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Governor

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State of New Jersey
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
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NEIL VAN ESS
Acting Chairman

CELINA LEVY
Acting Executive Director

MINUTES

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

January 18, 2017

Call to Order

The three hundredth and fiftieth regular meeting of the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Acting Chairman Neil Van Ess.

Open Public Meetings Act Statement

Mr. Van Ess 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 November and December of 2016 were approved.

November (Y-12; N-0; ABS-6)

December (Y-9; N-0; ABS-9)

Election of Officers

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy asked for a nomination for Vice Chair of the Governor's Council. Gregg Benson nominated Neil Van Ess and this was seconded by Herbert Kaldany from the Department of Corrections. After a vote, Mr. Van Ess was elected Vice Chairman. (Y-13; N-0; ABS-1)

Chairman Van Ess asked for a nomination for Second Co-Vice Chair. Gregg Benson nominated Donna DeStefano and this vote was seconded by Gisele Pemberton. Donna DeStefano nominated Gregg Benson and this vote was seconded by BettyAnn Cowling-Carson. After a vote, Mr. Benson and Ms. DeStefano were both elected as Second Co-Vice Chair. (Y-16; N-0; ABS-1)

Chairman's Report

Chairman Van Ess welcomed everyone to the meeting. He stated that he was pleased to attend the State of the State and hear that the Governor was committed to making heroin and prescription drug abuse a focal point. GCADA continues to collaborate with the Governor's Policy office, state departments and other stakeholders in this effort.

Mr. Van Ess announced to the council that Wanda Moore, designee from the Department of Law and Public Safety would be retiring. He thanked her for her years of hard work and dedication to the Council and presented her with a plaque.

Presentation: "New Jersey Children's System of Care – An Overview"

Elizabeth Manley from the Department of Children and Families presented an overview of the Children's System of Care (CSOC).

In July of 2015, New Jersey was awarded a Federal SAMHSA Grant System of Care to provide expansion and sustainability for children of New Jersey with the main focus being those of the age of 16.

The primary objectives of the CSOC are to keep children successfully living at home with their families and reducing the need for out-of-home treatment, as well as having them succeed in an appropriate school setting close to home, and to become independent, productive law-abiding citizens.

PerformCare is one of the key components of CSOC. This is single portal of access that parents can call at any time of day or night. Crisis as well as mobile response and planning is also available as well as family-led support and advocacy for parents/caregivers and youth.

Ms. Manley stated that as a result of the increased access to care, out-of-home care has gone down in New Jersey.

Acting Executive Director's Report

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy shared that she was happy to continue the collaborative relationship with the Governor's office and partners across the state.

She asked Deputy Director Rebecca Alfaro to present the Master Plan process to the Council. Ms. Alfaro shared that the GCADA Master Plan will be a guiding document that contains an overview of GCADA, the State Government Component, Emerging Trends and Continuing Community Impact.

GCADA members will receive a survey in which they will be asked to highlight and enhance departmental and collaborative efforts. This survey should be completed by someone who has

knowledge of the various programs within the department. This data gathering will help inform the Master Plan. This survey will be distributed the week of January 23rd and is due back to GCADA by March 13th.

Ms. Levy thanked the Council members and County Coordinators for their ongoing support and collaborative efforts in the ongoing improvement process.

Adjournment

Mr. Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:46 a.m.