



State of New Jersey

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GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
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CELINA GRAY
Acting Executive Director

MINUTES

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse June 18, 2014

Call to Order

The two hundred ninetieth regular meeting of the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Elected Chairman Neil Van Ess.

Open Public Meetings Act Statement

Chairman 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.

Approval of May Minutes

After a brief discussion, the May 2014 minutes were approved. (Y-9; N-0; ABS-5)

Chairman's Report

Chairman Van Ess thanked the members for their attendance at the meeting. He also thanked the Strategic Plan Review Team for their work in reviewing the County Alliance Plans.

Mr. Van Ess shared with the members that the launch of the anti-stigma addiction campaign on May 22nd at the Jersey Shore Medical Center was a huge success. He was also pleased to announce Governor Christie's approval of the statewide expansion of the use of Narcan opiate antidote by first responders to treat victims of overdose.

Recovery High School Presentation

Pam Capaci, Executive Director of Prevention Links, presented an overview to the council members of the Raymond J. Lesniak Recovery High School located in Union County on the Kean University campus. This high school is the first such institution in New Jersey with a launch date of September 2014. Twenty percent of the students who participate in this program will return to a traditional high school. The school focuses on peer-to-peer support and also incorporates a 12-step recovery program on its campus.

The school also has partnered with Union County Vo-Tech and is aligned with the Association of Recovery High Schools.

Tuition for each student is approximately \$30,000-\$35,000 per year. Funding for this program has been provided thru Prevention Links through a braided funding system. Ms. Capaci also mentioned that the release of the Heroin and other Opiate Task Force report helped legitimize the efforts for this school.

Resolution: Municipal Alliance Plans

Rebecca Alfaro shared with the Council that the County Alliance Plans up for approval today had been vetted by both the Strategic Plan Review Team as well as GCADA staff. She stated that with the approval of the plans being considered today, 16 of 21 counties will have been approved.

Each county coordinator has been made aware of the score they received by the Review Team. GCADA staff will meet individually with coordinators to discuss and rectify deficiencies within their plans.

Chairman Van Ess asked that Council members recuse themselves from any county in which they have an affiliation. After a vote, the county plans for Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Monmouth, Ocean, Salem, Sussex, Union and Passaic were approved. (Y-12; N-0; ABS-3). The following members recused themselves from voting on the counties noted: Chairman Neil Van Ess – Passaic; BettyAnn Cowling-Carson – Camden; Gisele Pemberton – Union; Robert Zlotnick – all; Herbert Kaldany – Camden; Lynn Kovich – Ocean; Dorinda Sapp-Nall – Burlington.

Acting Executive Director's Report

Celina Gray announced that the anti-stigma campaign on addiction launch was a very positive day. This project is a collaborative effort of both the private and public sectors. She also shared that there had been a lot of positive media coverage from this event.

Ms. Gray shared that as part of the campaign several vans and taxis in the Jersey shore area had been shrink wrapped with the anti-stigma campaign message.

The Opiate Task Force report is now in its final printed version and a bound copy will be made available to each member at the next Council meeting. The report will also be sent to each parent who was involved in the Task Force hearings.

Ms. Gray thanked the Strategic Plan Review Team for their work on vetting the County Plans. She also shared that she and Rebecca have been holding one-on-one meetings with the county coordinators to identify challenges within the Alliance program. She stated that the effort to raise Alliance programming standards was necessary to ensure the continued viability of the program.

Ms. Gray shared that the PRO-ACT Recovery Walk will be held on Saturday, September 20th. The Governor's Council will co-sponsor the walk this year as it has historically done by providing \$10,000 in funding for buses to transport walkers to and from the walk site.

Other Council Business

Robert Zlotnick informed the Council that Atlantic City would be holding a recovery walk on Saturday, September 27th on the Atlantic City Boardwalk.

Adjournment

Elected Chairman Neil Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.