



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE  
PO Box 345  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0345

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
*Lt. Governor*

NEIL VAN ESS  
*Acting Chairman*  
CELINA LEVY  
*Executive Director*

## **MINUTES**

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

**January 21, 2020**

#### **Call to Order**

The three hundred and thirty eighth 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. Mr. 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 first meeting of 2020. He also shared that Celina Levy had been appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the legislature as the permanent Executive Director of GCADA.

#### **Veterans Resource Guide Service Recognition**

Deputy Commissioner Mark Piterski and Council Member Liz Schofield from the Department of Military And Veterans Affairs presented the Governor's Council, Chairman Neil Van Ess and Executive Director Celina Levy with a Meritorious Service Medal and Citation for revising and distributing the "Resource Guide for New Jersey's Military, Veterans and Families". To date, over 7,500 have been distributed throughout New Jersey and is also available on the web where it can be continuously updated and accessed by veterans and their families.

### **Presentation: “New Jersey Department of Health Overdose Data Dashboard”**

Natassia Rozario, Director of Opioid Response and Policy and Venita Puerto, Research Scientist of the New Jersey Department of Health gave an overview of the New Jersey Overdose Data Dashboard to the Council members.

The Overdose Data Dashboard provides interactive data visualizations regarding opioid and other drug-related overdose indicators for public health practitioners, researchers, policy-makers and the general public. This data is obtained from the New Jersey Department of Health, the Division of Consumer Affairs, the Office of the Attorney General and other law enforcement bodies throughout the State.

Data that can be accessed on the dashboard include information on the CDC Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain, Project Medicine Drop locations and locations of pharmacies that dispense Naloxone.

Additional information can be found at <https://www.state.nj.us/health/populationhealth/opioid/>.

### **Council Member Service Recognition**

Public Member Dr. Bob Zlotnick was presented with a plaque for his service to the Governor’s Council. Chairman Van Ess and Executive Director Celina Levy thanked Dr. Zlotnick for his years of dedication to GCADA.

### **Executive Director’s Report**

Executive Director Celina Levy shared that she is grateful to serve in a permanent capacity and is also happy to have the Governor’s confidence and support.

Ms. Levy provided some highlights of efforts by the departments that are represented on the Council. GCADA continues to work with the Department of Human Services and the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services on the Prevention Collaborative in preparation for the new grant cycle. DHS has also relaunched their Reach NJ campaign and revised the call center so that individuals can be directly connected to live assistance.

The Department of Health’s Commissioner Persichilli has also been made permanent in her position and Ms. Levy will be reaching out to Ms. Nazario to work together in their efforts.

The Department of Children and Families has been working on their “Keeping Families Together” supportive housing and wraparound services as well as Peer Recovery Support Services to link substance-involved caregivers with peer coaches and mentors.

The Department of Corrections is employing Medication Assisted Treatment and behavioral support services to ensure successful reentry. DOC in collaboration with DHS and DOH has provided 21 county jails with eight million dollars to continue to develop these programs. Ms.

Levy also shared that Commissioner Hicks had also been made permanent in his position with the department.

The Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Law and Public Safety continue to work with NJ Cares. Commissioner Grewal has also expanded the drug diversion program, “Operation Helping Hand” to all 21 counties and launched five opioid response teams to the cities of Newark, Camden, Paterson, Trenton and Toms River.

The Department of Labor has been providing support to Atlantic, Camden, Essex, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean for integrated services that lead to employment for hard to serve populations. The Governor has also provided DOL with funding for new coordinators and case management strategies.

Donna Westhoven from the Administrative Office of the Courts is scheduled to present information on the work of the Drug Courts to the Council in February.

Ms. Levy also announced that Public Member, Donna DeStefano had been working to implement a special support recovery license plate bill and that this had been signed into legislation by the Governor.

Ms. Levy again thanked the volunteers and County Alliance coordinators for their dedication to the Alliance Program and Council members for their support in all of GCADA’s efforts, and also acknowledged GCADA staff.

### **Adjournment**

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