



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
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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

May 16, 2023

Attendance: Neil Van Ess (Chairman), Celina Levy (Executive Director), John Armato (Public Member), Gregg Benson (Public Member), Donna DeStefano (Public Member), Eileen Fishman (Public Member), Moira Nelson (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), Siyanbade Adegoke (DHS), Rebecca Glinn (DOL), Craig Sashihara (LPS), Chuck Robbins (DMAVA)

Call to Order

The three hundred and seventy 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

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.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Van Ess welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Council members for attaining quorum to vote on the County Plan resolutions.

Approval of Minutes

After a brief discussion, the minutes for March and April were approved.

- **March (Y-15; N-0; ABS-2)**
- **April (Y-11; N-0; ABS-6)**

Awareness Month Resolutions

Executive Director Celina Levy read a resolution recognizing April as Alcohol Awareness Month and May as Mental Health Awareness Month in New Jersey. After a vote, both resolutions were approved.

- **Alcohol Awareness Month Resolution (Y-14; N-0; ABS-3)**
- **Mental Health Awareness Month Resolution (Y-17; N-0; ABS-0)**

FY24 County Plan Resolutions and Grant Term Two DMHAS Funded Plan Resolutions

Director of Prevention and Planning, Sara Thode explained to the Council that the FY24 Plans were reviewed by the Council Review Team and voted to present the County Alliance Plans to the Council for approval.

Executive Director Celina Levy gave an overview of the recusal process. The following Council members informed GCADA of the need to recuse themselves from voting on the FY24 County Plan and the Grant Term Two DMHAS Funded Plan Resolutions:

John Armato – Atlantic County
 Gregg Benson – Morris County
 Eileen Fishman – Essex County
 Gisele Pemberton – Union County

After a vote, the plans were approved.

- **FY24 Joint County DEDR Funded Resolution (Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Passaic, Salem, Somerset, Sussex, Warren) (Y-16; N-0; ABS-1)**
- **FY24 Atlantic County DEDR Funded Resolution (Y-15; N-0; ABS-1)**
- **FY24 Essex County DEDR Funded Resolution (Y-15; N-0; ABS-1)**
- **FY24 Morris County DEDR Funded Resolution (Y-15; N-0; ABS-1)**
- **FY24 Union County DEDR Funded Resolution (Y-15; N-0; ABS-1)**
- **Grant Term Two Joint County DMHAS Funded Resolution (Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Passaic, Salem, Somerset, Sussex, Warren) (Y-16; N-0; ABS-1)**
- **Grant Term Two Atlantic County DMHAS Funded Resolution (Y-15; N-0; ABS-1)**
- **Grant Term Two Essex County DMHAS Funded Resolution (Y-15; N-0; ABS-1)**
- **Grant Term Two Morris County DMHAS Funded Resolution (Y-15; N-0; ABS-1)**
- **Grant Term Two Union County DMHAS Funded Resolution (Y-15; N-0; ABS-1)**

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Celina Levy took a minute to acknowledge BettyAnn Cowling-Carson who was invited to today's meeting. A plaque was also sent to her for her 20 years of service to the Council.

Ms. Levy and Deputy Director Rebecca Alfaro continue to discuss with the Governor's office ways to identify new sources for funding and long-term sustainability and will provide updates as they are available.

The next Master Plan Subcommittee meeting will be held before the June GCADA meeting and any pertinent updates will be provided.

Adjournment

Mr. Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 10:50.