



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

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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

February 20, 2024

Attendance: Celina Levy (Executive Director), John Armato (Public Member), Gregg Benson (Public Member), Sweta Kansagra (Public Member), Gisele Pemberton (Public Member), Cornell Williamson (AOC), Michelle Graham-Lyons (DCA), Adam Cortes (DOC), Lashunda Harden (DOH), Valerie Mielke (DHS), Rebecca Glinn (DOL), Craig Sashihara (LPS), Noelle Lee-Turner (DMAVA), Allison Samay (NJ President's Council)

Call to Order

The three hundred and seventy ninth regular meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Use Disorder was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by 2nd Vice Chair Gregg Benson.

Open Public Meetings Act Statement

Mr. Benson 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. Benson 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. Mr. Benson informed the Council that this meeting would be for informational purposes due to the lack of quorum.

Presentation: Municipal Alliance Grant System (MAGS)

Deputy Director Rebecca Alfaro and Director of Prevention and Planning Sara Thode gave an overview and demonstration of the Municipal Alliance Grant System (MAGS) to the Council

members. County and Municipal staff have participated in training webinars on how to use the grant system and these trainings are available for review online as well. MAGS will be implemented for the FY25 County Plan process.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Celina Levy informed the Council that our name was changed to the Governor's Council on Substance Use Disorder (GCSUD). Staff is currently working on items regarding the name change (email, website, etc.) and the Council will be updated accordingly. She thanked the advocates who worked to push forward the legislation to address stigmatizing language as related to substance abuse as well as Governor Murphy for signing it into law.

The Master Plan subcommittee meeting will be scheduled soon and GCSUD staff will be reaching out to Council members regarding input to the document. She took a moment to thank subcommittee members, Gisele Pemberton, Moira Nelson and John Armato for their work on the Master Plan draft.

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

Adjournment

Mr. Benson adjourned the meeting at 11:49.