



# State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

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PHILIP D. MURPHY

*Governor*

TAHESHA L. WAY

*Lt. Governor*

NEIL VAN ESS  
*Acting Chairman*

CELINA LEVY  
*Executive Director*

## MINUTES

### Governor's Council on Substance Use Disorder

September 17, 2024

**Attendance: Celina Levy (Executive Director), John Armato (Public Member), Gregg Benson (Public Member), Donna DeStefano (Public Member), Eileen Fishman (Public Member), Sweta Kansagra (Public Member), Gisele Pemberton (Public Member), Cornell Williamson (AOC), Jeff Carrick (DCF), Herb Kaldany (DOC), Lu Pereira (DOE), Lashunda Omida (DOH), Don Hallcom (DHS), Tiffany Wilson (LPS), Noelle-Lee Turner (DMAVA), Allison Samay (President's Council)**

#### Call to Order

The three hundred and eighty-fifth regular meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Use Disorder was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Gregg Benson.

#### Open Public Meetings Act Statement

Mr. Benson 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, Mr. Benson stated that public comments were to be provided electronically, through the GCSUD website contact portal between the hours of 10am and 1pm on the day of the meeting and must state "Public Comment" in the subject line.

#### 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 June and July were approved.

**June (Y-9; N-0; ABS-5)**

**July (Y-9; N-0; ABS-5)**

## **Observance Day Proclamations and Resolutions**

Executive Director Celina Levy read proclamations from Governor Murphy recognizing Suicide Prevention Week, Recovery Month and Overdose Awareness Day in New Jersey. She also read resolutions recognizing Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, Recovery Month and Overdose Awareness Day. The Council members voted to bundle the resolutions and the resolutions were approved.

**Vote to Bundle Resolutions (Y-15; N-0; ABS-0)**

**Vote to Approve Resolutions (Y-15; N-0; ABS-0)**

## **Presentation: KOOAD 2024: How You Can Be Involved**

Angela Conover, Director of Opioid Response and Prevention of the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey gave an overview of Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day in New Jersey, which occurs on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

KOOAD was signed into legislation in 2016 by Governor Murphy and is a collaborative effort between PDFNJ, the Department of Human Services, GCSUD, and the Community Coalition for a Safe and Health Morris to raise awareness of the potential for dependency on prescribed pain medicine and its link to heroin abuse rates in New Jersey.

Outreach is done through interactions within the community at schools, youth programs and local businesses. There are also social media campaigns, webinars available to the public.

More information and resources are available at [www.KnockOutDay.DrugFreeNJ.org](http://www.KnockOutDay.DrugFreeNJ.org).

## **Presentation: DMHAS Suicide Prevention Update**

Dr. Bob Eilers, Medical Director of the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services gave an update on some of the upcoming events and initiatives DMHAS has been working regarding suicide prevention.

DHS/DMHAS has collaborated with the Zero Suicide Institute to offer a two-day Zero Suicide Academy training for health and behavioral health organizations. The purpose of this training is to reduce suicide with strategic planning and through networking with other similar organizations. Participants will learn how to incorporate best practices within their organizations to improve care for those individuals at risk of suicide.

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, DMHAS will offer a webinar on climate change and its impacts on suicide.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Suicide Prevention Conference presented by DMHAS will take place virtually on Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. It is free to attend with a keynote speaker and breakout sessions. CME and CEU credits are available as well.

## **Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Celina Levy thanked Gregg Benson for stepping in for Chairman Van Ess at today's meeting.

She shared that the subcommittee review of the Master Plan was complete and reminded the departments that submissions of their respective programs that reflect the goals and values of the Master Plan are due on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

The website is nearly complete with changes being made by the team at NJOIT to ensure compliance with statewide standards for ease of use and accessibility.

Director of Prevention and Planning, Sara Thode shared with the Council that 297 Alliances had applied for funding FY25 and 87% of these plans have been approved. On October 15<sup>th</sup>, quarterly reports will be available to the counties in MAGS. A training for the counties on the reports will be held on October 16<sup>th</sup> and a municipal training will be held the following day.

## **Adjournment**

Mr. Benson adjourned the meeting at 11:59.