



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
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NATIONAL PANEL OF ADDICTION EXPERTS CONVENE AT NEW JERSEY STATEHOUSE

TRENTON (March 1, 2012) – The Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse's Advisory Panel, established in December 2011, convened for the first time at the Statehouse house in Trenton Tuesday. The Panel consists of nationally recognized experts in the fields of addiction treatment, prevention and recovery, who are expected to play an important role in aiding the Council to more effectively meet its charge to develop a "Blueprint for a Drug-Free New Jersey 2020" and other statutory duties.

The Blueprint, a charge of the Christie Administration, will address how the State's future substance abuse prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery services should be delivered with an eye toward identifying efficiencies in the current system and implementing evidence-based practices that improve outcomes. The Blueprint will also include a plan to address New Jersey's heroin and other opiate use epidemic amongst its youth.

The Council is statutorily authorized and empowered to review and coordinate all State departments' efforts in regard to the planning and provision of treatment, prevention, research, evaluation, and education services for, and public awareness of, alcoholism and drug abuse. It also administers the State's \$10 million Alliance to Prevent Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Program which is the largest network of community-based anti-drug coalitions in the nation with 7,000 volunteers serving on 402 Alliances encompassing more than 530 municipalities throughout New Jersey.

Some of the focus areas of discussion for this first Panel meeting included integration of addiction services with mental health, criminal justice and primary care to create a coordinated effort to address the complexity of addiction. The Panel also recommended the need for increased access to addiction treatment by addressing the State's current infrastructure in addition to focusing attention on re-entry initiatives for criminal offenders in a post-release setting.

Panel Chairperson, Dr. Herbert Kleber stated: "The charge to the Council, and the powerful commitment shown by the Christie Administration to address what is New Jersey's number one public health concern, addiction, presents our Advisory Panel with an extraordinary opportunity to advance the Council's efforts to create healthy and safe communities."

Kleber has, for a number of decades, been a leading figure in research, treatment and policy related to substance abuse. He is currently Director, Division on Substance Abuse at Columbia University College of

Physicians and Surgeons and the New York State Psychiatric Institute. He served as the Deputy Director for Demand Reduction at the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy under President George H.W. Bush and Director Bill Bennett and founded National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse with Joseph Califano in 1992.

“The Council is benefitting from having such a diverse group of highly experienced people participating in the Advisory Panel,” stated Neil Van Ess, Council Acting Chairman. “The Panel members’ compelling presentations and robust discussion at yesterday’s meeting provided valuable insight which will surely benefit the Council’s efforts.”

Members bring significant experience to the Advisory Panel, which includes expertise in research, public policy, prevention, treatment, recovery, military service members and their families, enforcement, corrections and re-entry. Three members have served as senior officials of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. Three other members have been named by a daily news journal to its 2011 Top Ten list of individuals revolutionizing addiction and recovery who’ve had the greatest impact on addiction research and treatment.

Members of the Advisory Panel:

- Barbara Cohoon, MSN, PhD - Government Relations Deputy Director, National Military Family Association
- Brian R. Crowell - Special Agent in Charge, United States Drug Enforcement Agency New Jersey Division
- General Arthur T. Dean - CEO, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America
- Phil Diaz, MSW - Vice President of Governmental Affairs, Palm Partners
- Kevin Gay - President/Founder, Operation New Hope
- Keith Humphreys, PhD - Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University
- Doug Marlowe, JD, PhD - Chief of Science, Law and Policy, National Assoc. of Drug Court Professionals
- Carol McDaid - Co-founder and Principal of Capitol Decisions Inc.
- Ellen Morehouse, LCSW, CASAC, CPP - Executive Director, Student Assistance Services Corporation
- Robert Pandina, PhD - Director, School of Alcohol Studies, Rutgers University
- Joan Randell, MS - Deputy Director, Nicholson Foundation
- Amy Singer, MPA - Senior Vice President and Director, Public/Private Partnerships and Business Development, Phoenix House
- William White, MS - Senior Research Consultant, Chestnut Health Systems / Lighthouse Institute
- James Wojtowicz, MS - Managing Director, Command, Control and Interoperability Center for Advanced Data Analysis, Rutgers University

Photographs of the Advisory Panel meeting are available upon request.

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