

**Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of April 12, 2022**

**Time: 11:00 a.m.**

**Place: Second Floor Conference Room, MH/ID/EI, 220 East Lehman St., Lebanon**

**Present**

Holly Leahy, MH/ID/EI Administrator and CJAB Vice-Chair; Honorable John C. Tylwalk, President Judge; Robert J. Phillips, County Commissioner; Audrey Fortna, Director of Probation Services; Tina Litz, LCCF Warden; Jamie Wolgemuth, County Administrator; James Donmoyer, Director of Drug and Alcohol Commission; Nichole Eisenhart, District Attorney's Office; Michael Anderson, Director, Domestic Relations; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner.

**Absent**

Erin Moyer, Director of Children and Youth; Carla Cyr, Veterans Justice Outreach; Brian Deiderick, Chief Public Defender; LeAnne Burchik, Executive Director, Domestic Violence Intervention; Stephanie Axarlis, Court Administrator; Jeffrie Marley, Sheriff; and, Kim Mackey, PCCD Regional Representative

**Guests**

Lori Burrus, N.A.A.C.P.; Michael Borkert, intern, N.A.A.C.P.; Nathan Lytle, Coordinator, Community Peer Group

***Proxy entered for the record: Nichole Eisenhart, Assistant District Attorney, for Pier Hess Graf, District Attorney and CJAB Chair.***

CJAB Vice Chair Holly Leahy called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. Presence of a quorum noted. Self-introductions by all in attendance.

**Minutes of 02/08/2022 CJAB Meeting**—Approved on a motion by President Judge Tylwalk, seconded by Ms. Fortna.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

- **D.U.I. Court**—At present, 22 offenders are participating in the program, with four others under consideration. Continued concern over low numbers, which are not the result of law enforcement arresting less people for driving under the influence. As noted by the President Judge, 16 offenders will appear this week in central court for D.U.I., but only two of these offenders are eligible for acceptance into the program. First-time offenders are not eligible; neither are those who have offended four or more times.
- **Prison Reduction**—Average Daily Population (ADP) as of April 12 is 277. The LCCF has received its first supply of electronic tablets for inmates; in-person visitation is still restricted. In the next week, the LCCF should have 149 of these tablets, with the goal of having a one-to-one tablet ratio. At present, ViaPath and the LCCF both give each inmate a free five-minute phone call per week to assist with communication with family and friends.

Staffing shortages remain an issue for the prison. LCCF does not envision a return to work release in the near future. The County has also contracted out grass cutting and other outside work usually performed by

inmates; this is in response to the lack of personnel available to supervise inmates on these work details. Warden Litz met with President Judge Tylwalk on March 21 to discuss the staffing issue and the inability to restart the work-release program. The Warden issued an emergency declaration and sent it to the Prison Board, the County Commissioners, the County Administrator, and Emergency Services. This could pave the way for the County to send some inmates to other counties. Montgomery County is willing to assist in this endeavor. In the meantime, the LCCF continues to reach out to attract qualified persons to apply for positions at the facility. Some good news to report: the LCCF has achieved National Commission on Correctional Health Care Accreditation on its first attempt. This accreditation recognizes the county's effective collaboration with PrimeCare, the private vendor contracted by the county to provide health care to inmates. The County has made sure that its insurance carrier has a copy of this accreditation. Also, the county is making progress with negotiations between the county and the union representing correctional officers.

- **Mental Health**—TEAM M.I.S.A. (Mental Illness and Substance Abuse) continues to meet monthly and has, to date, discussed 31 individuals. Most (29) of these individuals have had a history or diagnosis of mental health problems; two have intellectual disabilities; 13 have known drug/alcohol issues; two are veterans; and, nine have faced or will face chronic homelessness. Question whether Team M.I.S.A. could get involved with offenders at Central Booking. Concerns exist, however, about the lack of a private space there to conduct any kind of session with an arrestee. No updated suicide statistics to report. Number of reported suicides in the county for 2021 was 19. As reported at February's meeting, the County owns a cottage behind MH/ID/EI that could serve as forensic transitional housing for up to three persons. The City Zoning Board has not yet granted approval to convert this structure into transitional housing. A hearing with the Zoning Board will take place on April 20.
- **Veterans Court**—Current number of participants is 18, with five pending. This would bring the number to 23, which would be the highest since the program's inception. Program is still in need of mentors. Some of the volunteer mentors are mentoring multiple participants; the objective is to have one mentor for each participant.

