



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE

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MINUTES

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NEIL VAN ESS
Acting Chairman

CELINA LEVY
Acting Executive Director

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

February 17, 2016

Call to Order

The three hundred and sixth regular meeting of the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by 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 informed the Council members that GCADA was currently in the process of hiring two additional staff members to fill the role of State Alliance Coordinator. Once GCADA has reached full staff capacity, the Council can begin reviewing the bylaws and begin development of the Master Plan.

"Third Gear Policing: Building Community Wellness and Vitality" Presentation

Chief Harry Earle and Lieutenant Brendan Barton of the Camden County, Gloucester Township Police Department gave an overview to the Council members of the work they have been doing within their community.

Chief Earle shared that when he began his role as Chief with the department, he focused on four main principles of change; people, community, operations and crime, and that most of these areas focused on the youth in the community.

He stated that children who run away from home are 24% more likely to use marijuana before leaving their house and 39% more likely to continue using once they are no longer living with a parent or other adult. The Gloucester Township Police Department uses a Community Policing

Strategy which provides officers with problem solving techniques to solve social problems, such as youth drug abuse and runaways. This is also referred to as Third Gear Policing, which focuses on prevention and intervention, rather than suppression and arrest of an individual.

Chief Earle also shared their “Missing At-Risk Response Strategies” (MARRS). The purpose of MARRS is to ensure that children who have run away from home have the adequate resources and network of support that they need to go back to their home and feel safe. Officers ask runaway youth a series of comprehensive questions so that an action plan can be put into place involving social workers, school counselors and other police personnel, with parents’ consent. As a result of this program, from the years 2009-2013 there has been a 30% decrease in the amount of runaways in Gloucester Township.

Project SAVE is an initiative that was inspired by the GCADA Task Force Report. The Gloucester Township Police Department distributes “SAVE” cards after each Narcan reversal, which provides the names of hospitals and rehabilitation centers, and also gives officers the opportunity to follow up with these individuals. Their Department has also partnered with Genesis Health in creating the position of a “SAVE” advocate. This person assists those in need with treatment options and any insurance questions they might have.

Chief Earle closed by saying any police department has the ability to create these programs and initiatives on a large or small scale.

Acting Executive Director’s Report

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy shared with the Council members that the two positions within GCADA for State Alliance Coordinator were in the process of being filled. Ms. Levy stated that once GCADA has full staff, work would begin on the Statewide Master Plan, as well as the review of bylaws and committee structure.

Deputy Director Rebecca Alfaro talked about January’s Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) conference, saying it was very informative and engaging event. Ms. Alfaro also talked about the workshop on engaging faith-based leaders in the community that she and Angela Conover from the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey presented at the conference, which she said was very well received, and of great interest to attendees.

Ms. Levy shared that the New Jersey Advocates Recovery Rally will be held on September 17th at the Middlesex County Fairgrounds. She will provide more information to the Council as it becomes available.

Adjournment

Mr. Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:39 a.m.