



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

July 16, 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) Adam Cortes (DOC), Lu Pereira (DOE), Jessica Atkinson (DOH), Don Hallcom (DHS), Rebecca Glinn (DOL), Tiffany Wilson (LPS), Noelle-Lee Turner (DMAVA)

Call to Order

The three hundred and eighty-fourth 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: LGBTQIA+ Mental Health Support and Substance Use

JP Pedoto, Pride+ Program Coordinator and Clinician of Family Connections NJ gave an overview of the Pride+ program and substance use challenges that the LGBTQIA+ community can face.

Pride+ began in March of 2022 with the goal of providing a safe space for LGBTQIA+ youth a safe space. Services include individual, group and family counseling, support groups, parent education, field trips and other trainings and presentations.

Approximately 20-30% of the LGBTQIA+ community experiences substance use and this can be attributed to the Minority Stress Theory, which suggests that members of the community experience a unique and chronic stress due to discrimination or harassment.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Celina Levy informed the Council that the subcommittee review of the last Master Plan draft is complete and we will be reaching out to department designees soon for information about their respective programs.

The GCSUD website update is almost complete with some changes being made by NJOIT to ensure compliance with the statewide standards for user ease and accessibility.

Director of Prevention and Planning, Sara Thode informed the Council that all 21 counties FY25 plans have been submitted to GCSUD staff. GCSUD staff have approved 81% of the County plans and 54% of Municipal Alliance plans have been approved. To date, eight counties have received their Letter of Agreements through the MAGS online grant system.

Adjournment

Mr. Benson adjourned the meeting at 11:37.