



PHILIP D. MURPHY  
Governor  
SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
Lt. Governor

State of New Jersey  
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE  
PO Box 345  
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0345

NEIL VAN ESS  
Acting Chairman  
CELINA LEVY  
Acting Executive Director

## **MINUTES**

### **Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse**

**October 15, 2019**

#### **Call to Order**

The three hundred and thirty seventh 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 only due to the lack of quorum.

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

Chairman Van Ess welcomed everyone to the meeting and shared that he regretted not being able to attend last month's Volunteer of the Year Ceremony since this yearly recognition is very important to him.

#### **Presentation: "Tobacco Free for a Healthy NJ: A Multi-Strategy Approach to Reduce Youth Tobacco Use"**

Diane Litterer, CEO and Jenna Morris, Tobacco Supervisor of the New Jersey Prevention Network gave an overview of the tobacco prevention initiatives funded by the New Jersey Department of Health.

The New Jersey Strategic Advisory Group on Tobacco Prevention (NJSAG) consists of both national and state collaborators and was established to create regional tobacco collaboratives throughout the state.

Some of the initiatives discussed included, “Don’t Get Vaped In” which is a universal educational curriculum addressing the trend of vaping among high schools students. The training includes three curriculums: adult to adult training, adult to youth training and youth to youth training. In addition, The ASPIRE program is also available to NJ schools as an alternative to suspension as well as the Comprehensive School Tobacco Policy Toolkit is a tool that has been developed with best practices, strategies and evidence-based programs to support New Jersey schools in creating a tobacco free environment. Incorruptible.Us is a Youth Tobacco Action Group that consists of 21 County Youth Groups. Information can also be found on the web at this address that is oriented towards youth. New Jersey Colleges and Universities Implementing Tobacco and Smoke-Free Policies (NJ Q.U.I.T.S) is an initiative to create tobacco free colleges. At the present time, 11 colleges participate in this program.

Additional information on these initiatives and others can be found at [Tobaccofreenj.com](http://Tobaccofreenj.com).

### **Acting Executive Director’s Report**

Acting Executive Director Celina Levy shared that GCADA is in preparation for the upcoming grant cycle. Both Sara Thode and Kristin Boniface continue to provide technical support to the Coordinators for this upcoming process.

Ms. Levy shared that she moderated a panel at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Suicide Prevention Conference on September 10<sup>th</sup>. She also had the opportunity to attend the Department of Human Services Opioid Summit as well as the Department of Health Population Summit, both of which she said were extremely informative and inspiring.

Ms. Levy specifically referenced the multi-dimensional conversation about the Opioid Crisis at the Summit, incorporating panels, conversations, and presentations about criminal justice, trauma, and medication assisted treatment. She noted that GCADA member Dr. Herb Kaldany was one of the presenters, and, that keynote speaker, journalist Sam Quinones cited the importance of grass roots prevention efforts, seeing them as the front lines of defense for this public health crisis.

Ms. Levy also acknowledged the success of Knockout Opioid Abuse efforts, with major participation by municipal alliances, especially noteworthy with Governor Murphy having officially designated October 6<sup>th</sup> as Knockout Opioid Abuse Day in New Jersey.

Ms. Levy again thanked the volunteers and County Alliance coordinators for their dedication to the Alliance Program and Council members for their support in all of GCADA’s efforts, and also acknowledged GCADA staff.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:42.