

MINUTES
Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
September 15, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

The two hundred forty first 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 June minutes as presented to the Council.

Gregg Benson motioned to approve the June minutes; seconded by Harry Morey. A roll call vote was taken (see attached vote sheet) and the motion carried with changes to the vote sheet.

Discussion and vote to adopt a resolution supporting legislation that would end the casino exemption from the smoking ban

Acting Chairman Van Ess introduced the resolution and asked for the motion and then asked if Kay McGrath would brief the Council. Ms. McGrath asked Dr. Robert Zlotnick to speak to the Council regarding this legislation. He gave a brief overview of the bill and remarked that it was incomprehensible that employees of the casinos continue to be subject to secondhand smoke.

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

Discussion and vote to adopt a resolution recognizing “National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month”

Acting Chairman Van Ess introduced the resolution and asked for the motion and then asked if Executive Director Mary Lou Powner would review the resolution. Dr. Zlotnick mentioned that he was the New Jersey delegate in the recovery walk and said that the event was exceptional. He also suggested that next year we could promote an event in New Jersey prior to the National Walk to get greater participation. Dr. Zlotnick motioned to approve the resolution as presented to the Council; seconded by Gerald Opthoff. A roll call vote was taken (see attached vote sheet) and the motion carried.

Executive Committee – No Report

Alliance Committee – No Report

Interdepartmental Advisory Panel

Gary Vermeire, Chair, reported that the committee met on August 18, 2009 and reviewed the following issues:

The IAP discussed the effectiveness of the process being used for collecting data from state departments for the State Government Component (SGC) of the Master Plan. There was a general consensus that the process was working well. A suggestion was made that in addition to the current narrative submissions, it would be helpful to also report the data in the SGC in a chart format. This chart will be incorporated into the upcoming SGC.

The Attorney General’s Office set up a resource coordinating committee which developed definitions that may help the departments identify prevention, intervention and treatment activities that they would appropriately include in their reporting to GCADA. These definitions will be included in future requests for data sent out to the departments.

The committee agreed to meet on a quarterly basis to engage in resource sharing.

Planning Committee

Anthony Bucco, Chair, reported that Planning Committee met during the summer. Requests were made of the committees to update their goals and objectives for inclusion in the master

plan. The committees have been asked to submit papers to be included in the issues and trends section of the master plan.

Letters have been sent to various interest groups requesting participation on the various GCADA committees. There has been a good response to this membership drive so far.

The by-laws are being revised and a rough draft has been prepared. The executive committee is reviewing the draft and once they have approved the draft it will be presented to the planning committee and then to the full Council for final approval.

Mr. Bucco motioned to start all future Council meeting with the “Pledge of Allegiance”; seconded by John Gluck. A roll call vote was taken (see attached vote sheet) and the motion carried with changes.

Criminal/Juvenile Justice Subcommittee – No Report

Legislative Subcommittee

Kay McGrath, Chair, reported that the subcommittee met on September 10, 2009. At that meeting a presentation on the needle exchange program was given by Dr. Jude Iheoma, research scientist with the NJ Division of Addiction Services. Dr. Iheoma gave a brief overview on how the needle exchange program has been working. To date, there have been approximately 1350 participants.

The subcommittee discussed the medical marijuana bill (A119) which the subcommittee had opposed. The bill has been revised and Ms. McGrath asked the subcommittee if they would like to change their position with the revisions that were made. There was a lengthy discussion and the issue was tabled.

Ms. McGrath reported that Joanne Furze who represented Anderson House had resigned and she would try to get another representative from there.

Dr. Robert Zlotnick mentioned that the 911 Hold Harmless Bill is on the Governor’s desk to be signed. Dr. Zlotnick gave a brief overview of the bill. The Council discussed this bill and there was a suggestion that a draft resolution be prepared for consideration at next month’s meeting.

Treatment Subcommittee – No Report

Veterans and Military Ad Hoc Committee

Acting Chairman Van Ess reported that they have not met but that the resource guides continue to be very well received.

Other Business

At its meeting this morning, the Council's executive committee discussed moving the Council meetings to Wednesdays for March, April, May and June as committee room 4 will not be available on Tuesdays due to legislative budget hearings. The dates of the rescheduled meetings will be provided to members.

Gregg Benson mentioned that CSAT and CSAP performed a review of DAS and made recommendations. Given its statutory authority, the Council should be given the opportunity to view the report and recommendations.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Powner mentioned recent staffing changes. Long time employee Judy Blakeslee has transferred to another state office and Barbara Montgomery, clerical staff for the planning unit, passed away recently. A reorganization of the GCADA office staff has been implemented. A chart reflecting the new structure has been developed and has been distributed to the Council. Under the new structure, staff will have responsibilities across the agency as opposed to specifically within the planning or alliance units.

The annual Summit is on October 23rd. The Council's regular October meeting will be conducted during the workshop sessions at the Summit. This is the twentieth anniversary of the GCADA. The Council has asked General Arthur T. Dean of the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) to be a guest speaker. Legislators who have supported GCADA are also being invited.

Ms. Powner has opened dialogue with some experts and approached federal agencies to discuss the feasibility of having the New Jersey Municipal Alliance Program recognized as an evidence based environmental strategy.

The GCADA is hosting a meeting on October 1, 2009 and has invited the County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors, County Alliance Coordinators, and the Executive Directors of the affiliates of the New Jersey Prevention Network. We will also be inviting Don Hallcom, Director of Prevention at the Division of Addiction Services and staff of DAS' Prevention Unit. The meeting will be at the Trenton Marriott starting at 8:00.

Adjournment

Acting Chairman Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Mary Lou Powner
Executive Director