



## 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*

CELINA LEVY  
*Acting Executive Director*

### MINUTES

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

**February 25, 2015**

#### **Call to Order**

The two hundred ninety sixth regular meeting of the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Elected Chairman Neil Van Ess.

#### **Open Public Meetings Act Statement**

Chairman 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.

#### **Bylaws Provision**

Chairman Van Ess asked for a motion to continue operating under the Emergency Powers of the 2010 Bylaws. Gregg Benson made this motion and it was seconded by BettyAnn Cowling-Carson. After a vote, the motion was approved. (Y-12; N-0; ABS-2)

#### **Approval of November and December Minutes**

After a brief discussion, the minutes from January were approved. (Y-9; N-0; ABS-5)

#### **Chairman's Report**

Chairman Van Ess welcomed the members to the meeting. He informed the Council that Kelly Ardente had left GCADA for a position at the Motor Vehicle Commission and welcomed George Myers back. Mr. Van Ess also announced that Commissioner Velez would be leaving the Department of Human Services. He commended her dedication and hard work throughout her tenure.

**Presentation: “Drug Treatment and Reintegration at a Local Level”**

Oscar Aviles, Director of Hudson County Corrections presented an overview of the Hudson County Reentry Program to the Council members. Mr. Aviles shared that with support from the Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Hudson County Executive, clients are provided with access to medical and mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment and assistance with housing.

The facility currently has a three housing providers for reentry clients as well as 24 hour nursing and medical care on site. Clients are randomly drug tested three times a month and in exchange for a clean drug test, they are provided with housing for up to 12 to 18 months.

Each inmate is eligible for Medicaid as a result of the Affordable Care Act as well as a link to welfare. Staff works with welfare to provide a benefit assessment 30 days before an inmate’s release and these benefits are activated 24 hours after release.

Hudson County Correctional Facility also provides intensive outpatient treatment. There are two board certified psychiatrists on site, one licensed psychologist as well as 4 licensed master level therapists to assist in this process.

The facility has also partnered with the Jersey City Employment and Training Program, as well as the One Stop, to provide all clients with employment services and assistance from a case manager and job development specialist.

Mr. Aviles shared that prior to this reentry program, the county recidivism rate was 53% and has now dropped to 24%. In 2014, the rate of re-arrest for program clients was 18%. To date, Essex, Atlantic City, Paterson, Toms River and Trenton Correctional Facilities have all signed on to incorporate this program in their jails.

Council member Susan Neshin congratulated Mr. Aviles on this program and also volunteered her services to come and speak with the doctors at the Hudson County regarding the use of medically assisted treatment.

Council member Donna DeStefano said that this was a very important program since there are not enough services for inmates. She also suggested reaching out to pharmaceutical companies for assistance in gaining access to medications.

**Council Vote: Fee Increase for the Intoxicated Driver Program**

Lynn Kovich from the Department of Human Services explained that the fees for the Intoxicated Driver Program (IDP), which is overseen by the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, had not been raised since 2006. The proposed increased fee schedule has been assessed to account for inflation and has also been vetted by the Governor’s Office. Ms. Kovich informed the Council that their vote is required to implement the increased fee schedule as per IDP regulations. The fee schedule proposed to increase the 12 hour County Intoxicated Driver

Resource Center rate from \$230 to \$264 and the 48 hour County Intoxicated Driver Resource Center rate from \$280 to \$321. Gregg Benson made a motion to approve this fee increase and it was seconded by BettyAnn Cowling-Carson. After a vote, the motion was approved. (Y-7; N-0; ABS-7)

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

Acting Executive Director Levy announced that the Council meetings for March through June would be held at the Mercer County Conference Center. She also shared that she continues to work with the Adult Suicide Prevention workgroup as well as the Stakeholder's Communications group through the NJ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services and that these committees are all connected to the Governor's Facing Addiction Task Force.

Ms. Levy asked Rebecca Alfaro to share an Alliance update with the Council members. Ms. Alfaro has been conducting focus groups within the counties to gather feedback regarding the application process and the reporting forms. The feedback from these focus groups has been very informative and the results will be aggregated through the Guidelines Workgroup and shared with the Council.

Ms. Alfaro also shared that she had attended the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America Conference in Washington, D.C. at the beginning of the month. She specifically mentioned a workshop that she attended on the cost benefit analysis of prevention and how prevention can save in societal costs. She will be looking into how this information can be used to assess the prevention cost benefit with the Alliance program.

The New Jersey Prevention Network Conference will be held on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at the Atlantic City Convention Center. Patrick Kennedy will be the keynote speaker and there will be two power sessions on treatment as well as the legalization of marijuana. There are available spots open to Council members if any member has not yet registered.

### **Adjournment**

Elected Chairman Neil Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.