

NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG DEPENDENCE-NEW JERSEY

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NCADD Publishes NJ State Election Guide

Decision 2001: At a Crossroad on Addiction Policy, a guide to New Jersey's general election, has been published by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence-New Jersey. Up to 20 copies of the guide are available without cost to those who request them. More than 20 copies will cost \$1 each.

The guide represents the non-partisan efforts of NCADD-New Jersey to inform and promote the awareness of key issues and votes surrounding addiction prevention, treatment and recovery programs, according to John L. Hulick, director of public affairs and policy.

NCADD-New Jersey 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 collective effort put forth by NCADD-New Jersey and other advocates of addiction prevention, treatment and recovery often is stymied by the stigma associated with this illness, Hulick said. "False beliefs, which circulate throughout the community and government and equate addiction with a moral failing or character flaw, have proven to be a formidable barrier to the implementation of programs to address addiction. The stigma of addiction also prevents addicted individuals from seeking and receiving the help they need to treat their illness."

As New Jersey's general election draws near (Tuesday, Nov. 6), voters and candidates for public office might want to contemplate how addicted people have been stigmatized and consider sound public policy strategies that recognize addiction of what it is: a preventable and treatable illness, Hulick also said.

Copies are available by calling NCADD-New Jersey at 609/689-0599, writing to 1675 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road, Suite 205, Hamilton, NJ 08619, or faxing 609/689-3244.

Decision 2001 campaign information also will be featured on NCADD-New Jersey's Web site in mid-September. The address is www.ncaddnj.org.