

MINUTES
Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
September 21, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

The two hundred third regular meeting of the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse was called to order at 10:15 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

Mr. Van Ess welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Acting Chairman Van Ess asked for a motion to approve the July 20, 2010 minutes as presented to the Council.

John Gluck motioned to approve the July 20, 2010 minutes; seconded by Gregg Benson. A roll call vote was taken (see attached vote sheet) and the motion carried.

Adoption of By-Law Amendments

Executive Director Mary Lou Powner discussed the proposed amendments to the by-laws. Specific changes are the inclusion of the Department of Children and Families and the creation of the Veterans' and Military Families Subcommittee.

Acting Chairman Van Ess asked for a motion to approve the by-laws as presented to the Council.

John Gluck motioned to approve the by-laws; seconded by Harry Morey.

Gregg Benson motioned to adopt the by-laws with the two amendments made on the floor; seconded by Harry Morey. A roll call vote was taken (see attached vote sheet) and the motion carried.

Adoption of the Program Guidelines

John Gluck explained that there were no changes to the guidelines since the last Council meeting and there had been no additional questions or comments presented to the Council leadership.

Mr. Gluck motioned to approve the revised Alliance grant program guidelines as presented to the Council; seconded by Harry Morey. A roll call vote was taken (see attached vote sheet) and the motion carried.

Authorization of CADCA Membership Renewal

Executive Director Powner stated that this is a yearly membership GCADA subscribes to and gave a brief overview of the benefits of membership. This is separate from the Coalition Academy training that the Council is sponsoring for the Alliances.

Acting Chairman Van Ess asked for a motion to approve the membership renewal. Harry Morey motioned to approve; seconded by Gregg Benson. A roll call vote was taken (see attached vote sheet) and the motion carried.

Executive Committee

Acting Chairman Van Ess stated that the committee met before the Council meeting and Executive Director Powner will give an overview during her Executive Director's report.

Guideline Revisions Workgroup

John Gluck thanked the workgroup for its work and Gary Vermeire for his editing of the guidelines. There were quite a few meetings and discussions on changes needed to respond to recommendations in the Comptroller's report and he feels that the changes address those issues adequately. Mr. Van Ess thanked Mr. Gluck and Mr. Vermeire along with the staff for their work.

Alliance Committee

Harry Morey, Chair, reported that the committee met on September 14, 2010 and was brought up to date by Ms. Powner and GCADA staff Rebecca Alfaro on planning for the Coalition Academy and plans for the Summit. The Summit has been rescheduled for Spring 2011. The next Alliance Committee meeting will be on November 12, 2010.

Interdepartmental Advisory Panel

Gary Vermeire, Chair, reported that the IAP met in August and discussed the State Government Component of the Master Plan. The IAP agreed to retain the existing format and request additional information from the departments. Additional information being sought includes a request for more detail in the State agency narratives on programs and activities; identification of existing web sites for projects or activities; and information on programs that are not funded projects or services, but are collaborations with other agencies.

Planning Committee – No Report

Criminal/Juvenile Justice Subcommittee

Executive Director Powner reported that Council member Myrtle Daniels has agreed to chair the subcommittee. Efforts are underway to recruit new members and reconstitute the subcommittee in the near future.

Legislative Subcommittee

Kay McGrath, Chair, reported that the subcommittee did not meet since the last Council meeting and will meet next on October 7, 2010. Ms. McGrath and GCADA staff member Nick Petrozzino met with Executive Director Powner recently to discuss some of the goals of the subcommittee and how they may be more effective in the future.

Ms. McGrath received a telephone call from the wife of subcommittee member Hank Kurz to inform her that he is in hospice care with terminal liver cancer. Mr. Kurz has been a very active and contributing member of the subcommittee and Ms. McGrath suggested a letter be sent to him thanking him for his work.

Robert Zlotnick reported that the New Jersey Prevention Network (NJPN) has identified a couple of issues as a priority for this coming legislative session, including S2133 which would give police and prosecutors statewide more authority to restrict underage drinking on private property; A3242/S1696 the school survey bill; and A2464 which concerns steroid use.

