



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

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

NEIL VAN ESS
Acting Chairman
CELINA LEVY
Executive Director

MINUTES

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

September 15, 2020

Attendance: Neil Van Ess (Chairman), Celina Levy (Executive Director), Gregg Benson (Public Member), BettyAnn Cowling-Carson (Public Member), Donna DeStefano (Public Member), Frank Greenagel (Public Member), Gisele Pemberton (Public Member), Donna Westhoven (AOC), Jeff Carrick (DCF), Kate Butler (DCA), Herbert Kaldany (DOC), Luiz Pereira (DOE), Natassia Rozario (DOH), Annette Riordan (DHS), Holly Low (DOL), Craig Sashihara (LPS), Liz Schofield (DMAVA), Allison Samay (NJ President's Council)

Call to Order

The three hundred and fortieth regular meeting of the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Executive Director Celina Levy.

Open Public Meetings Act Statement

Ms. Levy 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). In addition, Ms. Levy stated that public comments were to be provided electronically, through the GCADA website contact portal between the hours of 10am and 1pm on the day of the meeting.

Roll Call

Katelyn Assenheimer called the roll. Members present and absent were noted for the record.

Election of Officers

Executive Director Celina Levy asked for a nomination for Vice Chair of the Governor's Council. Gregg Benson nominated Neil Van Ess and this was seconded by Donna DeStefano. After a vote, Mr. Van Ess was elected Vice Chairman. (Y-16; N-0; ABS-0)

Mr. Van Ess asked for a nomination for two 2nd Vice Chairs. Donna DeStefano nominated Gregg Benson for 2nd Vice Chair and this vote was seconded by Annette Riordan. Gregg Benson

was also nominated by Donna DeStefano for 2nd Vice Chair and this vote was seconded by BettyAnn Cowling-Carson. After a vote, Mr. Benson and Ms. DeStefano were both elected as the two 2nd Vice Chairs. (Y-17; N-0; ABS-0)

Approval of Minutes

After a brief discussion, the Council members agreed to one vote to approve the minutes for the months of May through October of 2019 and the months of January and February of 2020. The following abstentions were made:

Gregg Benson (October 2019, January 2020, February 2020); Frank Greenagel (June 2019, July 2019, September 2019, January 2020, February 2020); Gisele Pemberton (July 2019, September 2019, January 2020, February 2020); Donna Westhoven (May 2019, June 2019, July 2019, January 2020); Jeff Carrick (June 2019, February 2020); Kate Butler (February 2020); Herbert Kaldany (July 2019, September 2019, October 2019, February 2020); Holly Low (July 2019); Craig Sashihara (May 2019, June 2019); Liz Schofield (June 2019) Allison Samay (June 2019, July 2019, September 2019, October 2019, January 2020, February 2020); Neil Van Ess (September 2019)

Chairman's Report

Chairman Van Ess welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Council members for helping achieve quorum. He wished everyone well and said he looked forward to the day when we could hold our Council meetings in person. He then asked for a moment of silence for all those who lost their lives to COVID-19, and thank you to all the first responders and essential workers who have responded to the pandemic.

2019-2020 Observance Day Resolutions

The Council members agreed to have one vote to approve the resolutions for International Overdose Awareness Day 2019, Recovery Month 2019, Suicide Prevention Awareness Month 2019, Veterans Day 2019, Gambling Awareness Month 2020, Alcohol Awareness Month 2020, Mental Health Awareness Month 2020, International Overdose Awareness Month 2020, Recovery Month 2020 and Suicide Prevention Awareness Month 2020. After a vote, all ten resolutions were approved. (Y-16; N-0; ABS-0)

FY21 County Plans

Chairman Van Ess asked Deputy Director Rebecca Alfaro to give a brief overview of the County Plan review process as well as to discuss the changes in funding due to COVID-19.

Ms. Alfaro explained that in March, Treasury Fiscal notified GCADA that there had been a significant reduction in the DEDR fund collections. GCADA had to place a program freeze from March 23-October 1, 2020 due to the reduced availability of funds and the need to reimburse

expenses that were already encumbered. After working with Treasury Fiscal and Office of Management and Budget, the projection for the GCADA budget was revised and the revised amounts were reallocated to the County Alliance program for FY21, with an expected start date of October 1, 2020.

Additionally, due to the state extending Fiscal Year 2020 through September 30th, County contracts were extended by 1 quarter and the award amounts for FY21 were reduced to 3 quarters, which are set to begin on October 1st and go through June 30th of 2021. County Alcohol and Drug Directors and Alliance Coordinators were invited to multiple Zoom meetings where this information, along with the status of the DEDR fund reductions, was reviewed.

The county and municipal coordinators are continuing to prepare their revised plans with reduced funding, however GCADA decided that the Council Review teams should score the original FY21 county plans that were submitted to GCADA at the end of February of this year due to the October 1st grant cycle beginning soon. The revisions will include much of the original programming but with limited funding.