## **CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST**

**Day Reporting Center**—Current number of active participants is 22. Court and Probation are working on processes to boost the rate of participation. The modification to the IP grant appropriates funding for the DRC to pay for former Crossroads participants and other offenders on house arrest/SCRAM. Plans are to continue this funding in the new fiscal year. Increasing the number of participants at the DRC continues to be a goal. The pandemic plus the *Koger* decision by the PA Superior Court in 2021 affected the numbers. In *Commonwealth v. Koger*, the Superior Court ruled that courts must advise an offender of the rules and conditions of probation at the time of sentencing, or the Court cannot charge the defendant violation for failing to comply with these rules and regulations. The President Judge noted that the court is amending conditions of supervision to comply with this ruling. No word whether the Commonwealth plans to appeal this ruling to the PA Supreme Court.

**Heroin Task Force**—No updated statistics for 2022 to report. However, the Coroner's Office has indicated the possibility of seven overdose deaths pending toxicology results. Mr. Donmoyer noted that Berks County experienced 12 overdose cases over the weekend, four of which were fatal. Advisory to be on guard since Berks is a neighboring county. Mr. Donmoyer distributed a schedule of upcoming events sponsored by the task force ("Stronger Together"). He also distributed updated information from the PA Dept. of Drug and Alcohol Programs about the opioid settlement. Under terms of the settlement,

Lebanon County should receive \$4,194,677 over the next 18 years. The County needs a collaborative effort to recommend and plans ways to expend these funds. Mr. Donmoyer's office invites suggestions.

**Offender Reentry Coalition**—No report.

**Other Updates from CJAB Department**—

***IP Funding Announcement for FY 2022-2023***—PCCD is making IP funds available for next fiscal year. In response, Mr. Shott is preparing a grant application focusing on treatment and behavioral change. In the past, approximately 85 percent of the IP budget expended funds for the Renaissance-Crossroads program. The decision by PA Counseling Services, Inc. to end the residential/inpatient component of that program in late 2021 necessitated a revision to the current IP budget, reallocating dollars to other areas. The new application will propose some funding for the planned Drug Treatment Court. The application will request funding for other components of the IP-Treatment Plan, such as electronic monitoring/house arrest and the Day Reporting Center. These proposals adhere to grant guidelines and meet the criteria under Act 115 of 2019. The application is due no later than April 25.

***Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Funding Grant Applications***—The Community Health Council of Lebanon County has submitted an application for \$250,000 to enhance the Council's Connected Together Initiative, which focuses on increasing prevention and trauma-response efforts in Lebanon County. Mike Ritter of Domestic Violence Intervention had asked the CJAB to write a letter to PCCD endorsing the Council's application. Mr. Shott prepared a letter of support after securing authorization from the CJAB officers. The letter emphasized that the CJAB's Strategic Plan for 2022-2023 lists trauma-informed care as a major priority. Mr. Ritter had recently made a well-received presentation at the LCCF about trauma-informed care.

Bob Dowd of the Department of Emergency Services and Jon Hess of the District Attorney's Office have also prepared and submitted a \$250,000 JAG application for a proposed countywide law-enforcement records management system.

## **ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- ***Approval of IP-Treatment Plan for 2022-2023***—Mr. Shott had emailed an advance draft of the plan to the members prior to the meeting. The CJAB must approve the new plan, which Mr. Shott will then attached to the IP-grant application. On a motion by President Judge Tylwalk, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, the Board approved the plan, with the understanding that Mr. Shott will continue to update and “fine-tune” the information and narratives before submitting it to PCCD.
- ***IP-Treatment Grant Application for FY 2022-2023***—On a motion by President Judge Tylwalk, seconded by Ms. Fortna, the Board endorsed the IP-Treatment Grant application, authorizing Mr. Shott to submit a completed application to PCCD no later than April 25.
- ***Letter of Support from CJAB Officers***--Board authorized the officers to send a letter on behalf of the CJAB to PCCD expressing their support for the IP-Treatment grant application.

- ***Probation Services Update***—Office of Probation Services now has two persons from Renaissance onsite to meet with offenders who test positive for drugs. Any offender in this situation goes directly to one of these individuals for immediate evaluation and referral. Prior to this, offenders who tested positive went to the LCCF to await any further evaluation. Amanda Hitz of Pa Counseling is coordinating this project.

**ADJOURNMENT**—With no further business to conduct, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Donmoyer, seconded by Ms. Fortna.

**NEXT CJAB MEETING: Tuesday, June 14, 2022, 11:00 a.m., MH/ID/EI**

