



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
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MINUTES

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

April 19, 2017

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Katelyn Assenheimer called the roll. Members present and absent were noted for the record. Ms. DeStefano informed the Council that this meeting would be for informational purposes only due to the lack of a quorum.

Presentation: "Introduction to Brain Injury"

Chad Thompson, Brain Health Network Training Coordinator of the Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey gave an overview to the Council members of both the types of brain injuries that a person can sustain as well as the effects from such injuries.

The two main brain injuries that can occur are an Acquired Brain Injury which is an injury that has occurred after birth and a Traumatic Brain Injury which is an insult or blow to the brain caused by an external physical force. Those who are at risk for brain injuries are children aged zero to four years old, adolescents aged 15 to 19 years old, adults aged 65 years and older or an individual who has already sustained a concussion.

It is estimated that over 5.3 million Americans are living with a disability as a result of a brain injury. Brain injuries can cause physical, cognitive, emotional/behavioral and psychosocial changes. Rehabilitation from a brain injury can be a slow process and Mr. Thompson emphasized that patience is important.

The Brain Injury Alliance offers family support services and support groups throughout New Jersey for those affected by these injuries. They are also involved in legislative affairs by promoting services and safety legislation.

Acting Executive Director's Report

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy thanked Mr. Thompson for his presentation.

She thanked Caitlin Pletcher, Don Hallcom and Gregg Benson for being part of the Alliance Program review team who will be reviewing the plans after today's meeting.

Ms. Levy read a resolution designating the month of April as Alcohol Awareness Month. This resolution will be voted on at next month's meeting.

Ms. Levy reminded Council members to complete their Master Plan surveys as soon as possible. These responses are needed in order to move on with the next steps.

Rebecca Alfaro and Sean Campbell conducted a Mental Health First Aid Training earlier in the month for New Jersey colleges and universities. This training has received excellent feedback and more groups expressed interest in receiving this training.

Ms. Levy shared that she and Ms. Alfaro have been representing GCADA on the Department of Education Task Force to develop a new comprehensive curriculum to educate children about the dangers of substance abuse as well as to identify programs that help support this effort.

Kevin Sullivan, Director of Programs and Planning was asked to present the recusal guidelines for voting on the FY18 County Plans. He asked that members who need to recuse to please state their reason for the record:

Gregg Benson – recused from Morris due to a professional affiliation within the county;
BettyAnn Cowling-Carson – recused from Camden due to professional affiliations within the county.

GCADA is partnering with the New Jersey Drug Enforcement Agency, New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Agency and the Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey in the Heroin and Opioid Art Exhibition. Deadlines for submissions are July 17th.

Adjournment

Donna DeStefano adjourned the meeting at 11:46 a.m.