

**MINUTES**  
**Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse**  
**March 15, 2011**

**Call to Order**

The two hundred fifty ninth regular meeting of the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Acting Vice Chairman Neil Van Ess.

**Open Public Meetings Act Statement**

Acting Vice 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 (see attached record).

**Vote to Approve 2011 Salem and Passaic County Awards**

The 2011 Plans for Salem and Passaic County were approved by the members of the Council. (see attached record)

**Vote to adopt Resolution Recognizing Problem Gambling Awareness Month**

The Council approved a resolution recognizing the month of March as "Problem Gambling Awareness Month". (see attached record)

**Resolution Recognizing April 2011 as Alcohol Awareness Month**

This resolution was tabled until the next Council meeting.

**Executive Committee** – No Report

### **Alliance Committee**

The Alliance Committee met on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Executive Director, Mary Lou Powner attended the meeting and informed the members of the staffing changes within the Governor's Council.

She also discussed the upcoming CADCA training that will be held at the Freehold Radisson the week of March 28<sup>th</sup> thru April 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Governor's Council Summit will be held on Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. September is National Recovery Month.

### **Interdepartmental Advisory Panel** – No Report

### **Planning Committee**

The Master Plan was approved by the Council and a meeting will take place after the April Governor's Council meeting.

### **Criminal/Juvenile Justice Subcommittee**

Mary Lou Powner announced that James Wojtowicz, the designee from the Department of Corrections, has agreed to chair the Criminal/Juvenile Justice Subcommittee. A meeting will be held in the near future.

### **Legislative Subcommittee**

The Legislative subcommittee met on March 9<sup>th</sup>. The members were updated on Bill A2974/S2015 which requires each school district in New Jersey to employ a Student Assistance Counselor (SAC).

The subcommittee also discussed Bill A3703/S2614 which would allow inmates an early release option if they participate in an intensive drug treatment program.

On April 7<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Jefferey Brenner of the Camden Coalition of Health Providers will give a presentation to the subcommittee members.

### **Treatment Subcommittee**

The Subcommittee is in the process of being reorganized. It is hoped that once the remaining Council members are appointed, they would be willing to be part of this committee.

### **Veterans and Military Ad Hoc Committee** – No Report

### **Other Business**

Barbara Sprechman informed the Council members that the Mercer Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse will be hosting a Legislative Brunch on April 20<sup>th</sup>. All members are invited to attend.

Former Council member and Assemblywoman Mary Pat Angelini is proposing a bill that will make bath salts illegal in New Jersey. The Division of Addiction Services Strategic Prevention Planning Process is also looking at this issue.

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

Ms. Powner thanked Don Hallcom and Lisa Barata for their participation in the SAMHSA STOP Survey. As a result of this project, we identified that an estimated \$600,000 of DEDR funds are being used by municipal alliances to fund initiatives related to underage drinking.

Mary Lou Powner and Marge Beattie met with the Comptroller's office earlier in the month regarding the issue of some alliances maintaining separate checking accounts for funding. They were informed that alliances should be required to have a municipal trust account so all funds are managed under the municipality's finance office.

Ms. Powner welcomed and introduced Dr. Bonnie Fenyar to the meeting. She has recently taken the position of the Alcohol and Drug Director of Ocean County.

### **Public Comments**

No comments from the public.

### **Adjournment**

Acting Chairman, Neil Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Mary Lou Powner  
Executive Director