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State of New Jersey
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
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Acting Executive Director

MINUTES

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

March 19, 2019

Call to Order

The three hundred and thirty second 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

Donna 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 due to the lack of quorum.

Presentation: "Sports Gambling and Treatment Expansion"

Dan Trolaro, Assistant Executive Director and George Mledenetz, Treatment Coordinator, from the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey (CCGNJ) gave an overview to the Council on the work they've been doing.

Sports gambling became legal in New Jersey on June 11, 2018 and can be done either in person or at an authorized venue or online. Mr. Trolaro stated that on February 28th of this year it was estimated that two billion dollars had been wagered in New Jersey since legalization.

CCGNJ was awarded an RFP to expand the number of Gambling Treatment Providers. The Council began with nine providers and has expanded to 24, with plans for an additional 25 by the year 2020. The Council also offers a 30 hour training program for substance use disorder

providers that are licensed by the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services. The purpose of this training is for those wishing to develop gambling counselor competence and satisfy the education requirements for becoming an International Certified Gambling Counselor.

Problem Gambling Awareness Resolution

Ms. Levy read a resolution recognizing March as Problem Gambling Awareness Month. This resolution will be voted on at the next meeting.

Acting Executive Director's Report

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy shared that the Veterans Resource Guide has been sent to print. This run will have 7,500 copies and the link to the guide will be posted on the DMAVA website as well as the GCADA website.

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.

Deputy Director Rebecca Alfaro and State Alliance Coordinator Kim Rodriguez in partnership with the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the New Jersey Prevention Network and a team from Rutgers continue to work 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 remains critically short staffed, however approval was received to refill the vacant positions and the process of hiring will soon be underway.

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

Ms. DeStefano adjourned the meeting at 11:06.