



## State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE  
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CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

NEIL VAN ESS  
*Acting Chairman*

CELINA LEVY  
*Acting Executive Director*

### **MINUTES**

#### **Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse**

**January 20, 2016**

#### **Call to Order**

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

#### **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 October, November and December of 2015 were approved.

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

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

**December (Y-7; N-0; ABS-7)**

#### **Election of Officers**

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy asked for a nomination for Vice Chair of the Governor's Council. Herbert Kaldany from the Department of Corrections nominated Neil Van Ess. After a vote, Mr. Van Ess was elected Vice Chairman. (Y-12; N-0; ABS-2)

Chairman Van Ess asked for a nomination for Second Vice Chair. Gregg Benson nominated Donna DeStefano and Donna DeStefano nominated Gregg Benson. After a vote, Mr. Benson and Ms. DeStefano were both elected as Co-Second Vice Chairs. (Y-11; N-0; ABS-1)

## **IMPACT NJ Presentation**

Diane Litterer, Executive Director and Sarah McCart-Knoll, Prevention Associate from the New Jersey Prevention Network (NJPN) presented information about the IMPACT NJ Coalition to the Council members.

The Coalition focuses on reducing alcohol and marijuana use among NJ youth 18 and under, bringing together state and local leaders to transform communities through prevention that encourages all youth to avoid alcohol and other drugs, and to become successful adults. This initiative was made possible through a Drug-Free Communities grant from ONDCP, one of only two statewide grants of this kind in the nation.

Through this Coalition, IMPACT NJ aims to strengthen the collaboration among state-level stakeholders to support and improve New Jersey's efforts to prevent and reduce substance abuse among youth under 18 years of age.

NJPN will use an evaluation component from the New Jersey High School Health Survey administered by the NJ Department of Education as well as the New Jersey Middle School Risk and Protective Factor Survey administered by the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Both of these surveys measure past 30-day use, perception of risk, perception of parental disapproval and perception of peer disapproval.

IMPACT NJ has created task forces for alcohol and marijuana. These task forces will create "best practices" and educational campaigns as well as provide resources to communities and other coalitions statewide.

A Youth IMPACTing NJ task force for youth has also been created. Youth members represent prevention coalitions and school-based leadership programs throughout New Jersey and focus on reducing peer use of alcohol and marijuana. Members of this workgroup have also created a statewide youth-focused social media campaign called "Above The Influence" and are also utilizing best practices to reduce underage drinking such as the "Keep It Legal" Sticker Shock Campaign.

Since the start of the IMPACT NJ Coalition, NJPN has created an educational pamphlet educating members and stakeholders of the dangers of powdered alcohol. Governor Christie has since signed a bill outlawing the sale of powdered alcohol in New Jersey.

### **Veterans Day Resolution**

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy read a resolution recognizing Veterans Day. The resolution was not adopted at the November or December meetings due to the lack of a quorum. After a vote, this resolution was approved. (Y-13; N-0; ABS-4)

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

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy shared with the Council members that the two positions within GCADA for State Alliance Coordinator were in the process of being filled. She stated that once GCADA has full staff, work will begin on the Statewide Master Plan as well as the establishment of committees and the updating of the bylaws.

Deputy Director, Rebecca Alfaro and Angela Conover from the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey will be presenting a workshop regarding engaging faith-based leaders in community prevention at the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) conference in the beginning of February.

Ms. Levy shared that the NJPN Annual Conference will be held on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Atlantic City Convention Center. GCADA will again be offering 200 scholarships to participating Alliance members as well as Council members. These scholarships will be offered on a first come, first served basis.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.