

MINUTES
Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
December 22, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

The two hundred forty fifth 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).

PLEDGE OF ALEGENCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by the Council member present.

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 October minutes as presented to the Council.

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

Vote to adopt the 2009 Master Plan

Acting Chairman Van Ess asked for a motion to discuss the Master Plan. Anthony Bucco motioned to discuss the Master Plan; seconded by Gregg Benson. Anthony Bucco, Chair, thanked Executive Director Powner and GCADA staff for the work they did on compiling the information and the various departments for getting their information in to finish the Master Plan. The Council has done a good job on giving the Governor and the Legislature a snapshot of where the field is at and what is expected. Executive Director Powner explained that the only changes from the draft presented in November are introductory paragraphs to the Municipal Alliance information, the Subcommittee objectives, Treatment Subcommittee objectives and the matrix listing the departments and programs.

Harry Morey moved to vote on and approve the Master Plan; seconded by Anthony Bucco. A roll call vote was taken (see attached vote sheet) and the motion carried.

Discussion and vote to approve 2010 County Alliance Awards

Acting Chairman Van Ess mentioned that the next item on the agenda is the 2010 County Alliance Awards. Harry Morey asked the members to briefly look over the two packets that were submitted with the Resolution and to notice that there were very few changes that were submitted. There were only two counties that had an increase in funding and very few changes plan changes.

Harry Morey moved to vote on and approve the Resolution on the plans; seconded by Gregg Benson. A roll call vote was taken (see attached vote sheet) and each Council member recused themselves from their county, the motion carried.

Executive Committee

Acting Chairman Van Ess reported that the Executive Committee has not met but have been in touch via telephone and emails to supply information to the transition team.

Alliance Committee

Harry Morey, Chair, reported that the Alliance Committee will be on January 12, 2010.

Interdepartmental Advisory Panel

Gary Vermeire, Chair, reported that the Interdepartmental Advisory Panel met on December 14, 2009 and had a very active discussion and have two primary objectives at the moment. The first

is to give themselves the opportunity to hear what each other is doing and to maximize the opportunity for coordination, collaboration and sharing resources if appropriate. They are taking on an exercise to see where resources are being allocated, they will start this project by looking at the chart Executive Director Powner is working on and look at what kind of activities are being done, where they are being done and how much they cost and will report back to Council when the project is complete.

Planning Committee

Acting Chairman Neil Van Ess thanked Anthony Bucco for all the work he did on the Council and with getting the Master Plan completed. Mr. Bucco thanked him and said that in everyone's table packets there is a draft of the changes of the by-laws and to please look over them and be prepared to discuss in January and vote in the months after that.

Criminal/Juvenile Justice Subcommittee

Maurice Hart reported that there was no report but announced that this would be his last meeting and introduced Gayle Maher, Chief of Juvenile Probation for the Judiciary and will be sitting on the Criminal/Juvenile Justice Subcommittee.

Legislative Subcommittee

Kay McGrath, Chair, reported that the legislative Subcommittee did not meet this month but wanted to call to everyone's attention several pieces of legislation that we either have had an interest in or took action on:

- Minimum Mandatory Drug Sentences – there is a reprint in Council's table packets on the subject and thanked Nick Petrozzino for the work he did on researching this legislation. Ms. McGrath discussed the reprint article in the table packets and gave a review of the article and what is taking place.
- Women and Family Strengthening Act
- Parity – Ms. McGrath gave a brief overview of what has happened with Parity Legislation and the State Health Benefits Commission met recently and voted to ask recently that New Jersey employees be exempted from the federal parity bill. Ms. McGrath asked the Council how they felt about taking action on this vote. Mr. Bucco suggested that GCADA send a letter what the reasons were behind their recommendations and once we find out what the method was behind the vote the Council could move from there. Also write to the Counsel to find out what their powers are.

Kay McGrath motioned to send a letter to the State Health Benefits Commission asking what their reasons were for their recommendations and what their next steps are;

seconded by Harry Morey. A roll call vote was taken (see attached vote sheet) and the motion carried.

Treatment Subcommittee

Greg Benson, Chair, reported that the Treatment Subcommittee met and went over the goal and objectives to magnify then and reorganize the priorities of those goals and objectives. They are going to focus more on some of the clinical issues of workforce development and how that may affect the ability to deliver services, funding and mechanism to develop that workforce.

Mr. Benson mentioned that they welcomed Jim O'Brien and Rich Bowe.

The Subcommittee is looking to develop some ad hoc work groups to address some of the specific populations that we tend to struggle with in terms of services in New Jersey. These populations are adolescents, women, lesbian.gay community and people of color. They will be looking at cultural competencies across the board both in terms of developmental issues from an age specific prospective as well as all the populations noted.

They are also looking to have some presentations one of them being Father Ed Righting, Chair of the Certification Board, to talk about the issues that we see in the services being delivered.

They are going to work on membership and the next meeting will be on January 19, 2010.

