

**MINUTES**  
**Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse**  
**March 17, 2010**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The two hundred forty 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**

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 ALEGIANCE**

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

**ROLL CALL**

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

**Chairman's Remarks**

**Nominations and vote for First and Second Vice Chair**

Acting Chairman Neil Van Ess (who is the First Vice Chair) turned the meeting over to Executive Director Powner for the purpose of conducting the election of the First and Second Vice Chairs. She explained that if there was a sitting Chairman he/she would call for nominations and conduct the election of the two Vice Chairs.

Executive Director Powner asked for nominations for the position of First Vice Chair. John Gluck nominated Neil Van Ess for First Vice Chair; seconded by Harry Morey. Executive Director Powner asked if there were any other nominations and when there were none she asked for a motion to close nominations. Harry Morey moved nominations

be closed; seconded by Bettyann Cowling Carson. The motion to close was carried unanimously. Executive Director Powner than asked for a motion to have the recording secretary to record a unanimous vote for Neil Van Ess for the position of First Vice Chair. John Gluck motioned; seconded by Bettyann Cowling Carson. The motion carried unanimously.

Acting Chairman Van Ess resumed control of the meeting and asked for nominations from the members for the position of Second Vice Chairman. Harry Morey nominated John Gluck and Bettyann Cowling Carson seconded the motion. Acting Chair Van Ess asked if there were any other nominations and seeing none Harry Morey moved to close the nominations; seconded by Bettyann Cowling Carson. Acting Chair Van Ess instructed the recording secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for John Gluck for the position of Second Vice Chair. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Acting Chairman's Report**

Acting Chairman Van Ess wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day and that it was good seeing everyone and apologized for missing the January meeting.

He wanted to mention that he has spoken with Executive Director Powner about the appointments to the Council. He has asked her to schedule a meeting with the new Director of the Governor's Appointments Office to discuss having the vacancies on the Council filled. He would also like John Gluck to accompany him if he is available.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Acting Chairman Van Ess asked for a motion to approve the January 19, 2010 minutes as presented to the Council.

John Gluck motioned to approve the January 19, 2010 minutes as presented to the Council; seconded by Harry Morey. A roll call vote was taken (see attached vote sheet) and the motion carried.

### **Discussion and Vote to approve 2010 County Alliance awards for Atlantic, Bergen and Burlington counties**

Acting Chairman Van Ess asked Harry Morey if he would like to introduce the resolution to approve these plans. Mr. Morey explained that these three counties have submitted all of their plan updates; the changes are minimal, have been reviewed and are ready to be voted on. Executive Director Powner explained that this resolution was actually

scheduled to be voted on at the February meeting. There were very few and minor changes involved in all three counties and asked if there were any questions.

Harry Morey motioned to adopt the resolution approving the 2010 awards for Atlantic, Bergen and Burlington counties; seconded by John Gluck. A roll call vote was taken (see attached vote sheet). A recusal was recorded for each Council member from the vote on the plan from the county of their residence, the motion carried.

### **Resolution Recognizing March 2010 as Problem Gambling Awareness Month**

Acting Chair Van Ness asked Executive Director Powner to give a brief overview of the resolution. The Executive Director explained the resolution in everyone's packet is different from the one prepared for the cancelled February meeting. This one recognizes Problem Gambling Awareness Month following Governor Christie's proclamation recognizing March as Problem Gambling Awareness Month. The earlier resolution recognized National Problem Gambling Awareness Week, March 7-13, 2010.

Acting Chair Van Ess introduced Donald Weinbaum, Executive Director of The Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey to give a brief background on the Council and the context of the resolution recognizing problem gambling awareness month.

Mr. Weinbaum started his presentation stating that National Problem Gambling Awareness Week is a national grassroots effort; there are thirty five state councils like the New Jersey State Council working with the National Council on Problem Gambling. New Jersey has been one of the leaders in the area of problem gambling and we have had an active Council since 1983; the second state in the nation. Mr. Weinbaum gave a brief overview on the Council, who they partner with, how gambling is a disease and where they are focusing their efforts. The Council is involved in advocacy efforts, information dissemination and clinical training workshops.

