



State of New Jersey

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Governor

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Lt. Governor

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

CELINA LEVY
Acting Executive Director

MINUTES

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

March 16, 2016

Call to Order

The three hundred and seventh 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 January and February Minutes

After a brief discussion, the minutes for January and February were approved.

January (Y-7; N-0; ABS-8)

February (Y-7; N-0; ABS-8)

Chairman's Report

Chairman Van Ess welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced new staff member, Kimberly Rodriguez, who will be filling the role of State Alliance Coordinator.

"Problem Gambling: Having the Conversation" Presentation

Dan Trolaro, Education and Prevention Coordinator of the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey (CCGNJ), presented an overview of the work that the organization has been doing over the past year as well as the personal struggles he himself has faced.

Problem gambling affects six to eight million people in America today and has increased due to the legalization of internet gambling. Those who struggle with a gambling addiction are also at a higher risk of developing an addiction to drugs or alcohol, and are at a higher risk of committing suicide as well.

Mr. Trolaro stressed that having an open dialogue about problem gambling is very important, especially with adolescents. CCGNJ has developed an evidence based curriculum to be used in schools entitled "Stacked Deck" to warn of the dangers of problem gambling.

CCGNJ continues to work on educating the public and reducing the stigma of problem gambling. CCGNJ collaborates with over 40 agencies and departments throughout the State in these efforts.

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy read a resolution designating March as "Problem Gambling Awareness Month". After a vote, this resolution was passed. (Y-15; N-0; ABS-0)

Council Business

Essex County Plan Resolution –

Kevin Sullivan informed the Council that Essex County had been reviewed by staff and had achieved the 75% approval threshold and was ready to be presented to the Council for consideration. After a vote, the 2016 Essex County Plan was approved. (Y-13; N-0; ABS-2)

Alcohol Awareness Month Resolution

Celina Levy read a resolution designating the month of April as Alcohol Awareness Month. After a vote, the resolution was passed. (Y-13; N-0; ABS-2)

Acting Executive Director's Report

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy introduced and welcomed Kimberly Rodriguez to her position as GCADA State Alliance Coordinator. She also informed members that GCADA was in the final phases of hiring a second State Alliance Coordinator.

Ms. Levy and Deputy Director Rebecca Alfaro would be presenting at a community symposium on health care integration at Trinitas Hospital on May 20th.

Ms. Levy shared that Bergen County Alliance Coordinator, Judy Forman, has worked with a focus group in her county to put the "Addiction Does Not Discriminate" logo on a fleet of vans in her county with the message "Addiction Is a Disease".

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, April 18th at the Mercer County Conference Center. An email will be sent out mid-month as a reminder as well as the voting privileges template to those who may need to designate an alternate representative.

Adjournment

Mr. Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.