

Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board

Minutes of the Meeting of June 8, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Second Floor Conference Room, MH/ID/EI, 220 East Lehman St., Lebanon, PA, 17046 (Virtual TEAMS Meeting)

Present

Holly Leahy, MH/ID/EI Administrator and CJAB Chair; James Donmoyer, Executive Director of Drug and Alcohol Commission and CJAB Vice Chair; Honorable John C. Tylwalk, President Judge; Stephanie Axarlis, Court Administrator; Tina Litz, LCCF Warden; Dwight Penberth, Probation Services; Jeffrie Marley, Sheriff; Robert J. Phillips, County Commissioner; Glenda Folsom, Offender Reentry Coordinator; Daniel Lyons, Director, Housing Authority; Michael Anderson, Director, Domestic Relations; Megan Tidwell, Chief Public Defender; Erin Moyer, Director, Children and Youth Services; Briana Reigel, Coroner's Office; LeAnne Burchik, Executive Director, Domestic Violence Intervention; Lori Burrus, Lebanon County Branch 26AA of the NAACP; Kimberly Mackey, CJAB Regional Specialist; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner.

Absent

Pier Hess Graf, District Attorney; Jonathan Hess, Chief County Detective, Police Chiefs Representative; Jamie Wolgemuth, County Administrator; Alissa Perrotto, Executive Director, SARCC; Eleanor Leo, Executive Director, PROBE; and, Carla Cyr, Veterans Justice Outreach.

Guests

Joseph Duke and Michael Schroeder, Lebanon County Branch 26AA of the NAACP.

Voting proxies entered for the record: Dwight Penberth, Depuy Director, Juvenile Probation, for Audrey Fortna, Director of Probation Services; Briana Reigel, Deputy Coroner, for Dr. Jeffrey Yocum, County Coroner.

CJAB Chair Holly Leahy called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. ***This morning's meeting is a Virtual TEAMS meeting due to a roofing project at MH/ID/EI.*** Presence of a quorum noted. Self-introductions by the members.

Minutes of Meeting of February 9, 2026—Approved on a motion by President Judge Tylwalk, seconded by Ms. Axarlis.

Minutes of Meeting of April 13, 2026—Approved on a motion by Commissioner Phillips, seconded by Sheriff Marley.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

D.U.I. Court—At present, 18 offenders are participating in the program, with one scheduled to be accepted into the program on June 17. Two others have been approved, and the review team is considering five applications

Prison Reduction—The current Average Daily Population (ADP) at LCCF is 267 with an average stay of 22 days.

Mental Health—Team MISA continues to meet monthly. Since January 2026, 81 individuals entering LCCF have had a documented history with MH/ID/EI. Notably, ten individuals have been imprisoned more than once during this same period.

As of 6/8/26, the County has confirmed eight suicides this year. Statistical breakdown: six males, two females; average 47, with the youngest being 27 and the oldest being 75; five by firearm, one by asphyxiation, and two by other methods; two veterans, seven county residents; seven with a known mental health history, three with known substance use history.

At present, there are no openings at the County-owned cottage. Fully occupied (three females).

Veterans' Court--At present, 12 offenders are active participants in the program, with one entering the program on June 12, one on June 17, and another on June 26. Three offenders are under consideration.

Drug Court—22 offenders are currently participating, with two offenders slated to be accepted into the program on June 17 and another on July 15. Two applicants are pending.

CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST

Heroin Task Force Report—The Coroner's Office has confirmed five overdose-related deaths, to date, in 2026. Statistical breakdown: average age of 45, with the youngest being 31 and the oldest being 62; three males, two females, all county residents. The County reported 11 overdose deaths in 2025, the lowest figure in years. (The number of deaths in 2024 was 21.)

"Stronger Together" is holding the Overdose Awareness Vigil on August 27, from 7 to 8 p.m. on the front steps of the Courthouse. September 24 is also the date for Recovery Day, taking place from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Recovery Center, 701 Chestnut Street. This event features free food, a raffle, providers' information tables, and free haircuts. A reminder that the Drug and Alcohol Commission has plenty of Narcan available for distribution.