Mr. Weinbaum discussed how gambling can be a relapse trigger for other addictions, the impact it has on families and other risk factors of this illness. He discussed some ideas the Council has on working with GCADA to building coalitions at the local, county and state levels to get the word out to adolescents, young adults, communities and policy makers. In closing he hoped that the Council would approve the resolution today and disseminate it to its network of county and municipal alliances. He suggested everyone check out their website, which is [www.800gambler.org](http://www.800gambler.org), for more information. Their hotline number is 1-800-GAMBLER.

There were some questions and comments from the Council members present and Mr. Weinbaum responded to them. Acting Chair Van Ess thanked Mr. Weinbaum for coming to discuss this important issue with the Council and invited him back every February to update the Council when it would be passing a Resolution on Problem Gambling Awareness.

Acting Chair Van Ess asked to a motion to approve the Resolution to Recognize March 2010 as Problem Gambling Awareness Month.

Harry Morey made a motion to approve the resolution; seconded by John Gluck. A roll call vote was taken (see attached vote sheet).

### **Executive Committee**

Acting Chair Van Ess reported that the Executive Committee met briefly this morning prior to the Council meeting to discuss the leadership for the next several months and the continued vacancies on the Council. He said he would be seeking a meeting with the Governor's Office to discuss appointments.

### **Alliance Committee**

Harry Morey, Chair, reported that the Alliance Committee met in March and Donald Weinbaum gave a brief presentation regarding the gambling problem in New Jersey and how it ties in with alcoholism and drug abuse.

Executive Director Powner made a presentation to the committee members regarding some ideas for reorganizing and developing new strategies for the committee, the Alliances and prevention efforts.

The Alliance Committee decided to go back to monthly meetings and will be meeting the second Tuesday of every month and that will make the next one on April 13, 2010.

### **Interdepartmental Advisory Panel** - No Report

### **Planning Committee**

Acting Chair Van Ess announced that Executive Committee has someone in mind for the Planning Committee Chair, but some additional time is necessary before the person can make a decision to accept.

## **Criminal/Juvenile Justice Subcommittee**

Acting Chair Van Ess reported that there is no report and the subcommittee is being reorganized and anyone wishing to serve as the Chair of the Subcommittee or as a member should contact the Executive Director.

## **Legislative Subcommittee**

Kay McGrath, Chair, reported that they met on February 4, 2010 and discussed the Federal Parity bill waiver asked for by the State Health Benefits Commission. At the request of the Subcommittee Executive Director Powner had written a letter to the Commission requesting more information and was awaiting a response.

They then discussed second chance legislation, bills submitted by Assembly Majority Leader Bonnie Watson Coleman and are of interest to GCADA because they deal with drug related crime and rehabilitation. The following list of bills were discussed and acted upon in the lame duck session:

- A4197 – Strengthening Women and Families Act
- A4198 – Post Release Employment Act
- A4201 – Reduction of Recidivism Act
- A4202 – Education and Rehabilitation
- A4203 – Criminal Penalties Act
- A4204 – Revises eligibility for expungement of criminal records for certain offenders

Ms. McGrath provided an orientation for new members and discussed GCADA and the roles the Alliances play in the mission of GCADA. They discussed how alliances develop their programs and attract new members. Ms. McGrath read the subcommittee goals and objectives to the members of the subcommittee and gave an overview of how they are accomplished and how those goals and objectives fit into the general mission of GCADA. They also discussed the process the subcommittee takes in support or opposition of proposed legislation and subsequent action.

Mr. Petrozzino gave a review of the latest tracking report covering new bills introduced in the 2010-2011 legislative session and Candice Singer from NCADD gave more information on some of these bills. Ninety five percent of the bills listed in the 2010-2011 tracking report are holdovers from the previous session.

