



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
PO Box 345
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0345

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

NEIL VAN ESS
Acting Chairman

CELINA LEVY
Executive Director

MINUTES

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

January 18, 2022

Attendance: Celina Levy (Executive Director), Gregg Benson (Public Member), Donna DeStefano (Public Member), Frank Greenagel (Public Member), Gisele Pemberton (Public Member), Donna Westhoven (AOC), Jeff Carrick (DCF), Kate Butler (DCA), Adam Cortes (DOC), Lu Pereira (DOE), Lashunda Harden (DOH), Annette Riordan (DOH), Rebecca Glinn (DOL), Craig Sashihara (LPS), Joe Nyzio (DMAVA)

Call to Order

The three hundred and fifty fifth regular meeting of the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Executive Director Celina Levy.

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). In addition, Ms. Levy stated that public comments were to be provided electronically, through the GCADA website contact portal between the hours of 10am and 1pm on the day of the meeting.

Roll Call

Katelyn Assenheimer called the roll. Members present and absent were noted for the record.

Election of Officers

Executive Director Celina Levy asked for a nomination for Vice Chair of the Governor's Council. Gregg Benson nominated Neil Van Ess and this was seconded by Donna DeStefano. After a vote, Mr. Van Ess was elected Vice Chairman. (Y-14; N-0; ABS-0)

Vice Chair, Gregg Benson asked for a nomination for two Vice Chairs. Donna DeStefano nominated Gregg Benson for first 2nd Vice Chair and this vote was seconded by Annette Riordan. After a vote, Gregg Benson was elected second Vice Chair (Y-13; N-0; ABS-0)

Mr. Benson then nominated Donna DeStefano for the 2nd Vice Chair and this vote was seconded by Annette Riordan. After a vote, Donna DeStefano was elected second Vice Chair. (Y-13; N-0; ABS-0)

Approval of Minutes

After a brief discussion, the minutes for June-December 2021 were approved.

June (Y-10; N-0; ABS-4)

July (Y-11; N-0; ABS-3)

September (Y-10; N-0; ABS-4)

October (Y-10; N-0; ABS-4)

November (Y-9; N-0; ABS-5)

December (Y-10; N-0; ABS-4)

2021 Observance Day Resolutions

The Council Members agreed to have one vote to approve the resolutions for International Overdose Awareness Day, Recovery Month, Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and Veterans Day. After a vote, all four resolutions were approved. (Y-14; N-0; ABS-0)

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Celina Levy thanked the Council members for helping to meet quorum and being able to vote on Council business.

Ms. Levy shared that she and Deputy Director Rebecca Alfaro, continue to work to strengthen the Alliance program by collaborating with the Governor's Office on their Harm Reduction Initiative and with the NJ ACES Collaborative.

Director of Prevention and Planning, Sara Thode informed the Council that the GCADA Winter Newsletter would be sent out after today's meeting. She also shared that the FY23 County Plans are due to GCADA staff at the end of February for review.

Ms. Levy thanked the Council members for their input and support, the County Coordinators and Alliances for their good work despite the continued challenges and GCADA staff for their strong work ethic, and to Neil Van Ess for his ongoing steadfast leadership.

Adjournment

Mr. Benson adjourned the meeting at 10:54.