



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

P. O. Box 345

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0345

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

NEIL VAN ESS
Acting Chairman

CELINA LEVY
Executive Director

MINUTES

Governor's Council on Substance Use Disorder

January 16, 2024

Attendance: Neil Van Ess (Chairman), Celina Levy (Executive Director), John Armato (Public Member), Gregg Benson (Public Member), Donna DeStefano (Public Member), Eileen Fishman (Public Member), Sweta Kansagra (Public Member), Moira Nelson (Public Member), Cornell Williamson (AOC), Jeff Carrick (DCF), Herbert Kaldany (DOC), Lu Pereira (DOE), Don Hallcom (DHS), Rebecca Glinn (DOL), Craig Sashihara (LPS), Allison Samay (NJ President's Council)

Call to Order

The three hundred and seventy eighth regular meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Use Disorder was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Executive Director Celina Levy.

Open Public Meetings Act Statement

Ms. Levy 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, Ms. Levy stated that public comments were to be provided electronically, through the GCSUD 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.

Election of Officers

Executive Director Celina Levy asked for nominations for Vice Chair of the Governor's Council. Gregg Benson nominated Neil Van Ess and this was seconded by Donna DeStefano. After a vote, Mr. Van Ess was elected Vice Chairman. (Y-14; N-0; ABS-0).

Mr. Van Ess asked for a nomination for second Vice Chair. Gregg Benson was nominated by Donna DeStefano and this vote was seconded by John Armato. After a vote, Gregg Benson was elected second Vice Chair. (Y-14; N-0; ABS-0).

Approval of Minutes

After a brief discussion, the minutes for November and December of 2023 were approved.

November (Y-13; N-0; ABS-2)

December (Y-12; N-0; ABS-3)

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Celina Levy shared with the Council that she and Deputy Director Rebecca Alfaro continue to be engaged in procedure changes that are connected to the change in the funding source as well as in efforts to process and expend the DMHAS Block Grant funds.

Ms. Levy also shared that we are still in the process of completing the latest draft of the Master Plan for review by the Master Plan subcommittee, with the next meeting to be scheduled accordingly. Continued gratitude to subcommittee members Gisele Pemberton, Moira Nelson and John Armato for their input and support.

Director of Prevention and Planning, Sara Thode informed the Council that the Municipal Alliance Grant System (MAGS) went live in mid December. All users have received their log on IDs and are participating in webinars on how to use the new system and the FY25 planning process will go through MAGS.

Ms. Levy thanked the Council members for their input and support, the County Coordinators and Alliances for their good work despite the continued challenges and GCSUD staff for their strong work ethic, and to Neil Van Ess for his ongoing leadership.

Adjournment

Chairman Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 10:45.