



## State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE

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CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

NEIL VAN ESS  
*Acting Chairman*

JOHN L. HULICK, MS, CPS  
*Executive Director*

### MINUTES

#### Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

April 17, 2012

#### Call to Order

The two hundred 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).

#### Roll Call

Katelyn Assenheimer called the roll. Members present and absent were noted for the record.

#### Approval of March Minutes

The minutes from the March meeting were approved by the members of the Council. (Y-11; N-0; ABS-4).

#### Swearing in of John Hulick as Executive Director

Assemblywoman Mary Pat Angelini, conducted the swearing in of John Hulick as Executive Director of the Governor's Council. Director Hulick thanked all for attending and expressed his gratitude to Governor Christie for selecting him for this position.

#### Gubernatorial Proclamation and Resolution Recognizing April as "Alcohol Awareness Month"

Wayne Wirta, President and CEO of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence - NJ gave a brief presentation on the devastating effects of alcohol abuse. Executive Director John Hulick shared a proclamation received from Governor Christie declaring April as "Alcohol Awareness Month". The Council also voted on and

approved a resolution recognizing April as Alcohol Awareness Month. (Y-15; N-0; ABS- 0).

### **County Alliance Site Visits and Mercadien Audit Overview**

Rebecca Alfaro presented an overview of the site visits that Council staff conducted last year. Staff conducted compliance reviews of fiscal, administrative and programmatic data from each of the 21 counties.

Ms. Alfaro also reviewed the audits conducted by the Mercadien Group. Mercadien has been evaluating each county to ensure program compliance. Eighteen of the 21 counties have been audited by Mercadien to date.

### **Resolution Regarding the County Alliance Plan Updates for 2012**

A resolution was presented to the Council for approval of the Essex County plan update. After a brief discussion, the Council approved the resolution (Y-13; N-0; ABS- 1).

### **Policy and Planning Committee**

Committee chairman Frank Greenagel discussed appointment of the Task Force on Heroin and Other Opiate Use by New Jersey's Youth and Young Adults. The Task Force will hold public meetings in hopes of increasing public awareness of this serious problem as well as to develop recommendations for best practices moving forward. The schedule for these meetings will be announced in May.

### **Military and Veterans Subcommittee**

The Resource Guide for New Jersey Military Veterans & Families was distributed to Council members. It is anticipated that the resource guide will be mailed out to all legislators by Memorial Day.

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

John Hulick called attention to the member committee/subcommittee questionnaire that was provided in the meeting packets. The new bylaws have created a robust committee structure and members are being asked to identify their preference for a committee or subcommittee on which they would like to participate. The committees and subcommittees will have input and play a role in the development of the Blueprint.

Mr. Hulick announced that US Journal Training, Inc. will be holding their Northeast Conference on Behavioral Health and Addictive Disorders, September 12-15, 2012, immediately following the Council's Summit on September 12, at the Hyatt in New Brunswick.

### **Public Comments**

Charles Breitweiser requested the Council's support for proposed legislation to fund a statewide "Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs" (HOFNOD) program through an annual appropriation from the Drug Enforcement Demand Reduction fund. Acting Chairman Neil Van Ess stated that the Council does not endorse statewide prevention programs but rather reviews programs proposed as part of comprehensive prevention plans submitted by municipal Alliances. Mr. Van Ess encouraged Mr. Breitweiser to contact the Council to request an exhibit table at the Council Summit in September to provide exposure for the HOFNOD program to local Alliances.

### **Adjournment**

Acting Chairman Neil Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.