



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE

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MINUTES

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

NEIL VAN ESS
Acting Chairman

CELINA LEVY
Acting Executive Director

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

November 18, 2015

Call to Order

The three hundred and fourth 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

Mr. 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. Chairman Van Ess informed the Council that this meeting would be for informational purposes only due to the lack of a quorum.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Van Ess welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked everyone for attending and welcomed Elizabeth Schofield, the new designee from the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and also thanked Dorinda Sapp-Nall for her service to the Governor's Council.

Mr. Van Ess shared with the Council members that Francis Ebigbola had been hired as GCADA's Fiscal Manager and he will be starting at the end of the month. GCADA staff is also in the process of interviewing for two State Alliance Coordinator positions.

"Vet4Warriors" Presentation

General Mark Graham from "Vets4Warriors" presented an overview of the program to the Council members.

Vets4Warriors started in 2011 and is a 24/7 confidential peer hotline that offers services to veterans. Callers can access the line at any time for a wide variety of reasons such as anxiety, isolation or other issues. Callers are provided with support and access to services that they may need as well as a follow-up call to assure continued support.

General Graham stressed that this hotline was not a crisis line, but a peer hotline and is based on the Reciprocal Peer Support Model. The program is part of the Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care National Call Center which has staff with over 18 years of peer helpline experience. All calls are answered by a veteran peer and a caller will always be connected with a "live" person within 20 seconds of calling.

Vets4Warriors was recognized by the Defense Center of Excellence for Best Practice in 2011 and is publicized on eight different social media sites. Since the program has started, over 130,000 contacts with service members and their families have been made.

Acting Executive Director's Report

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy informed Council members that the Adult Suicide Prevention workgroup and the Stakeholder's Communication group is beginning to collect final recommendations and will reconvene meetings in January 2016. Ms. Levy also shared that planning for the clearing house site will resume in January 2016 as well.

Ms. Levy asked that Rebecca Alfaro give a brief update regarding the county plans. Ms. Alfaro shared that GCADA is preparing for the third year of the grant cycle which runs July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 and that this would be an update year. County plans will be due to GCADA by February 26, 2016. Ms. Alfaro will be reaching out to Council members for volunteers to serve on the FY17 county plan review teams.

Adjournment

Chairman Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:41 a.m.