The resolutions that were presented to the Council for approval reflect the \$4.392 million allocated to the Alliance with the adjustment made to reflect the 3 quarters, which is a total of \$3.294, for FY21. The \$4.392 will be restored for the 4 quarters in FY22. The funding formula remained the same with 66% based on population/per capita income/prevalence based on the AEREF Formula provided by DMHAS; 20% is youth population taken from the US Census; 10% are from total arrests in the NJ State Police Uniform Crime Report; and 4% is from treatment admissions from the DMHAS Substance Abuse Overview.

The following Council members informed GCADA of the need to recuse themselves from voting on the FY21 County Plans:

Gregg Benson – Morris County
BettyAnn Cowling-Carson – Camden County
Frank Greenagel – Union County
Gisele Pemberton – Union County

After a vote, all 21 County Plans were approved.

FY21 Joint County Plan Resolution (Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Passaic, Salem, Sussex, and Warren) (Y-16; N-0; ABS-0)
FY21 Camden County Plan Resolution (Y-15; N-0; ABS-0)
FY21 Morris County Plan Resolution (Y-15; N-0; ABS-0)
FY21 Union County Plan Resolution (Y-14; N-0; ABS-0)

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Levy acknowledged the loss to COVID-19 of esteemed colleague Collette Lamothe-Galette, formerly with the NJ Department of Health, and chair of the Opioid Core Workgroup on which Ms. Levy and Ms. Alfaro represented GCADA.

Ms. Levy also shared information about the NJ ACEs Collaborative, the first ever public-private partnership to address ACEs in New Jersey, between the Department of Children and Families and the Center for Health Care Strategies, with support from the Nicholson and Burke Foundations, and the Turrell Fund. Ms. Levy represented GCADA on one of Collaborative's focus groups, looking at the great value the Alliances can bring to this effort, being able to share information about this exciting endeavor at the most local level.

Ms. Levy shared that she continues to represent GCADA on statewide committees. The annual Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services Suicide Prevention Conference will not be taking place this year, however Ms. Levy shared that she is involved in a subcommittee to create YouTube videos that will provide overviews, guidance and resources for those struggling with mental health issues and suicidal ideation.

Ms. Levy thanked the Council members for their support, the County Alliance Coordinators and Alliances for their dedication to their communities and the GCADA staff for their commitment to the work during this unprecedented time.

Public Comment

Please see the attached public comment that was submitted through the GCADA website on September 15th between the hours of 10am-1pm.

Adjournment

Mr. Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 12:10.

**** FROM ****

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**** AFFILIATION ****

Group: New Jersey Association of County Alliance Coordinator
Relationship: President

**** MESSAGE ****

SUBJECT: Municipal Alliance Funding

Municipal Alliance program funds were frozen beginning March 23, 2020 and the freeze continues through September 30, 2020. FY 2021 funds, beginning October 1, 2020, were significantly reduced. This reduction will last through FY 2022. Funding beyond FY 2022 has not been disclosed at this time. Given recent comments in the press by some of our legislators and Governor Murphy, should we anticipate additional reductions in the funding allocation?

By law, the Municipal Alliance program is funded by the Drug Enforcement Demand Reduction Fund (DEDR), established pursuant to N.J.S.2C:35-15. Per the Governor's Council for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA), the Alliance Program draws funds specifically from the DEDR fines that are assessed on driving while intoxicated violations and these violations have declined. DEDR fines are not only imposed on individuals convicted of intoxicated driving, the fines can also be levied upon individuals convicted of drug crimes including drug

busts. Therefore, the amount of DEDR funds collected well exceeds the DWI assessments. Several municipal prosecutors have commented that there are additional fines collected for DEDR beyond those from DWI cases. Is there a breakdown of where the additional funds that are collected get allocated?

Per NJ Statute: 2C:35-15, all moneys collected from DEDR fines are to be used for alcohol and drug abuse programs. Moneys in the fund are appropriated by the Legislature on an annual basis for the purposes of funding in the following order of priority: (1) the Alliance to Prevent Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and its administration by the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse; (2) the Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Program for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Disabled established pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1995, c.318 (C.26:2B-37); (3) the Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey, the State affiliate of the Partnership for a Drug Free America; and (4) other alcohol and drug abuse programs.

Note: We have not been able to obtain a list of the agencies/departments in the 4th priority, other alcohol and drug abuse programs, but were notified the grouping includes the Attorney General's Office and the DHS Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services. In 2012 the NJ DEP program Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs was added as an additional entity to receive DEDR funds.

We understand that the allocations to the other entities listed are for set amounts and have been added to the statute in the years subsequent to the creation of the Alliance Program. (See attached slide) The set allocations don't change in respect to the amount of funds deposited in DEDR. This has an impact on the allocations to the Alliances. Why has GCADA not addressed this disproportionate allocation formula and what can we do to ensure the Alliances are given 1st priority in the future?

**** FROM ****

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**** AFFILIATION ****

Group: Sussex County Division of Community and Youth Services
Relationship: N/A

**** MESSAGE ****

SUBJECT: County Alliance Plan Review Team

I would like to know how representatives from NJPN and PDFNJ can participate in the review of the alliance plans. Each of them receive DEDR funding. Their participation represents a serious conflict of interest.