Hank Kurz from the Partnership of a Drug Free New Jersey discussed a bill his organization is interested that deals with “Safe Drop off Depository” for prescription drugs.

### **Treatment Subcommittee**

Executive Director Powner reported that there was a meeting last month and the Treatment Subcommittee is exploring ways to grow their membership. They will be doing some direct outreach to the treatment provider community.

At the offer made by DAS Director Raquel Mazon Jeffers at the January meeting, the Treatment Subcommittee did reach out and make a request to DAS to make a presentation on the Vivitrol initiative. That presentation will be in May. There is a meeting immediately following the Council meeting today.

### **Veterans and Military Ad Hoc Committee**

Acting Chair Van Ess discussed with Nick Petrozzino, GCADA, on updating the Veterans' Resource guide and having a meeting.

Executive Director Powner reminded everyone that about a year ago GCADA coordinated an application from SAMHSA to attend a policy academy on veterans and integrating community based services. New Jersey was not one of the States picked last year. However, a few weeks ago Colonel (ret) Stephen Able, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Veterans' & Military Affairs was contacted by SAMHSA and told we had been selected New Jersey to attend the next policy academy in June based upon last year's application. Nick Petrozzino, GCADA, and Carl Lang, DMVA, updated the application with current information and will be participating along with the Divisions of Addiction Services, Mental Health and Medicaid from the Department of Human Services. There are several other partners in this initiative.

### **Other Business**

Robert Zlotnick wanted to inform the Council that both the NJPN and DAS websites have a link for GCADA, but GCADA's website does not show links for these two agencies. Executive Director Powner explained that when Treasury converted our website to the new format some pages were dropped including the page that had out links. We are working with the Office of Information Technology on fixing this issue.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Powner recognized the attendance John Hulick. John has joined the new administration and is working in the Planning and Policy Office of the Governor. The GCADA has not had a Governor's Office representative since the early months of the McGreevey administration. Many members know him from his work with NCADD

and the collaborative projects he worked on with the GCADA. Mr. Hulick has retired from NCADD to join the state and it's great advocate to have working with the Council.

Executive Director Powner reported that the Governor's Budget in Brief documents show the Governor's Council in the Department of Treasury and the FY 2011 budget is consistent with Treasury's estimate for the DEDR fund collections. She also reported the following: GCADA has experienced a staff reduction of three from last year and now have nine employees; we will be losing some of our office space (currently unused) because they are moving another small agency into the location; we have an engagement agreement in place with the auditing firm who will begin reviewing counties in April; and, on our behalf, Treasury has submitted a waiver request that will allow us to move forward with CADCA (Community Anti Drug Coalitions of America) running a New Jersey Coalition Academy to train the Alliance network. Executive Director Powner gave a brief overview on what this training would entail.

Executive Director Powner also reported that the Comptroller's follow up review that was suppose to last a few weeks in December was just finishing up. On February 16<sup>th</sup> we were notified that they were also going to go back to Essex County. At the initiation of the follow up process they had only planned to revisit Mercer and Monmouth Counties.

She reported that the Mercer County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Director had shared her concern with us because the Comptroller's staff continued to question public awareness activities like the petting zoo in Hamilton Township. GCADA and Mercer County staff provided a great quantity of materials regarding community based prevention to the Comptroller's office in order to provide them with information on community coalitions and public awareness activities. Executive Director Powner said she shared Mercer County's concern on whether the staff of the Comptroller's Office understood health prevention and community based coalition efforts. She said she wrote asking for a meeting of the audit team and their supervisor with the GCADA's Executive Committee. The supervisor called and asked why we wanted the meeting and said he didn't believe it was necessary. Subsequently, she received a phone call from him questioning Hamilton Township Alliance. She followed up by forwarding additional information to them, including the July 2008 letter clarifying the GCADA's intent and the Alliance Guidelines on the issue of evidence based programs.

