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MINUTES

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

February 19, 2019

Call to Order

The three hundred and thirty first 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. Mr. 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 shared that Acting Executive Director Celina Levy and Deputy Director Rebecca Alfaro continue to represent the Council on a variety of collaborative efforts. He also stated that the collaboration with DMAVA on the Veterans Resource Guide continues and that another printing of the book will be done in the next few weeks.

Ms. Alfaro and State Alliance Coordinator Kim Rodriguez represent the Council on the state's Prevention Collaborative. This is a prevention unification planning process that will help lay the foundation for the next grant cycle.

Samiah Foy who is providing additional support to the GCADA office will be reaching out to department designees for program information in regards to development of the Master Plan.

Presentation: "New Jersey MATrx Model Concept"

Diana Kayes, from the Department of Human Services gave an overview of the MATrx Model Concept to the Council Members. The concept is for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and Office Based Addictions Treatment (OBAT) to be Medicaid reimbursable in New Jersey.

The OBAT program is designed to support providers by increasing rates, reducing prior authorization requirements, and offering clinical guidance and support. The MATrx Concept includes various provider types, including university based providers, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Primary Care Providers. Navigator and Peer Support Services are available to address recovery support including housing, transportation and employment. The program is anticipated to be fully phased in by July 1, 2019.

Acting Executive Director's Report

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy shared that preparation has begun for the next printing of the Veterans Resource Guide. The guide will also be available online, on both the DMAVA and GCADA website. Once the link has been uploaded, it will be sent to the Council members.

Ms. Levy and Ms. Alfaro continue to represent GCADA on statewide planning, prevention and awareness efforts in regard to addiction, including overdose and suicide prevention, medication assisted treatment.

The process for the FY21 grant cycle that will be implemented in July of 2020 is underway. GCADA in partnership with the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services and a team from Rutgers are working on the state's Prevention Collaborative. This will serve to unify the efforts of the Alliance Program and the Regional Coalitions.

Ms. Levy shared that GCADA remain critically short staffed, however the process of refilling positions should begin soon.

Ms. Levy thanked the Council members for their support, the County Alliance coordinators and Alliance members for their efforts in the ongoing improvement process, as well as GCADA staff and Mr. Van Ess for their support in all of GCADA's efforts.

Adjournment

Mr. Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:05.