



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

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Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

NEIL VAN ESS
Acting Chairman

CELINA LEVY
Executive Director

MINUTES

Governor's Council on Substance Use Disorder

October 15, 2024

Attendance: Celina Levy (Executive Director), John Armato (Public Member), Gregg Benson (Public Member), Sweta Kansagra (Public Member), Gisele Pemberton (Public Member), Cornell Williamson (AOC), Jeff Carrick (DCF), Michelle Graham-Lyons (DCA), Herb Kaldany (DOC), Lashunda Omida (DOH), Don Hallcom (DHS), Rebecca Glinn (DOL), Tiffany Wilson (LPS), Noelle-Lee Turner (DMAVA)

Call to Order

The three hundred and eighty-sixth regular meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Use Disorder was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by 2nd 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. Mr. Benson informed the Council that this meeting would be for informational purposes only due to the lack of quorum.

Presentation: "Trauma and Opioid Use Disorder"

Rebecca Bryan, Executive Director of the Office of Resilience of the NJ Department of Children and Families gave an overview of trauma and opioid use disorder to the Council.

The vision of the Office of Resilience is that New Jersey is a trauma-informed and healing-centered state, creating opportunities to prevent and empower healing from, individual, transgenerational, and community trauma.

Ms. Bryan explained the expanded categories of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) as well as Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs) which have a strong correlation to opioid use disorder.

Over half of the adult population has had at least one ACE and a quarter has had an ACE score of three or more. ACEs have the potential to create toxic levels of stress, which can shift a person's response and coping skills by using opioids.

The Office of Resilience focuses on shifting coping skills and promoting empathy and understanding of the circumstance behind a person's opioid use behaviors related to stigma. Ms. Bryan emphasized that people are more than their trauma.

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 that most departments had provided their submissions and public members will be asked for their input soon.

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.

Deputy Director, Rebecca Alfaro shared with the Council that Phase 2 in AGATE for quarterly reporting is currently underway. To date, 100% of the counties have reached compliance to have their plans approved and 90% of the municipalities have reached compliance. The FY25 LOAs have been sent to 18 out of the 21 counties.

Adjournment

Mr. Benson adjourned the meeting at 11:43.