Acting Chair Van Ess mentioned that the Comptroller's Office has never heard from anyone on the Council on what has been done for the last twenty years, the grass root effort of the Alliances and the Council's understanding of the legislation that it is not their place to dictate to the counties and the municipalities – that the program is about local folks deciding what works best for them. His recommendation is that we write a

letter requesting a meeting. There were many questions from the members present and discussion including Executive Director Powner and Camille Bloomberg of Mercer County. Second Vice Chair Gluck explained to the Council members present that GCADA has done everything fiscally that needed to be done with the Comptroller's report. He agreed with the suggestion to send a letter requesting a meeting with the Comptroller's Office; it should say we have done all the things that were required and we feel our programs are appropriate and if you have a problem tell us specifically what the problem is. It was agreed the Council will wait for the Comptroller's draft report to come out and follow up with a letter regarding the findings.

Executive Director Powner reported that the Master Plan has finally been printed and it includes a matrix of all state services in addition to the narratives provided by the departments. She said that in the next year the IAP (Interdepartmental Advisory Panel) could work to refine the matrix so the information is more comprehensive and uniform.

Executive Director Powner also thanked Gary Vermeire for inviting her to a couple of committees at the Department of Education dealing with student surveys. She hopes by collaborating and partnering with DOE, DHS and DHSS on a new way to implement student surveys we will be able to give access to local data to our counties and municipalities. She said she will eventually look for GCADA approval to utilize funds to partner in this effort. She also announced that she was invited by Dave Evans of the Drug Free School's Coalition to a meeting with the new Commissioner of Education, Bret Schundler, and she was able to discuss with him the current student survey law.

Executive Director Powner has been working on a power point presentation for new member orientation after the issue was brought up at the January meeting. She will plan on presenting it to all the Council members at next month's meeting.

Executive Director Powner announced that on Saturday, March 27, 2010 she was holding an open forum for Municipal Alliances at the Middlesex County Fire Academy and acknowledge the co sponsorship of the Middlesex County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division in providing the continental breakfast. She plans on holding several more around the state in the coming months as a way to keep in direct contact with municipal alliances to encourage them to keep their energy level raised so they stay active and engaged.

### **Public Comments**

Dorrinda Sapp reported that reading the overview of the Veterans' Assistance Project included in their materials, Gary Engler was noted as the Director of Veterans' Service's



for the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs. He is no longer with them and they are awaiting the appointment of a new director and she will keep the Council informed.

Mary Ann Barkus the designee from the Department of Community Affairs announced that this was her last Council meeting due to the fact that she is retiring. She mentioned that she has enjoyed working with the Council and the Veteran's committee.

Jim O'Brien, Chief Executive Officer of Maryville, wanted to bring a couple of issues to the Council's attention. He started by saying that last year in addiction treatment statewide there were about 60,000 people treated and the Division of Addiction Services estimates that need for addiction treatment in New Jersey is 800,000. Out of these 800,000 who need treatment 60,000 got treatment which not all of them wanted and there are 30,000 people who wanted treatment but didn't get it. He said there are a couple of reasons for this happening: the AEREF (Alcohol Enforcement Rehabilitation and Education Fund which is drawn from the tax on alcohol but is capped - the cap needs to be raised; ten years ago the South Jersey Initiative (SJI) was established to provide treatment to young people ages 13 to 24 from the southern eight counties; however, last year that fund was gone by March, stayed empty for the remainder of the fiscal year, kicked back in July and by January 4<sup>th</sup> this year admissions were stopped because this fund was depleted. He will be testifying at a budget hearing next week to let the legislators know how much is needed to make sure that the SJI and the AEREF are solid for a year so the funds are not bankrupt before the end of the year and people who need and want treatment can get it. Mr. O'Brien wanted to encourage the public members of the Council to arrange to speak at one of these hearings and advocate for addiction treatment funding.

Acting Chair Van Ess thanked Mr. O'Brien for sharing these concerns with the council. He also thanked the GCADA staff for all the work they do.

### **Adjournment**

Acting Vice Chairman Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 12:10 a.m.

Mary Lou Powner  
Executive Director