



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
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MINUTES

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

December 16, 2015

Call to Order

The three hundred and fifth regular meeting of the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Public Member Dr. Zlotnick.

Open Public Meetings Act Statement

Dr. Zlotnick 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. Dr. Zlotnick informed the Council that this meeting would be for informational purposes only due to the lack of a quorum.

Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services Helplines Presentation

Al Gleblocki from the NJ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), Bill Zimmerman from Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care (UBHC) and Stephanie Mulfinger from the Mental Health Association of New Jersey (MHANJ) gave an overview of the helplines available in the state of New Jersey.

The New Jersey Hopeline is a suicide prevention hotline that began in May of 2013 and is provided in partnership with UBHC and DMHAS. The helpline operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week and is staffed by peer specialists and clinicians. Callers have the option of speaking to someone by phone or text message. The Hopeline offers assessment, referrals and follow up calls in addition to live support.

UBHC and DMHAS also provide an interim managing entity (IME) that serves as a single point of entry for those seeking treatment for substance use disorders. The IME operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week and callers are provided with additional resources for help such as Nar-Anon, Cop2Cop and Mom2Mom which are all support hotlines.

The Mental Health Association in New Jersey with funding from DMHAS provides the NJMentalHealthCares (NJMHC) hotline. This hotline was established in 2005 and serves as a portal for those seeking information about mental health, co-occurring disorders, other community services and supportive counseling. NJMHC staff has access to over 4,000 behavioral health and social service resources so that callers can immediately be referred to the appropriate service or support plan.

MHANJ also offers a Peer Recovery Warmline for those in need of mental health services. Staff are trained on a variety of issues such as substance abuse and suicide intervention. This warmline is hearing impaired accessible as well as multilingual and all calls are confidential

NJ Department of Children and Families Supports Presentation

Elizabeth Manley, Assistant Commissioner of the NJ Department of Children and Families (DCF) presented an overview of some of the support programs offered by the department.

2NDFLOOR is a confidential and anonymous support helpline for youth and young adults facing day-to-day problems or stressors. It is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week either by phone or text messaging.

The State Central Registry is a hotline to report suspected child abuse. It operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week and calls are anonymous.

The Family Helpline is a 24 hours a day, seven days a week helpline staffed by volunteers of Parents Anonymous. Callers are provided with a listening ear and resource referrals before a crisis occurs.

The Traumatic Loss Coalition (TLC) is an interactive, statewide network that offers collaboration and support to professionals working with school-age children who have lost a loved one by suicide, homicide, accident or illness. New Jersey is the only state with this program and has trained thousands of individuals with the purpose of saving lives and promoting post trauma healing and resiliency for youth.

Family Success Centers are also offered by DCF. These centers are “one-stop” shops that provide resources and supports for families before they find themselves in crisis. Services that are provided include employment and financial services, housing services, life skills training, parent education, parent-child activities and advocacy.

Mom2Mom is a peer support helpline staffed by mothers of children with special needs who have been trained as counselors with the support of mental health clinicians. It is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

PerformCare offers a single point of access for Children’s System of Care. They do not provide direct services, but can provide referrals. DCF has dedicated a unit within its department strictly for this call line and it operates using a standard assessment tool. The key components of this

service are care management services, crisis response teams as well as family support organization. PerformCare also offers referrals for substance abuse treatment, intellectual development issues, and other traditional services. Anyone can access this service; however the parent or guardian of the child must give consent before any services can begin.

The Resource Net Community is a county-based website that connects individuals to all other services available to them in their area. Each county website is continuously updated and the goal of DCF is to have a Resource Net Community in each county by the end of 2016.

Intoxicated Driving Program Presentation

Andrea Connor from the NJ Department of Human Services presented an overview of the Intoxicated Driving Program (IDP) to the Council.

Ms. Connor stated that New Jersey has a zero tolerance policy for drunk driving, however it is the only state in the country that does not consider an intoxicated driving offense a criminal offense.

Any person who has been convicted of an alcohol related traffic offense must participate in a program at an Intoxicated Driving Resource Center (IDRC). New Jersey has an IDRC in each county for first and third-time offenders and three regional centers for second-time offenders. During the program, offenders must attend Alcohol and Highway Safety Education courses and the IDRC. Each offender receives an alcohol or drug assessment to determine the need for treatment. If treatment is needed, the offender must complete a 16-week minimum treatment program.

The IDRC monitors the compliance or noncompliance of the offender and this is reported to both the courts and the IDP. The IDP then makes a recommendation to the Motor Vehicle Commission regarding license suspension or restoration based on the offender's successful completion of the program.

Acting Executive Director's Report

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy introduced Francis Ebigbola who will be filling the role of GCADA Fiscal Manager.

Ms. Levy also thanked the County Coordinators and Council members for their hard work and dedication to the program throughout the year and wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Adjournment

Dr. Zlotnick adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.