



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
PO BOX 345
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0345

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

NEIL VAN ESS
Acting Chairman

JOHN L. HULICK, MS, CPS
Executive Director

CONTACT: John Hulick
609-777-0526
john.hulick@treas.state.nj.us

THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE RECOGNIZES APRIL AS ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

Resources and information about alcohol abuse and alcoholism posted on Facebook throughout April

TRENTON (April 17, 2012) – The Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA) adopted a resolution recognizing April as Alcohol Awareness month at its monthly meeting held in Trenton today. Wayne Wirta, President and CEO, of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence – New Jersey was on hand to receive the Council's resolution and a Proclamation by Governor Chris Christie proclaiming April 2012 as Alcohol Awareness Month.

Since 1987, the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence and its affiliates throughout the United States have designated April as "Alcohol Awareness Month." For this year's observance NCADD has chosen the theme, "Healthy Choices, Healthy Communities: Prevent Underage Drinking," to promote awareness of the pervasive and destructive impact that alcohol, alcohol-related problems and alcoholism have on young people, their friends and families, and communities.

During Alcohol Awareness Month, the Council is encouraging New Jersey residents to take time to educate themselves and their loved ones about the dangers of alcohol abuse. Throughout April, the Council is posting resources and information about alcohol abuse and alcoholism on its Facebook page, www.facebook.com/gcada.newjersey, for State residents to access.

"The Council remains committed to developing initiatives that educate New Jersey residents and youth about the dangers of alcohol and drug use," John Hulick, GCADA executive director stated, "April's Alcohol Awareness Month provides the opportunity to focus on the number one drug of choice for young people, alcohol, and its associated risks. It also allows all of us to once again commit ourselves to addressing this serious concern and to providing healthy alternatives to drinking."

More than 18 million individuals or 8.5% of Americans suffer from alcohol-use disorders. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the annual cost of alcoholism and alcohol abuse is estimated at \$223.5 billion. The issue of underage drinking has dangerous consequences. Youth who

start drinking before age 15 are five times more likely to develop alcohol dependence or abuse later in life than those who begin drinking at or after age 21.

The Alliance to Prevent Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, a program of GCADA, will be engaged in activities in their respective communities throughout Alcohol Awareness Month to raise awareness. The Alliance program has nearly 400 Alliances encompassing more than 500 municipalities which involve thousands of individuals and stakeholders who have made it their passion and commitment to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in their communities, throughout New Jersey.

###

