



**State of New Jersey**

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE  
PO Box 345  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0345

NEIL VAN ESS  
*Acting Chairman*

SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
*Lt. Governor*

CELINA LEVY  
*Executive Director*

**MINUTES**

**Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse**

**May 17, 2022**

**Attendance: Neil Van Ess (Chairman), Celina Levy (Executive Director), Gregg Benson (Public Member), BettyAnn Cowling-Carson (Public Member), Frank Greenagel (Public Member), Donna DeStefano (Public Member), Moira Nelson (Public Member), Gisele Pemberton (Public Member), Donna Westhoven (AOC), Jeff Carrick (DCF), Herb Kaldany (DOC), Lu Pereira (DOE), Annette Riordan (DHS), Rebecca Glinn (DOL), Craig Sashihara (LPS), Joe Nyzio (DMAVA)**

**Call to Order**

The three hundred and fifty ninth 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**

Mr. 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). In addition, Mr. Van Ess stated that public comments were to be provided electronically, through the GCADA website contact portal between the hours of 10am and 1pm on the day of the meeting.

**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 April were approved. (Y-14; N-0; ABS-1)

## **Chairman's Report**

Chairman Van Ess welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Council for attaining quorum consistently since January. He announced that the Council would be voting on the FY23 County Plan resolutions and acknowledged the good work of the County Coordinators and asked Executive Director Celina Levy to read the names of those who were present.

## **Mental Health Awareness Month Resolution**

Executive Director Celina Levy read a resolution recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month in New Jersey. After a vote, this resolution was approved. (Y-15; N-0; ABS-0)

## **FY23 County Plan Resolutions**

Deputy Director, Rebecca Alfaro explained to the Council that the FY23 Plans were reviewed by the Council Review Team on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Council Review Team voted to present the County Alliance Plans to the GCADA Council for approval.

The following Council members informed GCADA of the need to recuse themselves from voting on the FY23 County Plans:

BettyAnn Cowling-Carson – Camden County  
Gisele Pemberton – Union County

After a vote, 17 County Plans were approved.

## **FY23 Union County Plan Resolution (Y-14; N-0; ABS-1)**

**FY23 Joint County Plan Resolution (Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Cape May, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Passaic, Salem, Somerset and Sussex) (Y-14; N-0; ABS-1)**

## **Presentation: “Community-Based Health Equity in Action – Highlights from PROCEED, Inc.”**

Gisele Pemberton, DrPH, MPH, CHES, Director; Jennifer Rodriguez, MA, MFT, Clinician and Mildred Diaz, Program Coordinator of PROCEED, Inc. gave an overview of their organization and program to the Council Members.

PROCEED, Inc. is a multicultural, non-profit, community-based health and human services organization that provides and connects people to educational, health and human services and programs in their communities.

Juntas/Together is a comprehensive, women-centered and trauma-informed program that provides substance use treatment, co-occurring substance use and mental health treatment to women and their children who are experiencing partner violence. The program uses evidence supported treatment practices as well as case management, HIV testing, peer support as well as

counseling and referrals to those who are enrolled. Since this program has started, 275 women and 80 children have been served.

The Motivated Men's Project is a multi-component substance use disorder/co-occurring mental health disorder treatment and HIV program. This program provides services to Latino and Black men, with most emphasis on young gay men and those living with HIV or who are at high-risk of contracting HIV. This program uses evidence-based practices to offer counseling, outpatient psychiatric care, case management services, HIV and HEP-C testing and education services. Since this program started 520 clients have been served.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Celina Levy thanked the Council members once again for attaining quorum consistently since January. She also expressed her gratitude to the GCADA Review Team, County and Municipal Coordinators and the GCADA Alliance Unit for their hard work.

Ms. Levy shared that she and Deputy Director Rebecca Alfaro continue to work with the Governor's office on options for alternative funding streams and long-term sustainability for the program and also continue to be engaged in collaborative planning for the state's harm reduction efforts.

Ms. Levy thanked the Council members for their input and support, the County Coordinators and Alliances for their good work despite the continued challenges and GCADA staff for their strong work ethic, and to Neil Van Ess for his ongoing leadership.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:59.