

MINUTES
Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
June 16, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

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

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT

Acting Chairman Neil 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

Susan Massaro called the roll. Members present and absent were noted for the record (see attached record).

Approval of Minutes

Acting Chairman Van Ess asked for a motion to approve the May minutes as presented to the Council.

Harry Morey motioned to approve the May minutes; seconded by Kay McGrath. A roll call vote was taken (see attached vote sheet) and the motion carried.

Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act

Acting Chairman Van Ess reported to the Council members that in their table packets was a resolution urging the legislature to support the grant for Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Community Act.

Gregg Benson motioned to approve the resolution presented to the Council; seconded by Harry Morey. A roll call vote was taken (see attached vote sheet) and the motion carried.

Executive Committee – No Report

Alliance Committee

Harry Morey, Chair, reported that the Alliance Committee will be meeting on July 14, 2009.

Planning Committee

Executive Director Powner extended Tony Bucco's apologies for not being able to attend the meeting. The Planning Committee will be meeting in the month of July. At that meeting the draft Council by-laws will be considered by the committee, as well as draft resolutions. Once approved by the committee, these items will be presented to the Council for consideration.

Criminal/Juvenile Justice Subcommittee – No Report

Legislative Subcommittee

Kay McGrath, Chair, reported that the subcommittee did not meet in June but identified current bills that they are monitoring. On such bill is medical marijuana legislation which the subcommittee does not support. Ms. McGrath gave an overview of the bill. Regan McGrory added that the Senate and Assembly bills are now identical and the next step is for it to be passed by the Assembly and posted.

Both the Senate and Assembly Budget Appropriations Committees passed a bill to increase the tax rates on liquor, wines, vermouth sparkling wines and hard cider. The bill dedicates the additional revenue to the health care subsidy fund. There was an effort by NCADD NJ to convince the legislature to extend the tax to beer, but it appears the effort was not successful.

Treatment Subcommittee

Gregg Benson, Chair, reported that during the summer the subcommittee is going to regroup and have a new member drive.

Veterans and Military Ad Hoc Committee

John Gluck reported to the Council that the committee's *Resource Guide* was presented at Ocean County College on June 12, 2009. There was good attendance at the event. Attendees included students, many of whom have returned to school after military duty and are members of a campus veterans club.

Other Business – No Other Business

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Mary Lou Powner updated the Council on the status of the state budget. The language placing GCADA and the Alliances under the Department of Human Services was deleted and the Council and Alliance program was restored under the Department of Treasury budget. Ms. Powner noted that this is largely due to the grassroots efforts, including mayors and other county officials, who expressed their support for the Alliances these last few months.

Ms. Powner reported that a couple of weeks ago a letter was received from the NJ Office of the Comptroller asking for a corrective action plan. The draft plan was given to the Council executive committee for their review and once it is approved will be forwarded to the comptroller's office. Some of the recommendations included in the comptroller's report have already been put into place with the three year grant cycle of 2009 – 2011. The corrective action plan includes plans for FY 11 to hire a firm to do an independent audit and a consulting service to help devise a mechanism to collect uniform data from the municipal alliances statewide.

The Planning Committee will be reviewing the Master Plan process including the format that is used for the state government component and the process used to collect the data. The Interdepartmental Advisory Panel, which is made up of department representatives serving on the council, will be reformed. Executive Director Powner asked for a volunteer to chair the panel.

The Attorney General's office has created a new committee to coordinate prevention resources and asked that GCADA be represented as a member. The first meeting will be on June 17, 2009.

Chairman's Comments

Acting Chairman Van Ess brought up the option of suspending the regular GCADA meetings in July and August. There was a discussion regarding this issue and it was agreed to suspend the meetings.

The acting chairman suggested that as this is the 20th year of GCADA's existence, the milestone would be a good theme for the 2009 Summit.

Adjournment

Acting Chairman Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Mary Lou Powner
Executive Director