



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

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TAHESHA L. WAY
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NEIL VAN ESS
Acting Chairman

CELINA LEVY
Executive Director

MINUTES

Governor's Council on Substance Use Disorder

April 16, 2024

Attendance: Neil Van Ess (Chairman), Celina Levy (Executive Director), John Armato (Public Member), Gregg Benson (Public Member), Sweta Kansagra (Public Member), Gisele Pemberton (Public Member), Moira Nelson (Public Member), Cornell Williamson (AOC), Ashley Costello (DCF), Adam Cortes (DOC), Don Hallcom (DHS), Rebecca Glinn (DOL), Kelly Levy (LPS), Noelle Lee-Turner (DMAVA)

Call to Order

The three hundred and eighty-first regular meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Use Disorder 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 GCSUD 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. Mr. Van Ess informed the Council that this meeting would be for informational purposes only due to the lack of quorum.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Van Ess welcomed everyone to the meeting. He shared that GCSUD staff continues the process of incorporating the name change into all parts of the Council infrastructure and said that this is a great advancement for the Council.

Alcohol Awareness Month Resolution

Executive Director Celina Levy read a resolution recognizing April as Alcohol Awareness Month in New Jersey. This resolution will be voted on at the next meeting.

Presentation: "NJDOOL Resources for Workers Impacted by Substance Use"

Rebecca Glinn, Policy Manager and Briana Menjivar, Grant Contract Manager of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development gave an overview of the leave and substance use resources available to New Jersey workers.

New Jersey is one of the few states that offers both family and medical leave. The types of leave available are Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) and Family Leave Insurance (FLI). Reasons for using TDI may include illness, either physical or mental, injury, pregnancy or childbirth recovery. FLI may be used to bond with a new child, to care for a sick loved one or coping with a domestic or sexual violence.

Pathways to Recovery was established in 2019 and is an Opioid Recovery Employment Program offered by NJDOOL. The purpose of this program is to provide training opportunities, career services and support services for those whose workforce conditions have been affected by opioid use. Over 3,000 people have been served in this program since it was established.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Celina Levy informed the Council that we are continuing to work on incorporating our GCSUD name change into all processes and platforms.

The next Master Plan Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for early June and the latest draft will be reviewed. GCSUD will be reaching out to state departments soon for input on related programs.

The Block Grant funds from DMHAS which were sent to expire on March 14th have received a no-cost extension until March 14th of 2025. This will provide GCSUD with the opportunity to move forward with more trainings that were not possible due to the previous timeline.

On May 7th, Deputy Director Rebecca Alfaro will be representing GCSUD on a panel for a Fentanyl Awareness Day webinar being presented by NCAAR and other collaborative partners. Ms. Alfaro will share more about this at the May meeting.

Director of Prevention and Planning, Sara Thode shared with the Council that the FY25 County Plans will be reviewed in MAGS. The GCSUD review team will meet in early June and the plans will be voted by the full Council in June. She also informed the Council that Phase 2 in MAGS is currently underway. This phase includes quarterly reports, site visits and budget modifications.

Adjournment

Mr. Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 10:56.