Offender Reentry—An Offender Reentry Simulation Workshop is slated for Nov. 13 at the Dept. of Emergency Services (DES), beginning at 2 p.m. The U.S. Attorneys' Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania will supply the materials needed to host this two-hour event. The Coalition needs volunteers to serve as panelists. Warden Litz and Ms. Fortna will be on the panel. President Judge Tylwalk confirmed at the meeting that he is also available to serve as a panelist.

Ms. Folsom continues to receive inquiries for reentry assistance, including referrals to other agencies. Finding suitable housing for individuals released from incarceration is a challenge.

Some have faced discrimination because of their criminal background. Many incarcerated people are not aware that the County provides reentry services, so getting the word out about reentry and the Reentry Coalition should be a priority. Data access is also an ongoing project. Ms. Folsom has requested “view only” access to LCCF’s OMS data system, which is the same level of access the Public Defender’s Office currently has. Warden Litz responded that she needs approval for this to happen.

Justice Reinvestment Initiative 2 (JRI-2)—Lebanon County has applied to PCCD for \$168,060 in JRI-2 funding for a 24-month project. Funds must focus on improving adult probation and supervision. Probation Services plans to use part of the funding to create incentives to retain probation officers, many of whom leave for positions in other counties. A major component of the grant budget (\$31,750) is contracting with Policy Research Associates (PRA) to conduct the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) Mapping workshop later this fall. Application was submitted on May 7; the grant cycle began on April 1. PCCD has not yet approved the application.

Violence and Delinquency Prevention Grants—The County has also applied to PCCD for \$166,800 in funding to implement two community-based services for justice-involved youth in Lebanon County. The first is Harm 2 Hope-Gun Violence Prevention curriculum by The Academy, a program that provides evidence-informed content addressing the causes, risks, consequences, and legal ramifications of gun violence. The second is Multisystemic Therapy (MST) by K/S Consultants, providing treatment to complex-case juveniles (age 12-17) in their community. It is a family-focused and community-based treatment program that offers clinical and therapeutic support services. Application remains under review.

Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Funding—PCCD is making JAG funding available for two-year projects beginning January 1, 2027. PCCD anticipates funding 30-35 grants with budgets not to exceed \$250,000. This is a highly competitive grant, and PCCD staff cannot assist in preparing a grant application. PCCD’s website enables interested agencies to ask questions about the grant. This year’s JAG application is also more restrictive than those in the past. Applicants must adhere to only one of the five objectives listed in the application. Probation Services and the District Attorney’s Office are collaborating on objectives. Deadline for applying to PCCD is July 14.

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS—

CJAB Strategic Planning Update—Work on the Strategic Plan for 2026-2027 continues. Mr. Shott provided members with a draft of the plan last week. Members are urged to offer comments and suggestions before a final version is presented to the Board for approval at the August 10 meeting.

Sequential Intercept Model Mapping (SIM) Workshop—Planning for a SIM workshop later this year continues. SIM is one of the priorities for the 2026-2027 Strategic Plan. The hope is that PCCD will approve the use of JRI-2 funds for this event.

PCCD Minimum Operating Standards for CJABs—The Commission has revised and updated Minimum Operating Standards for CJABs. Our CJAB is following these standards and does not need to amend the bylaws or revamp the Board’s structure.

NEW BUSINESS—

The President Judge plans to have the proposed Mental Health (Wellness) Court up and running by the end of the year. Planning, including the development of a court manual, continues. The President Judge is also working with the Administrative Office of PA Courts (AOPC) to attain recertification for the D.U.I. and Drug Courts.

The third annual Child Support Awareness Day is scheduled for August 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Courthouse.

One of the activities eligible for JAG funding is “comprehensive reentry programs for individuals convicted of violent offenses.” Question is whether the work of the Reentry Coalition meets this objective.

ADJOURNMENT—With no further business to conduct, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m. on a motion by Ms. Folsom, seconded by President Judge Tylwalk.

NEXT CJAB MEETING—Monday, August 10, 2026, 9:00 a.m., MH/ID/EI.