



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
PO Box 345
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0345

NEIL VAN ESS
Acting Chairman

CELINA LEVY
Executive Director

MINUTES

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

June 15, 2021

Attendance: Neil Van Ess (Chairman), Celina Levy (Executive Director), Gregg Benson (Public Member), Betty Ann Cowling-Carson (Public Member), Donna DeStefano (Public Member), Frank Greenagel (Public Member), Gisele Pemberton (Public Member), Jeff Carrick (DCF), Kate Butler (DCA), Luiz Pereira (DOE), Natassia Rozario (DOH), Annette Riordan (DHS), Holly Low (DOL), Craig Sashihara (LPS), Liz Schofield (DMAVA)

Call to Order

The three hundred and forty ninth 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). In addition, Mr. Van Ess stated that public comments were to be provided electronically, through the GCADA website contact portal between the hours of 10am and 1pm on the day of the meeting.

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 April and May were approved.

April (Y-13; N-0; ABS-1)

May (Y-11; N-0; ABS-3)

Chairman's Report

Chairman Van Ess welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Council members for helping to attain quorum to vote on the FY22 County Plans. He announced that it would be a business only meeting and that presentations would resume in July.

Mr. Van Ess also took a moment to acknowledge the passing of Joseph "J.P." Miele who was instrumental in establishing the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and who also served as inaugural Chairman of the Council until his retirement in 2007.

Mental Health Awareness Month Resolution

This resolution was read by Executive Director Celina Levy at the May meeting and so, after a vote the resolution was approved. (Y-14; N-0; ABS-0)

FY22 County Plan Resolutions

Mr. Van Ess expressed his gratitude to the volunteers, Municipal Alliance Coordinators and County Alliance Coordinators who helped move the County Plan process forward during times of great challenge. Executive Celina Levy read the names and acknowledged all 21 County Alliance Coordinators and shared that two longtime Coordinators, Joanne Schuh of Monmouth County and Donna Huber of Passaic County, had retired and she thanked them for their contributions and commitment to the Alliances.

Director of Prevention and Planning, Sara Thode explained to the Council that the FY22 County Plans were review by the Council Review Team on June 8th, and the Council Review Team voted to present the County Alliance Plans to the GCADA Council for conditional approval.

The following Council members informed GCADA of the need to recuse themselves from voting on the FY22 County Plans:

BettyAnn Cowling-Carson – Camden County

Gregg Benson – Morris County

Frank Greenagel – Union County

Gisele Pemberton – Union County

After a vote, all 21 County Plans were conditionally approved.

FY22 Camden County Plan Resolution (Y-13; N-0; ABS-1)

FY22 Morris County Plan Resolution (Y-13; N-0; ABS-1)

FY22 Union County Plan Resolution (Y-12; N-0; ABS-2)

FY 22 Joint County Plan Resolution (Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Passaic, Salem, Sussex and Warren) (Y-14; N-0; ABS-0)

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Celina Levy recognized Pride Month and shared some facts from SAMHSA about how the LGBTQ community is one that is at considerable risk for mental health and substance abuse disorders and gave an overview of SAMHSA's LGBTQ-focused efforts.

Ms. Levy thanked the Council members for their guidance and support, County Coordinators, and the Alliances for their good work in the light of challenges faced, GCADA staff for their strong work ethic and Neil for his leadership.

Adjournment

Mr. Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 10:46.

**** FROM ****

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**** AFFILIATION ****

Group: NJ Assoc of County Alliance Coord.
Relationship: President

**** MESSAGE ****

SUBJECT: Municipal Alliance Funding

We previously submitted questions during the November meeting that I don't believe were answered. Specifically, what is being done to correct the funding problem that exists regarding the DEDR fund? Who are Celina and Rebecca in "conversation" with? Will GCADA be seeking some of the \$28 million that SAMHSA is giving NJ?