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State of New Jersey
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
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Acting Chairman
CELINA LEVY
Acting Executive Director

MINUTES

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

May 18, 2016

Call to Order

The three hundred and ninth 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 Minutes

After a brief discussion, the meeting minutes for March and April of 2016 were approved.

March (Y-14; N-0; ABS- 0)

April (Y-9; N-0; ABS-5)

Chairman's Report

Acting Chairman Neil Van Ess informed the Council that the FY17 County Plans for all 21 counties would be voted on. He thanked the Council members as well as the county coordinators for their hard work. Chairman Van Ess stated that the approval of all 21 county plans prior to the beginning of the grant term was a milestone for the Alliance program. He also stated that May 15th was National Prevention Week.

Council Member Service Recognition

Dorinda Sapp-Nall, former designee from the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs was presented with a plaque in recognition of her service to the Governor's Council. She expressed her gratitude for the award and stated that being on the Council has been one of the most rewarding experiences of her career.

Presentation – “An Effectiveness Study of Substance Abuse Prevention Services for Children with Conduct Disorder”

Donald Hallcom, Ph.D., Director of Prevention and Early Intervention within the Department of Human Services, and Matthew Rochè, Ph.D., from Rutgers University Behavioral Healthcare, gave an overview of a study being done on children with conduct disorder. Children with conduct disorder are at an elevated risk for substance use disorders later in life.

The study consists of four interventions which consist of biofeedback, computer-based cognitive training, social decision making and also the Strengthening Families curriculum. This is a five year study that is taking place in four school districts in New Jersey with 200 families enrolled. Each intervention lasts 14 weeks and includes pre and post testing as well as three follow up testing sessions.

This study is being done on children eight to 11 years old and the purpose is to create an easily disseminated evidence-based package of interventions that will reduce the risk of later substance abuse use disorder in at-risk children.

Council Business

FY17 County Plans

Kevin Sullivan, Director of Programs and Planning, informed the Council that all 21 County Plans would be up for vote. This is the third year of a five year grant cycle. Counties have been making ongoing improvements throughout the year with GCADA oversight through the grant modification process. Mr. Sullivan asked that the Council members who had previously informed the GCADA ethics officer of the need to recuse themselves from voting on the FY17 County Plans to state their reason for recusal for the record.

Gregg Benson – recused from Morris due to professional affiliations within the county;
BettyAnn Cowling-Carson – recused from Camden due to professional affiliations within the county;
Gisele Pemberton – recused from Union due to professional affiliations within the county;
Robert Zlotnick – recused from all counties due to his agency providing prevention services (Forest Friends) to Alliance programs in multiple counties.

After a vote, the 21 County Plans were approved.

FY17 Joint County Plan Resolution (Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Passaic, Salem, Somerset, Sussex and Warren) (Y-14; ABS-1; N-0)
FY17 Camden County Plan Resolution (Y-12; ABS-2; N-0)
FY17 Morris County Plan Resolution (Y-13; ABS-1; N-0)
FY17 Union County Plan Resolution (Y-13; ABS-1; N-0)

Mental Health Awareness Month Resolution

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy read a resolution declaring May Mental Health Awareness Month with the theme being "Life with Mental Illness". After a vote, this resolution was approved. (Y-16; ABS-0; N-0)

Acting Executive Director's Report

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy thanked the county coordinators for their collaboration effort in getting the plans approved. She also thanked Chairman Van Ess for his leadership as well as GCADA staff.

Ms. Levy said she was pleased to announce that GCADA was fully staffed and introduced Sean Campbell who has been hired to fill the position of State Alliance Coordinator. She stated that in the next coming months work would begin on the Master Plan and stakeholders and Council members will be asked for their input. More information will be available on the development process in the fall.

Ms. Levy also shared that Bergen County now has a fleet of 20 county cars with a prevention message on them including the GCADA addiction campaign logo.

Ms. Levy and Deputy Director Rebecca Alfaro will be attending a panel at Trinitas Hospital on healthcare integration. Staff will be working to have Michelle Eichorn, the director of the program, present at a future Council meeting.

The Recovery Rally will be taking place on September 17th at the Middlesex County Fairgrounds. Information has been placed in the packets.

Other Council Business

Wanda Moore from the Department of Law and Public Safety announced that on June 14th there would be a Chaplains Conference at the War Memorial in Trenton. Topics include crisis counseling, gangs, policing and keeping houses of worship safe.

Adjournment

Chairman Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.