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State of New Jersey
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
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NEIL VAN ESS
Acting Chairman

CELINA LEVY
Acting Executive Director

MINUTES

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

May 16, 2019

Call to Order

The three hundred and thirty third regular meeting of the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Acting Executive Director Celina Levy.

Open Public Meetings Act Statement

Ms. Levy 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.

Approval of Minutes

After a brief discussion, the minutes for October and November 2018 and the minutes from January, February, March and April of 2019 were approved.

October (Y-9; N-0; ABS-5)

November (Y-11; N-0; ABS-3)

January (Y-10; N-0; ABS-4)

February (Y-8; N-0; ABS-6)

March (Y-10; N-0; ABS-4)

April (Y-7; N-0; ABS-7)

Election of Officers

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy asked for a nomination for Vice Chair of the Governor's Council. Gregg Benson nominated Neil Van Ess and this was seconded by Donna DeStefano. After a vote, Mr. Van Ess was elected Vice Chairman. (Y-13; N-0; ABS-1)

Mr. Van Ess asked for a nomination for two 2nd Vice Chairs. Donna DeStefano nominated Gregg Benson for first 2nd Vice Chair and this vote was seconded by Elizabeth Schofield. Gregg Benson then nominated Donna DeStefano for the second Vice Chair and this vote was seconded by BettyAnn Cowling-Carson. After a vote, Mr. Benson and Ms. DeStefano were both elected as the two 2nd Vice Chairs. (Y-14; N-0; ABS-0)

Chairman's Report

Chairman Van Ess welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the members for their attendance and obtaining quorum. He shared that the first major run of the Veterans Resource Guide had been printed and will be mostly housed at DMAVA. He also stated that he was very happy that the new grant cycle would be providing the opportunity to continue to make improvements to the Alliance program.

Mental Health Awareness Month Resolution

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy read a resolution designating May as Mental Health Awareness Month. After a vote, this resolution was approved. (Y-14; N-0; ABS-0)

2018-2019 Resolutions

The Council members agreed to have one vote to approve the resolutions for 2018 Veterans Day, 2019 Problem Gambling Awareness Month and 2019 Alcohol Awareness Month. After a vote, all three resolutions were approved. (Y-14; ABS-0; N-0)

FY20 County Plans

Ms. Levy informed the Council that all 21 counties had met the approval threshold to be considered for consideration. The following Council members who had previously informed GCADA of the need to recuse themselves from voting on the FY20 County Plans were:

Gregg Benson – Morris County

BettyAnn Cowling-Carson – Camden County

Gisele Pemberton – Union County

Robert Zlotnick – All counties

After a vote, the 21 County Plans were approved.

FY20 Joint County Plan Resolution (Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Passaic, Salem, Sussex and Warren) (Y-13; N-0; ABS-0)

FY20 Camden County Plan Resolution (Y-12; N-0; ABS-0)

FY20 Morris County Plan Resolution (Y-12; N-0; ABS-0)

FY20 Union County Plan Resolution (Y-12; N-0; ABS-0)

Presentation: “Drug Monitoring Initiative”

Major Rinaldi of the New Jersey State Police gave an overview of the Drug Monitoring Initiative to the Council members.

The Drug Monitoring Initiative (DMI) was created with partnerships from state and local levels to identify the presence and prevalence of drugs by tracking the number of times that specific drug is involved in deaths, overdoses or arrests. The DMI also tracks naloxone administrations by EMS and law enforcement which helps determine where suspected drug overdoses are coming from. The data that is collected is used to enhance effective drug policies and practices to combat this epidemic.

Acting Executive Director’s Report

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy shared that the Veterans Resource Guide has been sent to print. This run will have 7,500 copies and most of the guides will be housed at DMAVA with the link available online on the DMAVA website as well as the GCADA website.

Ms. Levy asked that the Council members be on the lookout for emails from Samiah Foy requesting updated information for the Master Plan.

Deputy Director Rebecca Alfaro and State Alliance Coordinator Kim Rodriguez in partnership with the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services and a team from Rutgers continue to work on the state’s Prevention Collaborative. This will serve to unify the efforts of the Alliance Program and the Regional Coalitions. Ms. Alfaro shared that there would be an upcoming webinar for the County and Municipal Alliance Coordinators on what to expect during this process.

Ms. Levy shared that she continues to represent GCADA on planning efforts for the next Suicide Prevention Conference in September and the Adult Suicide Prevention Advisory Council.

GCADA is closer to filling the open staff positions and the hiring process continues to move forward.

Ms. Levy thanked the Council members for their support, the County Alliance coordinators and Alliance members for their efforts in the ongoing improvement process, as well as GCADA staff and Mr. Van Ess for their support in all of GCADA’s efforts.

Adjournment

Mr. Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:38.