Dr. Zlotnick also mentioned that NJPN members and other professional prevention agencies around the state are going to be working this fall with emergency room physicians to gather information on a couple of substances that are being abused but are legal. He gave a brief overview of these substances and their impacts. Dr. Zlotnick also gave an overview of the simulated marijuana products that are legally being sold in shops.

Kay McGrath mentioned a packet of bills discussed previously that related to mandatory sentencing and the costs incurred because of the sentencing of non-violent offenders. Ms. McGrath read an article in the paper that the State of Missouri in bringing a defendant before the court must inform the judge of the cost of various penalties so the judge will consider the cost in making his ruling. Ms. McGrath thought that with the current fiscal crisis that this might be the wave of the future.

Treatment Subcommittee – No Report

Veterans and Military Ad Hoc Committee – No Report

Other Business

Robert Zlotnick stated that effective July 1, 2010 the new Office of Tobacco Control has moved into the Department of Health and Senior Services and staff and funding has been cut. There is a delegation of Chinese public health officials scheduled to visit the Department of Health and Senior Services to learn about New Jersey's success in tobacco prevention and control which is ironic since they just eliminated the program. New Jersey's adult smoking rate at 15% is one of the lowest in the country.

Dr. Zlotnick also mentioned that the Division of Addiction Services (DAS) and the Division of Mental Health Services are in the process of merging. An advisory committee on the merger made up of providers and stakeholders has been convened and he has been asked to serve on this committee. He believes he was introduced as representing GCADA and it is not clear to him if

he was included on the committee in his capacity as a member of GCADA. Dr. Zlotnick asked that we ask the DHS about this. Executive Director Powner stated that she would inquire into it and said it would be unusual for such an appointment to bypass the GCADA Chairman and Executive Director.

Gregg Benson wanted to make everyone aware of the National Drug Survey of 2008-2009 statistics in which there is a dramatic increase in use across the board. Mr. Benson gave a brief overview of what the statistics show and the need to get the message out about this troubling trend.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Powner stated that once the Council membership has been filled we should take a renewed look at the mission, vision and goals of the Council. Ms. Powner is hopeful that appointments will be made soon to fill the vacancies on the Council and that next year we will be able to revisit a strategic planning process.

Ms. Powner mentioned that GCADA has reached out to DAS to set up a meeting with them and the county directors to discuss our next planning cycle. GCADA has also invited DAS prevention staff to join in the CADCA coalition training.

Executive Director Powner reported further on the postponement of the Summit. She feels that it would be better to hold it in the spring for a variety of reasons. She has talked to Diane Litterer to see when the NJPN conference is so there is no conflict. Mr. Zlotnick suggested possibly for the following year to have it in conjunction with the NJPN conference. Ms. Powner also mentioned that to continue to do the volunteer recognition awards we should make the event an evening affair as it is difficult for the volunteers who are receiving awards to attend during the day.

Executive Director Powner wants to talk to DAS and NJPN and approach the administration with the idea to have a statewide campaign against underage drinking that would involve the Alliances. It was suggested that perhaps the First Lady or the Lt. Governor could be honorary chairperson of such a campaign.

Ms. Powner provided members with CSAP/CSAT reports from the DAS web site. In January, Gregg Benson in his capacity as chairman of the treatment subcommittee had asked for copies of the report from DAS but had not received them and was not informed that they were available on the web site.

Executive Director Powner mentioned that the December Council meeting originally scheduled for the 14th may need to be pushed back to the 21st. The date will be determined at a later time.

Public Comments

Robert Zlotnick mentioned that there is a call for proposals out for anyone who wants to present at the NJPN Conference and they need to respond by October 15, 2010.

This Saturday in Philadelphia the National Recovery Walk will be held at Penn's Landing. There also will be a rally in Randall Park in Brooklyn, New York. Executive Director Powner said there is a bus going to the Philadelphia event from NCADD in Robbinsville, NJ.

Adjournment

Acting Chairman Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:58 a.m.

Mary Lou Powner
Executive Director