



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
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PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

NEIL VAN ESS
Acting Chairman

CELINA LEVY
Executive Director

MINUTES

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

January 19, 2021

Attendance: Celina Levy (Executive Director), Gregg Benson (Public Member), Donna DeStefano (Public Member), Gisele Pemberton (Public Member) Jeff Carrick (DCF), Kate Herb Kaldany (DOC), Natassia Rozario (DOH), Annette Riordan (DHS), Holly Low (DOL), Craig Sashihara (LPS), Liz Schofield (DMAVA)

Call to Order

The three hundred and forty fourth regular meeting of the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by 2nd Vice Chair Donna DeStefano.

Open Public Meetings Act Statement

Ms. DeStefano 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). In addition, Ms. DeStefano stated that public comments were to be provided electronically, through the GCADA website contact portal between the hours of 10am and 1pm on the day of the meeting.

Roll Call

Katelyn Assenheimer called the roll. Members present and absent were noted for the record. Ms. DeStefano informed the Council that this meeting would be for informational purposes due to the lack of quorum.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Celina Levy welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year. She shared that Chairman Van Ess was unable to attend today's meeting and that due to the lack of quorum, we would be holding the election of officers at our next meeting.

Ms. Levy also said that the Volunteer of the Year Awards last month was a perfect way to end a challenging year. She stated that although we hoped to meet in person for the awards, the Zoom format captured the remarkable work done by all the volunteers and the Alliances.

Ms. Levy and Deputy Director Rebecca Alfaro continue to work with the Governor's office and other parties to look at how the DEDR fund fluctuations can be addressed both immediately and also for long term sustainability of the program.

Director of Prevention and Planning, Sara Thode, shared with the Council that the Volunteer of the Year Awards Zoom recording had been uploaded to the GCADA website. Currently the GCADA staff and counties are conducting their FY19 site visits virtually and all documents that were needed for this process have been uploaded to the GCADA dropbox by the counties. Toward the end of 2021, the FY20 site visits will begin. The planning process for FY22 for the counties and municipalities is currently on hold until funding is certain so that counties will not have to repeat the planning process.

Ms. Levy shared that she represented GCADA at the NJ ACEs Collaborative meeting last December and will continue to provide updates as they are available.

Ms. Levy thanked the Council Members for their guidance and support, the County Coordinators and all of the Alliances for their good work in light of the challenges faced and to GCADA staff for their work ethic and to Neil for his leadership.

Other Council Business

Donna DeStefano shared that New Jersey Recovery Support license plates were now available from the DMV. For more information and an application, you can visit:

www.pickawareness.com.

Adjournment

Ms. DeStefano adjourned the meeting at 10:53.