



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE

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STATE SENATE CONFIRMS GOVERNOR CHRISTIE NOMINATION OF JOHN HULICK AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE

TRENTON (January 13, 2012) – On Monday, the New Jersey State Senate confirmed Governor Chris Christie's nomination of John Hulick as Executive Director of the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA).

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.

"I am very pleased about John's nomination, and now confirmation as GCADA executive director," said Acting Chair Neil Van Ess. "John is the perfect person for this position," continued Van Ess "I am both confident in and excited about his approach and vision for GCADA moving forward, especially with his leadership in establishing an Advisory Panel to the Council comprised of national and state experts."

"I am humbled by Governor Christie's nomination and inspired by as well as thankful for the State Senate's confirmation. We look forward to honoring the confidence placed in me by the Governor and State Senate through a robust answer to New Jersey's number one public health concern, substance abuse," said Hulick.

Charged by the Administration to create "A Blueprint for a Drug-Free New Jersey – 2020" GCADA will address how the State's future substance abuse prevention, 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.

"Governor Christie's commitment to address the significant rise in heroin and other opiate amongst New Jersey's youth is extraordinary, and speaks directly to the health of communities across the State," continued Hulick. "We look forward to working with the Administration, the State Legislature and our community partners on this critical issue, and to creating a specific plan to address it as part of the greater GCADA Blueprint."

Hulick served as Governor Christie's Policy Advisor for Human Services, Children and Families prior to his nomination to the Council. Before joining the Christie administration, Hulick was the Director of Public Affairs and Policy for the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) – New Jersey, a role he held for sixteen years. There he directed the agency's statewide public affairs and legislative initiatives, as well as the organization's work to expand prevention, treatment and recovery programs.

Hulick has also held leadership roles in various organizations, both inside and outside of government, including Founder and Executive Director of the Signs of Sobriety, Inc., an agency that provides addiction advocacy, education, and treatment services for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals; Director of Review and Investigation with the state's Election Law Enforcement Commission; and as a legislative aide on labor issues during Governor Thomas Kean's Administration. Hulick also served on the Hamilton Township Board of Education where he led efforts to improve board governance and transparency as well as increase district oversight and accountability.

A graduate of Western New England College with a degree in Government and a Masters degree in Public Policy from Rutgers University, Hulick lives in Hamilton with his wife, MaryAnn and their three children.

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