Veterans and Military Ad Hoc Committee

Acting Chairman Van Ess reported that they would be meeting in January and Mary Ann Barkus mentioned that she received two power points presentations about veterans and everything they are facing when they come back. One was from Justice and she was going to ask the person who sent it to come and do a presentation at the next meeting.

Other Business

Anthony Bucco mentioned that today would be his last day on the Council and that he submitted his resignation to Acting Chairman Van Ess and Executive Director Powner. Mr. Bucco read his letter to the Council members present and thanked everyone. Acting Chairman Van Ess mentioned that it would be very difficult to replace Mr. Bucco but wished him the best. There were best wishes and kind words made by Council members present.

Acting Chairman Van Ess mentioned that it has been a very interesting and tough year for the Council and is amazed of the character of the people who work for and on the Council. He is

very proud and happy to serve on this Council for what they have done for the citizens of New Jersey.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Powner started by mentioning the role that Tony Bucco played and how much she will miss him. Mr. Bucco came to the Council shortly after she was appointed Executive Director and gave everyone a brief overview of what was going on in GCADA and how he was effective in getting things accomplished. However, she is looking forward to new members even though she is not looking forward to Mr. Bucco leaving. Executive Director also asked that the state designees to get more involved in the subcommittees and that if they feel there is anything that GCADA should be looking into to bring it forward.

We have received the issue for proposals for auditing services went out in November and four were received. Executive Director Powner and Treasury reviewed them and Mercaden out of Mercer County has been chosen to do the audit. Around March they will begin to audit seven counties and will continue with seven counties each year for the following two years and the four counties that were audited by the Comptroller's Office will be in the first seven.

The Comptroller's Office is back auditing the corrective action plan and will be going out to two of the four counties they went to previously. They have already been to Monmouth and will be going to Mercer by the end of December.

The monitoring visits that are being conducted by Marge Beattie, Kevin Sullivan and Nick Petrozzino are nearly completed. There are only two counties that need to be done and will be finished in the next couple of weeks.

Executive Director Powner had a conference call with General Dean, CADCA and their trainer from the Coalition Academy and gave them an overview of what our needs are for training the municipalities. The Coalition Academy means that we will run three or four regional training with the same trainers at these sites in New Jersey and invite all the municipal alliances to a one day training and these trainings will be held once a month and the alliances participating will receive a CADCA mentor. The mentor will work with them on technical assistance via e-mail, phone or whatever they need for the whole year. This training will place the municipal alliances in an extremely great position to start of planning for the next three year cycle.

Executive Director Powner was pleased to announce that DAS, thanks to Don Hallcom, Prevention Director, nominated the New Jersey Municipal Alliance Program to the Northeast CAP for the Service to Science initiative. The full application to the Northeast Center for Addiction Prevention Technology is due January 15th and if they select us they will come in and

work with us to where we are documenting the whole evidenciary base process of the New Jersey Municipal Alliance Program.

Executive Director Powner wanted to discuss the transition and she mentioned there are rumors all over the place but this is the first time that we have actually received a telephone call from the transition team itself requesting information. We previously put our information in with Treasury but this time all the in but not of are being handled by the Authorities Committee of the Transition. The Council's leadership along with other leaders in the field have been making bold recommendations to the incoming transition team on how we can reorganize the field, and we know we need more resources technically and not to grind this to death but we understand that the Division of Addiction Services has told the transition again the GCADA should collapsed and that our money should be moved to them so they can use it for treatment and intervention. Even if the DEDR fund continues to collect millions it will not save anyone, the kind of reorganization that we are floating with the transition, the designation of the counties as single county authorities, putting all the community based monies down through the county system as opposed to controlling it in Trenton will actually reorganize the funding streams dramatically and cut administrative overhead in the central office probably by 50 or 60 percent if you do this. So the reorganization we are talking about is huge but we are using the data that has come out in the last few years, like the shoveling up report, we know New Jersey spends 12 percent of its budget on shoveling up after alcoholism and drug abuse, on corrections, education, health and other stuff and we have only spent .3 of a percentage point doing anything about it with prevention and treatment. If we do a better job in prevention, intervention and treatment maybe that 12 percent would come down so we can save the state money in the long run by doing a more effective job in prevention and treatment. We have the blueprint study that was done showing how states would be best organized to be effective which means having a bona fide advisory body advising the administration, advising the legislature on policy all the time. The packet that was given to the transition team included the staff, salaries, organizational chart, a synopsis of the main statutory responsibilities of the Council and she believes that with the work that we did last year that there is a tremendous support for what the Council does. Executive Director Powner thinks that we can move things along, reform our field and reorganize in such a way that it will get maximum bi-partisan support from the incoming administration and the existing Legislator leadership.

Robert Zlotnick asked if the Council could get a copy of the comments that the Leadership group sent to the transition team and suggested that there be a training session for the new members coming on to the Council.

Public Comments

Adjournment

Acting Chairman Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Mary Lou Powner
Executive Director