



## State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE  
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*Governor*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

NEIL VAN ESS  
*Acting Chairman*

JOHN L. HULICK, MS, CPS  
*Executive Director*

### MINUTES

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

March 20, 2012

#### Call to Order

The two hundred seventieth 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

Acting Chairman Neil 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 January Minutes

The minutes from the January meeting were approved by the members of the Council. (Y-11; N-0; ABS-6).

#### Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey Presentation

Donald Weinbaum, Executive Director of the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey (CCGNJ) presented information to GCADA members regarding compulsive gambling and the work of his organization.

The Council on Compulsive Gambling is a nonprofit agency that has been in service for 29 years. The Council focuses on prevention of problem gambling, education, advocacy and referral. There are more than 30 agencies across the state that work with the CCGNJ. Currently there are approximately 350,000 problem gamblers in the state of New Jersey. Many times, problem gambling is a hidden addiction that is not exposed until the person

is in serious financial trouble. An individual from a family with alcohol and drug addiction is more at risk to become a problem gambler.

The agency provides a 24 hour hotline (1-800-GAMBLER) that offers information about treatment and provides referrals. About 25% of the calls received are from family members of problem gamblers.

### **Resolution Recognizing “National Problem Gambling Awareness Week” and “Problem Gambling Awareness Month”**

The Governor’s Council approved a resolution recognizing the month of March as “Problem Gambling Awareness Month” in New Jersey and the week of March 4<sup>th</sup> thru March 10<sup>th</sup> as “National Problem Gambling Awareness Week”. (Y-17; N-0; ABS-0)

### **CADCA New Jersey Coalition Academy Presentation**

Kristy Miller from the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) presented an overview of CADCA to the Council.

CADCA was founded in 1992 following a recommendation of President Clinton’s Drug Advisory Council. CADCA supports local communities in addressing substance abuse issues through the building of coalitions.

In 2002, the Drug Free Communities Act provided funding for a National Coalition Institute. An evaluation of 65 coalitions that had been trained by CADCA found that the coalitions had a higher level of effectiveness and were engaged in a more comprehensive set of strategies to address substance abuse.

The New Jersey Coalition Academy is comprised of three cohorts representing the northern, central and southern regions of the state. The participants, who are representatives of county and local Alliance programs, attend three week-long sessions. After each training session, an online booster session is available to participants to review the content that was learned as well as to promote sharing and networking among coalitions. An online workstation is also available and is used as a tool for communication and sharing among all three New Jersey cohorts. The workstation is also customizable for coalition use.

The next training will be for the northern cohort on May 21<sup>st</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **GCADA Orientation**

Governor’s Council staff, Rebecca Alfaro, Kevin Sullivan and Celina Gray presented an orientation to provide new Council members with an overview of the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

Kevin Sullivan discussed the history of the Council including an overview of Chapter 51, the statute that created the Council.

Celina Gray, Director of Public Awareness and Community Relations, discussed Governor Christie's expectations and charges he has assigned to the Council. These tasks include creating a "Blueprint for a Drug-Free New Jersey 2020" and establishing a task force to address heroin and other opiate use among adolescents. Ms. Gray will be working on rebranding GCADA and enhancing communication and outreach efforts which will include among other things, a logo change, an updated website, press releases, letters to the editor and expanding the Council's activities in social media.

Rebecca Alfaro, Director of Prevention and Training, provided an overview of the Alliance program and discussed historic and current challenges facing the Council. Ms. Alfaro also highlighted recent accomplishments and opportunities in light of Governor Christie's robust support for innovative programs in the field of substance abuse prevention and treatment.

#### **Resolution Approving the Adoption of Bylaws**

Acting Chairman Neil Van Ess reviewed the process followed for revising the bylaws. The draft bylaws were vetted by the deputy attorney general assigned to advise the Council. The draft bylaws were then reviewed and approved by the Council's executive committee and forwarded in February to Council members for their review and comment. Member discussion ensued including, but not limited to, discussion and questions regarding the co-occurring sub-committee, committee/sub-committee member attendance and public notice requirements. Mr. Hulick responded to member discussion and questions and stated that the bylaws would be reviewed routinely and there would be opportunities in the future to revise the bylaws as part of regular Council operations. Acting Chairman Van Ess, in response to a member statement regarding amendments, stated that, upon Deputy Attorney General's advice, amendments could not be considered at the present meeting.

The Council members voted on and approved a resolution to adopt the bylaws. (Y- 15; N- 1; ABS-1)

#### **Veterans and Military Ad Hoc Committee**

The Veteran's and Military Affairs Resource guide is finalized and is being prepared for printing.

#### **Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director John Hulick suspended his report until next month due to the lengthy agenda.

### **Public Comments**

Barry Johnson, Director of the Monmouth County Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services congratulated the Governor's Council on placing a renewed emphasis on planning and public awareness.

Diane Litterer, Executive Director of the New Jersey Prevention Network, praised the Council for its efforts to advance prevention programs at the local level.

Mark Cubberley, with City of Angels and Tabor House, voiced his concerns about the process followed for revising the bylaws. He also brought to the attention of the Council that the meeting dates on the GCADA website had not been updated for 2012.

### **Adjournment**

Acting Chairman Neil Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 12:36 p.m.