



CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*  
KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

*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**

**November 29, 2017**

#### **Call to Order**

The three hundred and twenty third 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. Chairman Van Ess informed the Council that this meeting would be for informational purposes due to the lack of quorum.

#### **Chairman's Report**

Chairman Van Ess welcomed everyone to the meeting. He also shared that he had been elected National Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and said that it has been a very humbling experience.

#### **Veterans Day Resolution**

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy read a resolution recognizing Veterans Day. This resolution will be voted on at the next meeting.

#### **Presentation: "Vet Center Overview"**

Debra Adamczyk, Director of the Trenton Vet Center gave an overview of the work of the Vet Center programs.

The program was established by Congress in 1979 and is community based and part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The mission of the Vet Center Program is to assist veterans and their families toward a successful post-war adjustment in their communities.

Services of the Vet Center include individual and group counseling, substance abuse assessments and outpatient services, medical referrals, employment assessment and referrals, military sexual trauma counseling and bereavement counseling.

**Presentation: “The Role of the Military and Veterans Service Officers in the Division of Veterans Services”**

Joseph Bucco and Chris Wambach, State Supervisors of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs gave an overview of the duties of a Veterans Service Officer.

Veterans Service Officers assist veterans and their families in a number of ways. Service Officers can help with compensation and pensions, medical care, military records, grave markers and veteran home loans.

**Acting Executive Director’s Report**

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy shared that work continues on the Master Plan to ensure that it is a meaningful and comprehensive document.

Ms. Levy also shared that Rebecca Alfaro was unable to attend today’s meeting due to representing GCADA at the Culture of Health Conference hosted by the Mental Health Association of New Jersey. The conference focuses on the integration of physical and behavioral health.

More information regarding the Department of Health reorganization will be shared once it is available.

Ms. Levy thanked the Council members for their guidance and support, the County Coordinators and volunteers for their ongoing prevention efforts, and GCADA staff for overseeing and supporting GCADA’s efforts.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:44 a.m.