



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
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PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

NEIL VAN ESS
Acting Chairman

CELINA LEVY
Executive Director

MINUTES

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

March 21, 2023

Attendance: Celina Levy (Executive Director), John Armato (Public Member), Gregg Benson (Public Member), Donna DeStefano (Public Member), Eileen Fishman (Public Member), Moira Nelson (Public Member), Gisele Pemberton (Public Member), Jeff Carrick (DCF), Michelle Graham-Lyons (DCA), Herb Kaldany (DOC), Lu Pereira (DOE), Lashunda Harden (DOH), Annette Riordan (DHS), Rebecca Glinn (DOL), Craig Sashihara (LPS), Joe Nyzio (DMAVA), Allison Samay (NJ President's Council)

Call to Order

The three hundred and sixty 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 January and February were approved.

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

February (Y-9; N-0; ABS-6)

Chairman's Report

Chairman Van Ess welcome everyone to the meeting and thanked Gregg Benson for stepping in to chair the meeting last month.

Problem Gambling Awareness Month Proclamation

Executive Director Celina Levy read a resolution recognizing March as Problem Gambling Awareness Month in New Jersey. After a vote, the resolution was approved. (Y-16; N-0; ABS-0)

Presentation: "Gambling Advertising and Youth Gambling"

Felicia Grondin, Executive Director and Luis Del Orbe, Prevention and Treatment Administrator of the Council on Compulsive Gambling (CCGNJ) gave an overview of the organization and the effects of advertising and youth gambling.

CCGNJ is a private non-profit organization that provides information, education and referral services to those affected by problem gambling. The Council also offers 24/7 support via the NJ Helpine at 1-800-GAMBLER. Brochures, educational links and fact sheets can also be found at their website: www.800GAMBLER.org.

The total revenue in gambling totals for 2022 was 5.21 billion. This included lottery, casino, internet betting and sports betting. The total spent in gambling advertising in 2021 was 725 million dollars which was nearly 2.5 times more than the year before.

Due to the constant advertising from gambling, individuals, especially youth, are more likely to develop a gambling problem. Studies and surveys show that 1-3% of the adult populations has a gambling problem and approximately 10-15% of American youth have also experienced gambling-related problems.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Celina Levy informed the Council that County plans will be voted on in May, and asked that the members make note of this meeting so that quorum is attained.

Ms. Levy and Deputy Director Rebecca Alfaro continue to discuss with the Governor's office ways to identify new sources for funding and long-term sustainability and will provide updates as they are available.

Ms. Levy also shared that the Master Plan subcommittee has been established and John Armato, Moira Nelson, Gisele Pemberton and Chairman Van Ess will be sitting on this subcommittee.

Sara Thode, Director of Prevention and Planning shared with the Council that the launch of the Municipal Alliance Grant System (MAGS) has been delayed and more testing will be needed. FY24 will be submitted as a hard copy paper plans to GCADA staff.

Adjournment

Mr. Van Ess adjourned the meeting at 11:35.