

MINUTES

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

June 16, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

The two hundred fiftieth 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

Acting Chairman Neil 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).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by the Council members present.

ROLL CALL

Susan Massaro called the roll. Members present and absent were noted for the record (see attached record).

Acting Chairman's Remarks – No report.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were tabled until the July meeting due to a lack of quorum.

Discussion and vote to adopt a resolution in support of S796 that revises statutory mental health coverage requirements

Kay McGrath, chair of the Legislative Subcommittee, stated that the subcommittee and the Council has had extensive discussions in the past regarding the State Health Benefits Commission's exercise of a waiver exempting the state from the parity requirements of current federal legislation. A letter on this issue was sent to the Commission and a response is in

member's table packets. It was suggested that the Council adopt the draft resolution supporting S796 in July.

Discussion and vote to adopt a resolution in support of S1696 that amends existing statute concerning student survey

Kay McGrath gave an overview of the legislation introduced by Senator Turner regarding student surveys. The legislation proposes to amend the existing statute that requires active permission to conduct student surveys, back to passive permission.

The two resolutions were tabled until the July meeting due to a lack of quorum.

Executive Committee

John Gluck reported on the meeting held on June 10, 2010 regarding revisions to the guidelines for the alliance grant program. Some of the changes to grant requirements for the 2009-2011 grant cycle were in response to comments in the comptroller's audit report regarding the implementation of evidence based programming. Mr. Gluck indentified some additional proposed changes and stated that they would be presented to the Council at the next meeting.

Executive Director Powner gave a brief overview of the work of the guidelines committee two years ago that brought about the changes for the 2009-2011 cycle and what additional changes were discussed at the June meeting.

Ms. Powner reported that GCADA has received approval to have CADCA conduct New Jersey Coalition Academy trainings for the alliances. Discussions are underway on how to organize the trainings for maximum effectiveness. Ms. Powner gave a brief overview of the trainings and discussed how they would benefit the municipal alliances.

Alliance Committee – No Report

Interdepartmental Advisory Panel - No Report

Planning Committee

Acting Chairman Van Ess reported that the Council is seeking a chair for the committee.

Criminal/Juvenile Justice Subcommittee – No Report

Legislative Subcommittee

Kay McGrath, Chair, reported that the subcommittee met on May 13, 2010. Wayne Wirta, CEO and President of NCADD New Jersey presented on the future of addiction in New Jersey from a federal perspective. Mr. Wirta foresees two major changes, the first is in the kinds of services that are purchased and the second is the purchase mechanism of those services. Ms. McGrath gave a brief overview of the presentation.

The subcommittee discussed the proposed 2011 budget cuts to the tobacco control program. Subcommittee member Janis Mayer Obermeier asked for the support of GCADA in appealing to the Governor for reinstatement of funding.

Executive Director Powner discussed the National Control Strategy issued by the White House Office on National Drug Control Policy. She read the key objectives from the 2010 Strategic Plans Highlight Report and pointed out that many of the key objectives stress community based initiatives and collaboration, which are cornerstones of the municipal alliance program. Ms. Powner will distribute a copy of the strategy document to Council members.

Treatment Subcommittee

Gregg Benson, Chair, reported that the Treatment Subcommittee did not meet last month. The June subcommittee meeting, scheduled to follow today's Council meeting, was to feature a presentation on the DUII/Vivitrol project by Vickie Fresolone of the Division of Addiction Services. This presentation, however, was recently canceled. The subcommittee is somewhat frustrated as this presentation was previously scheduled and subsequently canceled.

Mr. Benson expressed concern about the proposed cut of \$850,000 in treatment funding in the upcoming state budget. This would eliminate funding for the New Views Treatment at Greystone State Psychiatric Hospital, which has been operating for 25 years. Mr. Benson gave a brief overview of this program and how these cuts would impact. He suggested the Council support reinstatement of funding so these services are not lost.

Veterans and Military Ad Hoc Committee

Nick Petrozzino, GCADA Staff, reported that he will be updating the Veteran's Resource Guide.

Mr. Petrozzino reported that he recently attended a three day conference sponsored by SAMSHA. SAMSHA puts on a policy academy every couple of years to bring states together to identify a particular issue in a particular population. This conference was focused on military veterans and their families. Ten states were invited to participate in the conference. Mr. Petrozzino gave an overview of the conference. The team representing New Jersey at the conference developed the following five priorities that need to be addressed: building the leadership structure; integration; catalogue all the available services; employment; and, jail diversion program.

On the last day of the conference each team member was assigned areas of responsibilities based on the five priorities. The team will meet again on June 30, 2010 to discuss their activities.

Other Business

Bob Zlotnick stated that in the last several weeks he has become aware and concerned about a growing movement to deregulate alcohol in New Jersey, including proposed legislation to make

alcohol available in grocery stores, deregulation of internet and catalogue sales of wine to New Jersey residents, and proposed reduction of taxes on alcoholic beverages. Mr. Zlotnick wanted the Council to be aware of these issues and watch their progress. Lisa Ellison Barata mentioned that since she was a DAG if anyone needed information on these issues they could contact her.

Mr. Zlotnick also stated that the National Recovery Rally will be held on September 25, 2010 at Penns Landing, and Operation Medicine Cabinet will take place on November 13, 2010.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Powner, noting the repeated cancellations of the Vivitrol treatment presentation by a representative of the Division of Addiction Services and the lack of an attendance RSVP for the past three Council meetings, asked that the Acting Chairman send a letter to the Department of Human Services asking them to join with GCADA in resolving any outstanding issues in order to enhance agency collaboration. Acting Chairman Van Ess agreed to send a letter. Mr. Benson added that in January there was the discussion about developing a more collaborative and closer working relationship between GCADA and DAS, and he feels that this has not come to fruition. He noted the offer made by DAS to make the Vivitrol presentation, which they have now cancelled twice.

Public Comments

Jim O'Brien, CEO, Maryville Addiction Treatment Centers of New Jersey, commented on Kay McGrath's report regarding the movement towards a fee-for-services paradigm in the treatment field, and some of the difficulties associated with it. Fee for services is fine as long as there is sufficient funding made available to get through the year. This year has been a dramatic disappointment as funding is depleted already. Mr. O'Brien stated that the South Jersey Initiative had started to close the treatment gap in South Jersey and he recommended that SJI's services be limited to clients from South Jersey.

Adjournment

Acting Vice Chairman Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Mary Lou Powner

Executive Director

