



PHILIP D. MURPHY  
Governor  
SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
Lt. Governor

State of New Jersey  
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE  
PO Box 345  
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0345

NEIL VAN ESS  
Acting Chairman  
CELINA LEVY  
Acting Executive Director

## **MINUTES**

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

**September 25, 2018**

#### **Call to Order**

The three hundred and twenty eighth regular meeting of the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Public Member and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Donna DeStefano.

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

Donna DeStefano 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. Ms. DeStefano informed the Council that this meeting would be for informational purposes due to the lack of quorum.

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

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy welcomed everyone to the meeting and shared that Acting Chairman Neil Van Ess regretted being unable to attend the meeting since this yearly recognition is important to him.

#### **Recovery Month and Suicide Prevention Awareness Month Resolutions**

Ms. Levy read resolutions recognizing Recovery Month and Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in New Jersey. She also read a Proclamation from Governor Murphy recognizing Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. These resolutions will be voted on at the next meeting.

#### **Presentation: "2018 Volunteer of the Year Award Ceremony"**

Deputy Director Rebecca Alfaro shared with the audience that the Alliances represent the largest network of community-based anti-drug coalitions in the nation with over 380 Alliances encompassing over 500 municipalities statewide. The grassroots network of Alliances and its volunteers are more critical than ever in helping to communicate and execute the systems necessary to evoke community level change across New Jersey. Ms. Alfaro introduced the

County Volunteers of the Year and presented each with a certificate in recognition of their service.

Ms. Alfaro introduced the W. Cary Edwards State Volunteer of the Year Award winner, Roger Scull of the Vineland Municipal Alliance in Cumberland County. Mr. Scull has been an integral part of the Alliance since its inception. He began his career in education as the School Social Worker for Vineland Public Schools. He became the first Substance Awareness Counselor (now known as Student Assistance Counselor) and was elected as the Chairperson of the Alliance in 1993 and has held the position ever since. Mr. Scull was presented with a plaque for his service and commitment to the Vineland Municipal Alliance.

Ms. Alfaro thanked the volunteers for their dedication and commitment to the Alliance Program and invited the volunteers and their guests to a luncheon immediately following the meeting.

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

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy shared that the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Suicide Prevention Conference took place on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Commissioners from Departments of Health, Children and Families, Human Services and Corrections began the day with a panel on mental health and addiction and risk factors that can lead to both overdose and suicide.

GCADA will be partnering once again with the Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey for their Knock Out Opiate Abuse Day event on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Alliances will be distributing door hangers to raise awareness on prescription dependency and heroin abuse and physicians will be given booklets on the Center for Disease Control recommendations for safe prescribing of pain medications.

Ms. Levy thanked the Council members for their support, the County Alliance coordinators and the Alliance members for their prevention effort.

### **Adjournment**

Ms. DeStefano adjourned the meeting at 11:41.