



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
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Acting Chairman

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Executive Director

MINUTES

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse December 18, 2012

Call to Order

The two hundred seventy fifth 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 September Minutes

The minutes from the September meeting were approved by the members of the Council. (Y-16; N-0; ABS-2)

Chairman's Report

Acting Chairman Van Ess welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr. Van Ess praised the Council on its accomplishments throughout the year. He highlighted the successful series of public hearings conducted in 2012 by the Council's Task Force on Heroin and Other Opiate Use by New Jersey's Youth and Young Adults. The final public hearing of the task force was held in October at Cooper Hospital in Camden and was very well attended. Mr. Van Ess also commented that he recently had the opportunity to meet with the consulting firm, The Innovations Collaborative, which has been contracted to assist the Council with drafting the opiate task force recommendations following the public hearings. The firm will also work with the Council on the development of the Blueprint for a Drug-Free New Jersey – 2020.

21st Annual Summit Evaluation Findings/Prevention and Training Update

Rebecca Alfaro summarized the attendee feedback from the Summit which was in general very positive. Attendees were very impressed with the keynote speaker, the exhibitors, the opportunity for networking and the chance to attend both a morning and afternoon workshop session. After reviewing the evaluations, a few areas were recommended for improvement. Many attendees had issues with parking as well as confusion about room locations where workshops were being held. Council staff will work to eliminate these logistical issues at the next Summit in 2013.

The CADCA Coalition Academy trainings were completed for all counties and were well received. The Council has contracted with Barnabas Health's Institute for Prevention to conduct trainings for local Alliances on the upcoming needs assessment and application process for the 2014-2017 grant term. These trainings will be held in two phases at various locations around the state beginning in the first quarter of 2013.

Public Awareness and Community Relations Update

Celina Gray informed the members of the work being done to rebrand the Governor's Council. This effort includes the creation of the new tagline for the municipal Alliance program "It Doesn't Get More Local", as well as four new logos that can be personalized for each Alliance.

Ms. Gray is working on an addiction awareness anti-stigma campaign that is due to be released in February. The New Jersey Office of Information Technology has been assisting the Council on creating a new website. This website should be online in January. The Council has also partnered with the Department of Human Services on creating a drug overdose awareness campaign. Recommendations from the Council's opiate task force will be used in this campaign as well.

Celina also shared her experience as workshop presenter at the Summit. Both she and John Hulick presented an Empowering Families workshop which was a humbling and powerful experience and received very positive feedback.

Resolution Naming GCADA Community Service Award after Riley W. Regan

Council members voted on a resolution mourning the loss of Riley Regan. Mr. Regan was instrumental in creating the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. Several Council members spoke fondly of Mr. Regan and of the road he paved for members of the treatment, addiction and prevention field. Sara Thode of Union County accepted the resolution on Mrs. Regan's behalf. A memorial service for Mr. Regan will be held on December 22nd in Westwood, NJ. Council members voted to create a community service award in Riley Regan's honor. (Y-18; N-0; ABS-1).

Resolution Regarding 2013 County Plan Updates

Rebecca Alfaro informed the Council that 17 of 21 county plan RFA updates were reviewed by Council staff and approved by the RFA review committee and were being submitted to the full Council for consideration. The 2013 county plan RFA update is the final year of the current grant cycle. The RFA review committee met earlier in the month to discuss these plans. The committee consisted of two Council members, representation from the Department of Human Services as well as GCADA staff. After a vote, the resolution was passed to approve the 17 county plan RFA updates. (Y-13; N-0; ABS-3).

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director John Hulick expressed how pleased he was with the progress and accomplishments of the Council in this past year.

Mr. Hulick spoke of the impact of Hurricane Sandy and the losses and disruption to Alliance programming in many parts of the state. A procedure is being developed to provide for supplemental appropriations to those Alliances which can provide proper documentation of material losses to the storm not covered by other funding sources.

Public Comments

Roseanne Scotti from the Drug Policy Alliance provided information to Council members on a collaborative campaign with municipal Alliances, NCADD-NJ, as well as nurses and social workers on preventing drug overdoses. She also shared that 15 municipalities in the state had passed resolutions supporting the Good Samaritan bill. Ms. Scotti also provided information on the drug Naloxone which is used as an antidote to opioid overdose.

Adjournment

Acting Chairman Neil Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.