

Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Minutes of the Meeting of February 21, 2023

Time: 11:00 a.m.

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

Present

Honorable John C. Tylwalk, President Judge; Audrey Fortna, Director of Probation Services; Tina Litz, LCCF Warden; LeAnne Burchik, Executive Director of Domestic Violence Intervention; Michael Anderson, Director, Domestic Relations; Stephanie Axarlis, Court Administration; Brandon Smith, Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse; Kasey Felty, MH/ID/EI; Brian Deiderick, Chief Public Defender (participated electronically); Kim Mackey, PCCD Regional Representative; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner.

Absent

Pier Hess Graf, District Attorney and CJAB Chair; Robert J. Phillips, County Commissioner; Jamie Wolgemuth, County Administrator; Jonathan Hess, Police Chiefs Representative; Erin Moyer, Director, Children and Youth; Carla Cyr, Veterans Justice Outreach; Jeffrie Marley, Sheriff

Guests

Alison Jones, Domestic Relations; Lori Burrus, N.A.A.C.P.

Proxies entered for the record: Brandon Smith, Case Manager, for James Donmoyer, Director of Drug and Alcohol Commission; Kasey Felty, Director of Mental Health Services, for Holly Leahy, MH/ID/EI Administrator.

Acting CJAB Chair Audrey Fortna called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.

Minutes of December 13, 2022 CJAB Meeting—Approved on a motion by Warden Litz, seconded by President Judge Tylwalk.

Self-introductions by members.

Kim Mackey, PCCD Regional Representative, was present to give members an update about CJAB-related activities. Grant opportunities now available in E-grants. Annual CJAB conference is slated for March 21-22 at the Penn Stater in State College. So far, over 300 individuals have registered to attend; conference can accommodate up to 400 attendees. Statewide CIT conference to take place in State College on April 20.

Proposed Amendment to CJAB Bylaws—Approved on a motion by Ms. Axarlis, seconded by President Judge Tylwalk.

Adopted amendment eliminates the following wording under **Meeting and Quorums (a)**: ***“LCCJAB meetings will convene no earlier than 11:00 a.m., but no later than 12:30 p.m., and shall last no longer than a maximum of two (2) hours.”***

The purpose of the approved change gives the Board more flexibility in scheduling meeting dates and times. The Board had directed Mr. Shott to prepare this amendment at the December 2022 meeting following concerns about scheduling conflicts, particularly with the 2023 court calendar.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- **D.U.I. Court**—At present, 24 offenders are actively participating in the program, with two to three pending. The Administrative Office of PA Courts (AOPC) has recertified the court program for another three years. A major component of the process involved interviewing all members of the D.U.I. Court team.
- **Prison Reduction**—Current Average Daily Population (ADP) is 242. Since the reinstatement of the work-release program, 12 inmates have been participating. No official cap on the number of inmates who may be on work-release. However, some inmates deemed eligible to participate have opted not to because they either do not want to work or will not comply with the requirement that they be vaccinated and remain quarantined for ten days, as per COVID protocol. Seven inmates are currently in the Medical Assisted Treatment (MAT) program.
- **Mental Health**—Team M.I.S.A. has addressed, to date, the cases of 39 persons. The team is always examining ways to improve, what adjustments to make going forward.

No updated suicide statistics to report.

The County-owned cottage behind the MH/ID/EI building has its first occupant; MH/ID/EI staff has also received two referrals.

- **Veterans Court**—Current number of active participants is 19, with one offender scheduled for acceptance into the program. The program has exceeded expectations since its inception. Program always in need of veterans to serve as mentors for participants.
- **Drug Court**—After a slow start, this newest treatment court now has four participants, with five or six eligible offenders under consideration. One participant has already failed the program and is now in State prison.

CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST

Day Reporting Center—Current number of active participants is 9. In January, the Office of Probation Services began implementing the evidence-based practices planning grant that focuses on assessing offenders prior to sentencing to determine risk levels and offenders' criminogenic needs. Administering assessments before sentencing will assist the Court in determining a more appropriate sentence and subsequent levels of supervision/conditions of probation. Probation is hopeful that this proactive approach will lead to more referrals to the DRC.

Heroin Task Force—As reported at last week's County Commissioners' meeting, the number of overdose-related deaths was 39 in 2020, 31 in 2021, and 29 in 2022. Statistical breakdown for 2022: 18 males, 11 females; 22 white, six Hispanic, and one unknown; age range was 19 to 84; 11 from 17046 zip code, 13 17042, 3 from 17078, and two from 17067; 27 county residents; 16 deaths involved fentanyl.

The Drug and Alcohol Commission distributed 84 cases of Narcan (1,032 kits) in 2022.

Offender Reentry Coalition—No report.

Other Updates from CJAB Department—PCCD and the County Commissioners Association are making up to \$2,000 in training/technical assistance grants to county CJABs for special projects. This is a streamlined application process on a first-come, first-served basis. Total statewide budget for this grant program is \$24,000. Board members should contact Mr. Shott with ideas or proposals. All funds must be expended by 12-31-23. Funds cannot be used for food, beverages, or out-of-state travel. Ms. Mackey advised that projects must be related to CJAB activities or practices.

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- **Approval of Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2023**—On a motion by President Judge Tylwalk, seconded by Ms. Axarlis, the Board approved the following meeting dates for the remainder of the calendar year: April 10, June 12, August 14, October 9, and December 11. All meetings to begin at 9:00 a.m. and will continue to take place at MH/ID/EI.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Team M.I.S.A.**—Mr. Deiderick followed up on the earlier report on Team M.I.S.A. and its ongoing role. Members should be cognizant of the attorney-client relationship when discussing individuals' cases and making recommendations.

ADJOURNMENT—With no further business to conduct, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m. on a motion by Warden Litz, seconded by Ms. Burchik.

NEXT CJAB MEETING: Monday, April 10, 2023, 9:00 a.m., MH/ID/EI

