



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE

PO Box 345

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0345

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

NEIL VAN ESS
Acting Chairman

JOHN L. HULICK, MS, CPS
Executive Director

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Establishing a Task Force on Heroin and Other Opiate Use by New Jersey's Youth and Young Adults

March 20, 2012

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (Council) is statutorily authorized and empowered to review and coordinate all State departments' efforts in regard to the planning and provision of treatment, prevention, research, evaluation, and education services for, and public awareness of, alcoholism and drug abuse; and,

WHEREAS, the Council is also statutorily authorized and empowered to evaluate the existing funding mechanisms for alcoholism and drug abuse services and recommend to the Governor and the Legislature any changes which may improve the coordination of services to citizens in this State as well as to collect from any State, county, local governmental entity or any other appropriate source data, reports, statistics or other materials which are necessary to carry out the Council's functions; and,

WHEREAS, the Christie Administration recognizes untreated substance abuse and mental illness has a significant human and fiscal impact on individuals, families, and government; and,

WHEREAS, the use of prescription pills is becoming more prevalent among teenagers and is leading to increased heroin addiction amongst New Jersey's youth and young adults; and,


WHEREAS, the three-thousand-three-hundred-four (3,304) other opiate admissions for New Jersey residents twenty-five and younger represented nearly half of all other opiate admissions in 2010 and increased by nearly 1,150 admissions from 2009; and,


WHEREAS, heroin admissions for this age group has climbed to 5,815 in 2010, 1,100 more than in 2005 when there were 4,675 admissions.; and,

WHEREAS, Governor Christie has charged the Council with creating a "Blueprint for a Drug-Free New Jersey – 2020" which addresses how the State's future substance abuse prevention, treatment and recovery services will be delivered and which shall also outline a plan to address New Jersey's heroin and other opiate use epidemic amongst its youth and young adults;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, pursuant to Article VII, section 7(h) of the Council by-laws, do ORDER and DIRECT:

1. There is hereby established a Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Task Force on Heroin and Other Opiate Use by New Jersey's Youth and Young Adults, hereinafter referred to as the "Task Force", so that the Council can more effectively meet its duties and responsibilities to create a "Blueprint for a Drug-Free New Jersey – 2020" and a plan to address New Jersey's heroin and other opiate use epidemic amongst its youth and young adults.
2. The Chairman of the Council shall select Task Force members who possess unique knowledge, skills, experience and expertise related to alcoholism, drug abuse, and associated concerns particularly as it relates to heroin and other opiate use amongst youth and young adults. The Chairman of the Council shall also select a Task Force Chairman who shall lead the Task Force, ensure its duties are being performed and periodically report to the Chairman of the Council on Task Force activities.
3. The Task Force is charged with identifying research, material and other information that is in the public domain and particularly relevant to heroin and other opiate use amongst youth and young adults; provide input on best practice models and other relevant advice to assist the Council in fulfilling its charge to address this concern; and, provide a final report with recommendations to the Council Chairman.
4. The Task Force shall work collaboratively with the Council and its staff. The Task Force Chairman may call within reason on the Council to provide such information, resources or other assistance deemed necessary to discharge the Task Force's responsibilities under this Order. The Task Force shall not, however, have the authority to bind the Council to any specified action or actions.
5. The Task Force shall be time limited and will expire nine months after enactment of this Order.
6. This Order shall take effect immediately.


Neil Van Ess, Acting Chairman


Date