



**2021 NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLY and SENATE
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS
PREVENTION, TREATMENT, and RECOVERY
CANDIDATE SURVEY**

I. General Views on Alcohol and Drug Disorders Policies to Address Stigma

Alcohol and drug disorders have only recently become recognized as chronic diseases, much like diabetes or hypertension. Yet the stigma associated with them continues to persist and often prevents people from seeking the treatment they need, contributing to disease severity and adding huge costs to public programs.

Indicate which principles (if any) you agree with regarding your general views of alcohol and drug addiction (Substance Use Disorder) and recovery policies to address behavioral health issues by placing a check mark next to the letter(s) that correspond with your opinions.

a) Substance Use Disorders are preventable, treatable, chronic diseases and are as diagnosable/treatable as diabetes, asthma and hypertension.

b) Addiction is a matter of will. Government assistance is warranted, but ultimately, recovery is the individual's choice.

c) I would support sufficient funding to ensure that treatment and recovery services are available to those who need them.

d) The criminal code (Title 2C) should be examined as to whether the state's drug laws ought to be re-worked

e) Other _____

II. NJ Policy Perspective and the NJ Harm Reduction Coalition released a report over the summer, recommending the elimination of criminal penalties for low-level possession/use and sales of all drugs. Which best represents your view?

a) I would support the decriminalization of all low-level drug use, possession and sales

b) I would support the decriminalization of all low-level drug use/possession, but not sales *

c) I do not support the decriminalization of all possession/use of drugs

d) Undecided, would like to learn more

e) * Other Consideration of alternatives for minors.



III. I would support any, or all, of the following initiatives if they could be demonstrated to get and keep people in long-term recovery.

- a) Continued criminal record expungement reform
- b) Tax credits for employers who hire people in recovery
- c) Enhanced financial aid and program assistance to communities disparately impacted by the War on Drugs
- d) Reduction of court-ordered fees and fines for individuals who successfully complete a treatment or diversion program
- e) Expanded use of peer recovery support services
- f) Other _____

IV. In the past year, drug overdoses have dramatically increased. Naloxone (brand name – NARCAN) is an opioid antidote that can reverse an overdose. I would support adequate government funding in order to expand the use of naloxone. Check all that apply:

- a) Mandating every pharmacy maintain a minimum supply of naloxone
- b) On public transportation
- c) In public libraries
- d) On college and university campuses
- e) In homeless shelters
- f) Authorize EMT's to dispense naloxone
- g) Mandate a supply of naloxone in other public spaces, e.g. stadiums, theaters, arenas, etc.
- h) Other _____

V. On an attached page, in seventy-five (75) words or less, please explain any other legislative priorities you will have regarding the prevention, treatment of and recovery from addictive illnesses if elected.

NCAAR for Behavioral Health Statement:

I served on the Morris County Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board. Daytop was also in my hometown of Mendham. I was saddened to learn of its closure as the only residential facility serving adolescents in the state. Since taking office in 2019, I have made mental health a top priority and will continue to do so as a New Jersey legislator.

Assemblywoman Aura K. Dunn, LD-25 On The Issues: Mental Health

Author

- **A3975**: Requires DCF and DOE to provide certain child abuse and neglect services or information remotely or through distance learning mechanisms.
- **A5558**: Requires health insurance carriers to provide coverage for suicidal ideation and attempted suicide for postpartum women.
- **A4707**: Establishes Mental Health Awareness Pilot Program in DOE.
- **A4628**: Requires Adjutant General of DMVA to create a program for veterans to receive evaluation and treatment for PTSD and total brain injury.
- **A4167**: Requires DHS to provide psychiatric service dogs to first responders, health care workers, and other frontline workers suffering from post-traumatic stress disorders due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **A4247**: Establishes COVID-19 Frontline Mental Health Claims Program in Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services in DHS and makes appropriation.
- **A4248**: Establishes temporary Pandemic PTSD Task Force.
- **A4173**: Requires health care facilities to screen health care workers, first responders, and other frontline workers for symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder related to COVID-19 pandemic.
- **AR161**: Urges federal government to provide aid to the State to combat post-traumatic stress disorder due to coronavirus disease 2019.

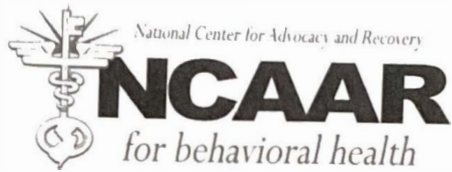
Prime Sponsor

- **A3007**: Requires institutions of higher education to provide students with access to mental health care programs and services and to establish a hotline to provide information concerning the availability of those services.
- **A466**: Requires health care facility staff to provide certain counseling following miscarriages and State registrar to establish certificate of birth.
- **A2961**: Requires annual suicide prevention training for mental health practitioners.

Co-Sponsor

- **A4919**: Revises definition of domestic violence to include psychological abuse and economic abuse.
- **A1077**: Requires DOH to develop and implement a plan to improve access to perinatal mood and anxiety disorder screening.
- **A3633**: Establishes requirements concerning the provision of postpartum care information and the development of individualized postpartum care plans.

- **A4929**: "College Mental Health Services Act"; establishes grant program for public institutions of higher education and requires public institutions of higher education to report certain information concerning mental health treatment and suicides.
- **A810**: Establishes pilot program to create student mental health assistance programs in selected school districts.
- **A1105**: Establishes a task force to examine public school programs and services designed to address student mental health.
- **A4436**: Establishes "Student Mental Health Task Force" to study resources available to schools and parents to address student mental health needs.
- **A376**: Requires health insurance coverage for annual mental health screening.
- **A4645**: Requires health insurance carriers to categorize mental health treatment and therapy received by victims of domestic violence as medically necessary treatment and provide full benefits coverage thereafter.
- **A5868**: Establishes Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund and Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund Advisory Council; provides for funds received from opioid settlements to support substance use disorder prevention and treatment programs.
- **A683**: Establishes Office of Ombudsman for Mental Health and Addiction Services.
- **A810**: Establishes pilot program to create student mental health assistance programs in selected school districts.
- **A4085**: Clarifies that the Division of Mental Health Advocacy in the Office of Public Defender is required to represent indigent patients in all mental health commitment proceedings, whether related to inpatient or outpatient treatment.
- **AJR80**: Establishes a temporary Commission on Opioid Antidote Administration and Aftercare to study and report on procedures to be used following administration of an opioid antidote to a hospital patient.
- **A3080**: Establishes one New Jersey Suicide Prevention Advisory Council in DOH.
- **A5087**: Requires DOH to establish a public awareness campaign and develop policies and procedures to promote recognition and treatment of perinatal anxiety.
- **A4616**: Requires residential psychiatric and long-term care facilities to provide certain financial information to facility residents and other individuals.
- **A5687**: Establishes Crisis Response Support Program to make mental health services available to police departments responding to certain emergencies; appropriates \$2,000,000.



CANDIDATE MUST SIGN SURVEY TO BE INCLUDED IN THE DATABASE

Candidate Name: AURA K. JENNAL
(please print)

Candidate Signature: Aurora K. Jennal

District: LD-25

Party: Republican

Date: September 16, 2021