



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

CELINA LEVY
Acting Executive Director

MINUTES

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

September 24, 2015

Call to Order

The three hundredth and second 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 began by welcoming Tamira McCord to the GCADA staff. Ms. McCord will be filling the role of the Secretarial Assistant position.

Council Business – FY16 County Plan Resolutions

Kevin Sullivan shared with the Council that there were four County Plans that still needed to be approved. The Salem and Somerset County Plans have achieved the 75% approval threshold and are now ready to be presented to the Council for consideration. As the Council does not have a quorum, these plans will be considered at the October 21 Council meeting. The Essex and Monmouth County Plans are the two remaining plans yet to come before the Council. These County Plans were received by GCADA well after the grant deadline. The Essex and Monmouth County Plans have been reviewed by GCADA staff and have been returned to the counties so deficiencies can be corrected.

2015 Volunteer of the Year Award Ceremony

Chairman Van Ess thanked the volunteers for their extraordinary efforts in the field and for making New Jersey safer. Acting Executive Director Celina Levy also thanked the volunteers for their passion in making their communities healthy and safe.

Rebecca Alfaro shared with the audience that the Alliances represent the largest network of community-based anti-drug coalitions in the nation with over 380 Alliances encompassing over 500 municipalities statewide. The Alliances provided over 3,000 programs to communities in the past year and provided over one million New Jersey residents with alcoholism and drug abuse prevention messaging. Ms. Alfaro introduced the County Volunteers of the Year and presented each with a plaque in recognition of their service.

Ms. Alfaro introduced the W. Cary Edwards State Volunteer of the Year Award winner, Erin Lawler-Patterson of the Tabernacle Municipal Alliance in Burlington County. Ms. Lawler-Patterson has been involved with the Tabernacle Alliance for 10 years. She founded the "Drug Squad" where over 100 students a year apply to take a drug-free pledge to then become leaders and spread the word about substance abuse in their high schools. Ms. Lawler-Patterson is also responsible for organizing the Precious Gems Run/Walk that provides funds to support substance awareness programs. Ms. Lawler-Patterson was presented with a plaque for her service and commitment to the Tabernacle Municipal Alliance.

Ms. Alfaro thanked the volunteers for their dedication and commitment to the Alliance Program and invited the volunteers and their guests to a luncheon immediately following the meeting.

Acting Executive Director's Report

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy welcomed Tamira McCord to the GCADA staff. She shared that the State Alliance Coordinator positions had been posted and that the applications for GCADA's Fiscal Manager vacancy are in the process of being reviewed.

Ms. Levy announced that the Opioid Overdose Prevention Program RFPs had been awarded to Morris County Prevention is Key for the Northern Region, Jersey Shore Addiction Services for the Central Region and Urban Treatment Associates for the Southern Region. The Opioid Overdoes Recovery Program RFPs had been awarded to the Center for Family Services in Camden County, Turning Point in Essex County and Barnabas Health Institute for both Monmouth and Ocean counties. Ms. Levy will continue to update the Council as these efforts move forward.

Acting Executive Director Levy shared that she continues to work with the Adult Suicide Prevention workgroup as well as the Stakeholder's Communications group through the NJ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and that these committees are all connected to the Governor's Facing Addiction Task Force. Ms. Levy stated that the clearinghouse for

mental health services continues to develop and she will be reaching out to Council members once the committee begins identifying resources and developing target audience specific content.

Ms. Levy announced that there will be a New Jersey Recovery Walk and Rally at Liberty State Park on Sunday, September 27th at 10 a.m.

Other Council Business

Wanda Moore from the Department of Law and Public Safety shared that the Attorney General's Office will be holding a forum on September 30th on the topic of "Building Community Police Trust".

Public member, Frank Greenagel shared that on October 4th there would be a rally in Washington D.C. for the launch of the "UNITE to Face Addiction" event.

Adjournment

Chairman Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:29 a.m.