



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

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

CELINA LEVY
Executive Director

MINUTES

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

July 19, 2022

Attendance: Celina Levy (Executive Director), John Armato (Public Member), Gregg Benson (Public Member), BettyAnn Cowling-Carson (Public Member), Donna DeStefano (Public Member), Eileen Fishman (Public Member), Moira Nelson (Public Member), Gisele Pemberton (Public Member), Jeff Carrick (DCF), Michelle Graham-Lyons (DCA), Adam Cortes (DOC), Lu Pereira (DOE), Lashunda Harden (DOH), Annette Riordan (DHS), Rebecca Glinn (DOL), Craig Sashihara (LPS), Chuck Robbins (DMAVA)

Call to Order

The three hundred and sixty first regular meeting of the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by 2nd Vice Chair Donna DeStefano.

Open Public Meetings Act Statement

Ms. 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). In addition, Ms. DeStefano 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.

Approval of Minutes

After a brief discussion, the minutes for June were approved. (Y-13; N-0; ABS-3)

FY23 County Plan Resolutions and FY23 DHMAS Youth Leadership Funding

Deputy Director, Rebecca Alfaro explained to the Council that the FY23 Plan for Morris County and the joint resolution for the DMHAS Youth Leadership funds were reviewed by the Council Review Team and voted to present the respective resolutions to the GCADA Council for approval.

The following Council members informed GCADA of the need to recuse themselves from voting on the FY23 County Plan and the FY23 DMHAS Funded Plan Resolutions:

Gregg Benson – Morris County
Eileen Fishman – Essex County

After a vote, the plans were approved.

FY23 Morris County Plan Resolution (Y-13; N-0; ABS-1)
FY23 Joint County DMHAS Funded Plan Resolution (Essex, Gloucester, Morris, Ocean, Somerset and Sussex) (Y-13 N-0; ABS-1)

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Celina Levy thanked the Council members once again for attaining quorum consistently since January. She also expressed her gratitude to the GCADA Review Team, County and Municipal Coordinators and the GCADA Alliance Unit for their hard work.

Ms. Levy shared that new members, John Armato and Eileen Fishman, had been appointed to the Council in June, as well as Moira Nelson who had been confirmed in March. She asked the new members to share a bit about their background as well as what made them become interested in the work of the Governor's Council.

Ms. Levy also shared that she and Deputy Director Rebecca Alfaro continue to work with the Governor's office on options for alternative funding streams and long-term sustainability for the program and also continue to be engaged in collaborative planning for the state's harm reduction efforts. Ms. Levy shared information about the opioid settlement fund that she had received from the Governor's office. Ms. Alfaro and Director of Prevention and Planning, Sara Thode, have been in conversation with the county directors and coordinators about the settlement fund process and have received input about the need for the Alliance program to be involved. Ms. Levy will continue to keep the Council updated as things move forward.

Director of Prevention and Planning, Sara Thode informed the Council that the Municipal Alliance Grant System (MAGS) is expected to go live for the FY24 grant year and that the Alliances would be trained on how to use the new online grant management system and FY23 will be the last year for paper plan submissions.

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 leadership.

Adjournment

Ms. DeStefano adjourned the meeting at 11:23.