



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

March 15, 2022

Attendance: Neil Van Ess (Chairman), Celina Levy (Executive Director), BettyAnn Cowling-Carson (Public Member), Frank Greenagel (Public Member), Gisele Pemberton (Public Member), Donna Westhoven (AOC), Jeff Carrick (DCF), Michelle Graham-Lyons (DCA), Herb Kaldany (DOC), Lu Pereira (DOE), Lashunda Harden (DOH), Rebecca Glinn (DOL), Craig Sashihara (LPS), Joe Nyzio (DMAVA), Allison Samay (NJ President's Council)

Call to Order

The three hundred and fifty seventh 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 February were approved. (Y-13; N-0; ABS-1)

Chairman's Report

Chairman Van Ess welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Council for attaining quorum last month. He also thanked Sara Thode, Director of Prevention and Planning, for

managing the technical aspects of last month's meeting due to Deputy Director, Rebecca Alfaro attending a 3-day Culturally Humble Leadership in Prevention Intensive, hosted by the Prevention Technology Transfer Center.

Problem Gambling Awareness Month Resolution

Executive Director Celina Levy read a resolution recognizing March as Problem Gambling Awareness Month in New Jersey. After a vote, this resolution was approved. (Y-14; N-0; ABS-0)

Presentation: "Gambling Advertising: The Making of an Epidemic"

Felicia Grondin, Executive Director of the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey (CCGNJ) gave an overview of the organization and the effects of advertising on gambling.

CCGNJ is a private non-profit organization that provides information, education and referral services to those affected by problem gambling. They also offer a 30- hour professional training that is free to New Jersey residents to become certified as an International Co-Occurring Gambling Specialist.

The Council offers 24/7 support via the NJ Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLER. Brochures, educational links and fact sheets can also be found at their website: www.800GAMBLER.ORG.

Ms. Grondin informed the Council that the total revenue in gambling totals last year was 6.41 billion. This included lottery, casino, internet betting and sports betting. She also shared that the total spent in gambling advertising in 2021 was 725 million dollars which was nearly three times more than year before. She shared that due to bombardment of advertising, this increases the likelihood for an individual to develop a gambling problem.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Celina Levy shared that she and Rebecca have an upcoming meeting with the Governor's office on their harm reduction initiative to move forward with planning to collectively raise awareness and educate communities. Ms. Levy and Ms. Alfaro have an additional meeting scheduled with DOH and DMHAS to continue the planning process and Ms. Levy will keep the Council updated as these meetings progress.

Ms. Levy also stated that she and Deputy Director Rebecca Alfaro continue to explore options with the Governor's office, OMB and Treasury for alternate funding to offset the decrease in DEDR funds.

Rebecca Alfaro shared that she had attended a 3-day Culturally Humble Leadership in Prevention Intensive hosted by the Prevention Technology Transfer Center. The training focused on diversity, inclusion and equity. Ms. Alfaro shared her takeaways with the Council which

included moving to an evidence-informed approach to data collection that centers BIPOC in all aspects of planning and decision making.

Director of Prevention and Planning, Sara Thode, informed the Council the FY23 County Plans are due to GCADA staff at the end of this month and will be reviewed by the GCADA Review Team in the spring. This will be the last year that they will be submitted in paper form and that AGATE will be in production for the FY24 grant cycle.

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 12:02.