



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE

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GCADA APPLAUDS UNVEILING OF NEW JERSEY PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM

TRENTON (January 18, 2012) – Attorney General Jeffrey S. Chiesa today unveiled the New Jersey Prescription Monitoring Program (NJMPMP) as a powerful new tool in the State's fight against prescription drug abuse. The Program is a searchable database that includes detailed information on the sale of drugs classified as Controlled Dangerous Substances and Human Growth Hormones which will help the Division of Consumer Affairs and other law enforcement agencies to identify and investigate individuals and businesses suspected of fraudulently diverting controlled drug for abuse.

"Prescription drug abuse is not a victimless crime," said Mrs. Meg Dupont-Parisi at today's announcement of the NJMPMP. Mrs. Parisi knows firsthand the devastating effects of prescription drug abuse, having lost her son Patrick on November 30, 2011, due to an overdose of opiates. When asked what steps need to be taken to prevent the kind of loss she suffered, Mrs. Parisi stated "Prevention must start early, as young as ages 11 and 12 because they *will* be approached; it's not about if, it's about when."

"The eloquence with which Mrs. Parisi spoke illuminated and authenticated the reality that the impact of prescription drug abuse is reaching critical mass, here in New Jersey and across the nation," said John Hulick, GCADA executive director.

Brian Crowell, Special Agent in Charge, NJ Division, U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency shared shocking overdose statistics, with prescription drug abuse deaths having tripled in the past decade, now killing more people in the U.S. than heroin and cocaine combined. He saw NJMPMP as an "early warning system that could help turn the tide against this threat."

“With the Centers for Disease Control having recently labeled prescription drug abuse as an epidemic, this important undertaking by Attorney General Chiesa and the Division of Consumer Affairs couldn’t come at a better time,” said Hulick, “Governor Christie has set the significant rise in heroin and other opiate use by New Jersey’s youth as a priority for the Council, so we look forward to our continued work with the Attorney General to combat prescription drug abuse in New Jersey and to having the prescription monitoring program as a valuable resource for this effort.”

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