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GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
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MINUTES

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

September 20, 2017

Call to Order

The three hundred and twenty first 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. Chairman Van Ess informed the Council that this meeting would be for informational purposes only due to the lack of quorum.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Van Ess welcomed everyone to the meeting. He shared that he felt it was very important to recognize the work of the Alliance volunteers and that he has a deep respect for their dedication that would be honored at the meeting today. He also thanked the Council members for being engaged, the County Alliance Coordinators for the work they do, and GCADA staff for providing support to the Alliance Program.

Presentation: "2017 Volunteer of the Year Award Ceremony"

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 grassroots network of Alliances and its volunteers are more critical than ever in helping to communicate and execute the systems necessary to evoke community level change across New Jersey.

Ms. Alfaro introduced the W. Cary Edwards State Volunteer of the Year Award winner, Rosemary Oarsley of the Perth Amboy Municipal Alliance. Ms. Oarsley has been an active member of the Alliance for over 20 years and currently serves as its chairperson. Her outstanding leadership and efforts in raising awareness about the adverse effects of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs in her community have been very valuable to the Alliance. Ms. Oarsley has successfully formed the Municipal Alliance Prevention Summer Day Camp (MAPS). In addition to activities and trips, the camp teaches youth participants the social and decision making skills

needed to pursue healthy life choices and delay the onset of risky behaviors. Ms. Oarsley has also been recognized by the Perth Amboy Chamber of Commerce as “Civic Leader of the Year”. Ms. Oarsley was presented with a plaque for her service and commitment to the Perth Amboy 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 expressed her gratitude to the volunteers, Council members and County Coordinators for their good work and commitment to the ongoing improvement process.

She shared that the Master Plan process is going well and meeting dates for the Master Plan Review Committee will be sent out in October. She also said it is important to note that the DOH/DMHAS reorganization will be something that is incorporated into the Master Plan.

Ms. Levy and Ms. Alfaro continue to represent GCADA on a variety of efforts including the Opioid Core Workgroup and Adult Suicide Prevention Advisory Council. Ms. Levy will provide more details at the October meeting.

GCADA will be partnering once again with the Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey for their Knock Out Opiate Abuse Day event on October 6th. Alliances will be distributing door hangers to raise awareness on prescription dependency and heroin abuse and physicians will be given booklets on the Center for Disease Control recommendations for safe prescribing of pain medications.

Adjournment

Mr. Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.