



PHILIP D. MURPHY  
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State of New Jersey  
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**

**June 20, 2019**

#### **Call to Order**

The three hundred and thirty fourth 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**

Ms. Levy 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. Mr. Van Ess informed the Council that this meeting would be for informational purposes only due to the lack of quorum.

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

Chairman Van Ess welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked everyone for attending the last meeting making it possible to attain quorum. He thanked the GCADA members for their support and generosity of time and spirit and also stated he understood the scheduling challenges the members can often face.

Mr. Van Ess said that at this time the primary focus of GCADA is preparation for the new grant cycle. Deputy Director Rebecca Alfaro and State Alliance Coordinator Kim Rodriguez represent GCADA on the Prevention Collaborative Initiative that is laying the foundation for the next grant cycle.

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

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy shared that GCADA is about to be fully staffed. Sara Thode will be starting on June 24<sup>th</sup> as the Director of Prevention and Planning, the position that was previously held by Kevin Sullivan, and Kristin Boniface will be starting on July 8th as the State Alliance Coordinator, filling the position that was previously held by Sean Campbell. In addition, Fiscal Manager, Viktoria Kremper, will be returning from maternity leave on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ms. Levy again stated that GCADA is preparing for the new grant cycle. She asked that Ms. Alfaro provide an overview of the Prevention Collaborative to the Council members.

The Prevention Collaborative is comprised of GCADA, the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), New Jersey Prevention Network (NJPN), Rutgers Center for Prevention Science, and the Prevention Technology Transfer Center (PTTC). The purpose of this initiative is to implement the unification of prevention efforts by aligning prevention systems that already exist in New Jersey. These systems include, but are not limited to, the Municipal Alliances and Regional Coalitions. Through this initiative, a statewide logic model will be created. Once the logic model is completed, the Alliances will choose local conditions that best match the problem area in their community, backed up by local data.

Ms. Levy continues to represent GCADA on the Adult Suicide Prevention Advisory Council and the Suicide Prevention Conference Planning Committee. The next Suicide Prevention Advisory Council meeting takes place in July and the Suicide Prevention Conference is scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup> at the War Memorial in Trenton. Ms. Levy will provide more details as the date gets closer.

Ms. Levy thanked the Council members for their support, the County Alliance coordinators and Alliance members for their important prevention efforts, GCADA staff for being gracious and supportive during the period of being critically short staffed and to Mr. Van Ess for supporting all of GCADA's efforts.

## **Adjournment**

Mr. Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:12.