)

FY18 Morris County Plan Resolution (Y-14; N-0; ABS-0)

FY18 Union County Plan Resolution (Y-13; N-0; ABS-0)

Acting Executive Director's Report

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy thanked the coordinators for their continued collaboration and for their efforts in getting their plans in on time to be approved.

She shared that the information for this year's Volunteer of the Year would be sent out shortly and she hopes that every county will submit a nominee.

Ms. Levy reminded the Council members to complete their Master Plan surveys as soon as possible so that the responses can be used to continue on to the next phase. She stressed the value of ongoing collaboration and input from Council members, and expressed gratitude for their participation in this effort.

Adjournment

Mr. Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:46 a.m.