



State of New Jersey

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

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
Lt. Governor

NEIL VAN ESS  
Acting Chairman

CELINA LEVY  
Executive Director

**MINUTES**

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

**April 19, 2022**

**Attendance: Neil Van Ess (Chairman), Celina Levy (Executive Director), Gregg Benson (Public Member), BettyAnn Cowling-Carson (Public Member), Frank Greenagel (Public Member), Moira Nelson (Public Member), Gisele Pemberton (Public Member), Jeff Carrick (DCF), Michelle Graham-Lyons (DCA), Herb Kaldany (DOC), Lu Pereira (DOE), Lashunda Harden (DOH), Annette Riordan (DHS), Rebecca Glinn (DOL), Craig Sashihara (LPS), Chuck Robbins (DMAVA)**

**Call to Order**

The three hundred and fifty eighth 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 March were approved. (Y-11; N-0; ABS-4)

## **Chairman's Report**

Chairman Van Ess welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Council for attaining quorum last month. He also welcomed and introduced Moira Nelson, the Council's newly appointed member.

## **Alcohol Awareness Month Resolution**

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

## **Presentation: "New Jersey Department of Labor Resources for Workers Impacted by Substance Use"**

Rebecca Glinn, Outreach Coordinator, Office of Strategic Planning and Outreach and Sherie Jenkins, Chief, Office of Transitional Workforce Services of the Department of Labor gave an overview of the leave and substance use resources available to New Jersey workers.

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

Worker who are on leave and receiving benefits may have job protection under the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), New Jersey Family Leave Act (NJFLA), and the New Jersey SAFE Act. More information on benefits and job protection can be found at [www.myleavebenefits.nj.gov](http://www.myleavebenefits.nj.gov).

Pathways to Recovery is an Opioid Recovery Employment Program offered by the NJ Department of Labor. The purpose of this program is to provide training opportunities, career services, supportive services and employment for those whose workforce conditions have been affected by the opioid epidemic. Participants work on an Individual Employment Plan (IEP) that identifies barriers as well as employment goals. This along with industry recognized training and other supportive services can help increase employment opportunities.

## **Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Celina Levy again welcomed Moira Nelson to the Council and said that more members are anticipated to be appointed to the Council within the coming weeks.

Ms. Levy shared that she and Deputy Director Rebecca Alfaro continue to work with the Governor's office on harm reduction efforts and have also had conversations with both Department of Health and the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services on their efforts. Ms Levy will keep the Council updated on the next steps.

Ms. Levy also shared that she will be a presenter at the Attorney General/Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey's webinar "Combatting the Stigma of Opioid Addiction".

Director of Prevention and Planning, Sara Thode, informed the Council the FY23 County Plans are being reviewed by GCADA staff and will be reviewed by the GCADA Review Team in April. This will be the last year that the plans will be submitted in paper form and the Municipal Alliance Grants System (MAGS), our new online grant management system, will be in production for the FY24 grant cycle. The plans will be submitted to the full Council for a vote in May and June.

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 11:25.