



NJAMHAA Newswire

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NJAMHAA Recognizes Governor Christie, Former Governor McGreevey for Contributions to Substance Use Treatment, Recovery and Reentry

During its Open House event today, NJAMHAA recognized Governor Chris Christie and Former Governor James E. McGreevey for their leadership that has resulted in expansion of substance use treatment and recovery support services, as well as additional support for inmates preparing to reintegrate into the community.

“Governor Christie has been a strong, consistent voice in fighting stigma, as he repeatedly identified addiction as an illness that deserves to be treated as readily as any other illness. He has demonstrated his commitment again and again with legislation and funding for expansion of services, as well as for new initiatives,” said Debra L. Wentz, PhD, President and CEO of NJAMHAA. “This fight has never been part of a political agenda for Governor Christie, but a personal commitment, one that the Governor has said he is determined to continue after his term ends. In our eyes, fighting the opioid epidemic will be Governor Christie’s greatest legacy. For this reason, NJAMHAA is pleased and proud to recognize Governor Christie for his outstanding leadership and compassion in addressing the opioid crisis,” she added.

“Governor McGreevey has devoted himself to being a voice for the voiceless. He truly instills hope in the most disenfranchised and has achieved a tremendous impact on tens of thousands of people’s lives. He walks the walk and talks the talk in helping those who are stigmatized in our society due to having substance use disorders, mental illnesses and co-occurring disorders, and for being criminalized for behaviors related to their illnesses,” Dr. Wentz said. “Governor McGreevey is generous with his time, insights and visionary ideas. He continues to work with NJAMHAA and its members and many other partners throughout the state and nation to help people recover, regain their self-esteem and rebuild their lives. For all of these reasons and more, NJAMHAA is pleased and proud to recognize Governor McGreevey for his excellence in fostering reentry and recovery,” she added.

(Photos on the next page)



NJAMHAA President and CEO Dr. Debra L. Wentz presented Governor James McGreevey with the Excellence in Fostering Reentry and Recovery award.



Dr. Debra Wentz and Dr. Anthony DiFabio, NJAMHAA Board President, presented Governor Chris Christie with the Outstanding Leadership and Compassion in Addressing the Opioid Crisis award.
