



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
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NEIL VAN ESS
Acting Chairman

JOHN L. HULICK, MS, CPS
Executive Director

MINUTES

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse April 16, 2013

Call to Order

The two hundred seventy 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 February and March Minutes

After a brief discussion, the February and March minutes were approved with amendments.

February Minutes – (Y-17; N-0; ABS-1)

March Minutes – (Y-9; N-0; ABS-9)

Chairman's Report

Acting Chairman Neil Van Ess informed the Council that the Task Force on Heroin and Other Opiate Use by New Jersey's Youth and Young Adults met on April 12th to discuss their final recommendations for its report, which is scheduled to be submitted for review by the Council in May. Kim Todd and Julie Caliwan, from the consulting firm Innovations Collaborative, were contracted by GCADA to assist in the development of this report. The task force findings will be incorporated into the development of the Blueprint for a Drug-Free New Jersey - 2020.

Mr. Van Ess shared a letter he received from Katie Regan, wife of Riley Regan, in which she thanked GCADA for naming a community service award in her husband's honor. She also shared in her letter that she received a letter from Governor Christie expressing his condolences for the passing of Mr. Regan and commending his work in the drug and alcohol prevention field.

Resolution Recognizing “National Problem Gambling Awareness Week” and “Problem Gambling Awareness Month” in New Jersey

The Council voted on a resolution that was presented at last month's meeting, but not voted on due to a lack of quorum. After a brief discussion, the resolution was approved. (Y- 18; N-0; ABS-0)

Resolution Recognizing April as “Alcohol Awareness Month”

Celina Gray, Director of Public Awareness and Community Relations, read a proclamation from Governor Christie recognizing April as Alcohol Awareness Month. After a discussion, a resolution recognizing April as Alcohol Awareness Month was approved by the Council. (Y-18; N-0; ABS-0)

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Gray discussed the April 12th opiate Task Force meeting and the vigorous discussions that came from this meeting. A final report will be available in May. Several members raised concerns on whether they would be involved in the creation of the Blueprint for a Drug-Free New Jersey - 2020. Ms. Gray assured them that the blueprint would be a living document and all members would have the opportunity to provide their input.

Ms. Gray provided an update on the approval status of the 2013 county Alliance plans. Twenty out of 21 counties have submitted completed County Plans to GCADA and have been approved. Atlantic County has submitted their plan, but a few documents have yet to be turned in.

Other Council Business

Paul Ressler shared his concerns over the lack of guidance that has been provided to him after being named chairman of GCADA's Military and Veterans subcommittee. He was also concerned that the subcommittees had not met in some time. He asked that a report on the status of the subcommittees be put on next month's agenda.

Kevin Meara mentioned that the current GCADA bylaws give the executive director responsibility for creating the meeting agenda rather than the chairman as was the case in the previous bylaws. He asked that this topic be placed on the May meeting agenda for discussion.

Bob Zlotnick and Barbara Adolphe expressed their concern over the lack of business that is addressed at Council meetings. Several members suggested taking the meetings on the road to different municipalities so that local Alliances could share the work they are doing with the Council. A suggestion was also made that a list of presentation topics could be created and the Council could then vote on which presentations would be placed on the agenda.

Acting Chairman Neil Van Ess thanked everyone for their comments and assured the members that their concerns would be shared with executive director John Hulick.

Public Comments

Mary Beth Monroe, Gloucester County Alliance coordinator, discussed the challenges she faces administering the Alliance program and her hope for improved communication and cooperation amongst local, county and state entities in the administration of the Alliance program.

Announcements

Frank Greenagel informed the Council that the Rutgers Recovery Housing program graduation would be held on May 21st at 4:30 in the Livingston Student Center. Mr. Greenagel stated that all are welcome to attend and asked that the event information be forwarded to the Council members after the meeting.

Bob Zlotnick informed Council members that April 27th is National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. Each county in New Jersey has at least one drop box for unused medications that is available seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Adjournment

Acting Chairman Neil Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.