

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG DEPENDENCE – NEW JERSEY
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Five new members elected to NCADD-NJ's Board of Directors

MERCERVILLE ... (July 12, 2002) ... The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence-New Jersey's Board of Directors convened its June 18 meeting with five new members whose wide-ranging experience, which includes the clergy, education and high public office, is expected to enrich the organization for the foreseeable future. The new directors bring to NCADD-NJ both the commitment and the ability to shepherd the agency's resources to help advance the goals of expanding prevention and treatment of alcoholism and drug addiction and reducing the stigma that often hinders access to care. The five new members are: the Rev. Bruce Davidson, a Lutheran minister; Joseph Jacangelo, a former school superintendent who is now board president of the counseling agency "The Bridge;" the Rev. Larron Jackson, who before he began his ministry played professional football; Emanuel Rhodes, chairman of the addiction advocacy organization Friends of Recovery; and William Waldman, a former commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Human Services.

Three of the five, Jackson, Jacangelo and Waldman, have had long administrative careers, respectively, in health care, education and human services. Jackson is also a minister, with a doctoral degree from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, an accountant, and a former offensive guard for four National Football League teams. He is presently director of Community Services with the Cooper Health System in Camden, NJ.

Jacangelo, who has a master's degree from Seton Hall University, spent 30 of his 39-year career in education in administrative positions, from elementary school principal to assistant superintendent of schools of the Caldwell/West Caldwell District. Currently, he is the president of the Board of The Bridge, a drug and alcohol counseling agency. Like Jackson, he spent some time on the football field, having officiated high school and college games for 27 years.

Waldman's long career in human service includes stints in cabinets of both Republican and Democratic governors, most recently as commissioner of Human Services under Gov. Christie Todd Whitman. Now a visiting professor at Rutgers University School of Social Work, he recently served as the executive director of the American Public Human Services Association in Washington, D.C. He came up through the human service ranks, beginning as a caseworker in 1965.

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BOARD MEMBERS

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The other member of the clergy among the five – along with Jackson - is Davidson, a Lutheran minister. He is the director of the Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministry in New Jersey, one of 18 statewide public policy offices of Lutheran Church in the country. From 1992-96 he was the director of HIV/AIDS Ministries for the New Jersey Synod. Davidson has been pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Wildwood, NJ, St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Teaneck, NJ, and St. John's in Summit. His volunteer service includes participation on the state's Work First New Jersey Task Force for the Division of Human Services, and a seat on the Subcommittee for Faith-Based Organizations.

Rhodes has spent much of his career working directly with issues pertaining to drug and alcohol addiction. He is currently affiliated with the Princeton Witherspoon Group, which facilitates lectures on addiction and applying the 12-step philosophy to dual-diagnosed individuals. During his career, he has been a counselor, a vocational trainer and working to promote drug and alcohol rehabilitation. He is chairman of the recovery advocacy organization Friends of Recovery-New Jersey.

NCADD-NJ Executive Director Wayne Wirta saw much promise in the new directors, saying of them, "I believe that the combined talents of the new additions enhance the diversity of the NCADD-NJ Board of Directors and prepares the organization to more comprehensively fulfill our mission to advocate and reduce stigma. I feel truly fortunate that the organization was able to attract so many skilled, experienced and dedicated individuals as directors." The new members bring the board's membership to 11; terms on the body run from one to three years.

NCADD-NJ is a private, nonprofit public health agency that promotes the prevention and treatment of, and recovery from, alcoholism and drug dependence through advocacy and education. The agency, which has its headquarters in Mercerville, develops and promotes public policy initiatives and advocates for legislation and regulations that are in keeping with a public health approach to the diseases of alcoholism and drug dependence.

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