

Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Minutes of the Meeting of December 13, 2022

Time: 11:00 a.m.

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

Present

Pier Hess Graf, District Attorney and CJAB Chair; Holly Leahy, MH/ID/EI Administrator and CJAB Vice-Chair; Honorable John C. Tylwalk, President Judge; Brian Deiderick, Chief Public Defender; Audrey Fortna, Director of Probation Services, James Donmoyer, Director of Drug and Alcohol Commission; Tina Litz, LCCF Warden; Michelle Howard, Court Administration; Jeffrie Marley, Sheriff; Jonathan Hess, County Police Chiefs Representative; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner.

Absent

Michael Anderson, Director, Domestic Relations; Robert J. Phillips, County Commissioner; Jamie Wolgemuth, County Administrator; Erin Moyer, Director, Children and Youth; Carla Cyr, Veterans Justice Outreach; LeAnne Burchik, Executive Director of Domestic Violence Intervention; and, Kim Mackey, PCCD Regional Representative.

Guests

Lori Burrus and Michael Schroeder, Lebanon N.A.A.C.P.

Proxy entered for the record: Michelle Howard, Deputy District Court Administrator, for Stephanie Axarlis, Court Administrator.

CJAB Chair Pier Hess Graf called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. Presence of a quorum noted.

Minutes of October 11, 2022 CJAB Meeting—Approved on a motion by Mr. Deiderick, seconded by Ms. Fortna.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- **D.U.I. Court**—At present, 24 offenders are actively participating in the program, with two more having been approved today. Three others are pending; the Court has removed one participant.
- **Prison Reduction**—Current Average Daily Population (ADP) is 270. The ADP could increase slightly when the LCCF reinstates the work-release program on 1-9-23. Inmates approved for work release must be vaccinated and remain in quarantine for 14 days, as per COVID protocol.
- **Mental Health**—Team M.I.S.A. has addressed the cases of 37 persons so far this year. All persons discussed have a mental-health history, three have intellectual disabilities, and 16 have issues with substance abuse. Two are veterans, while ten are experiencing or have experienced chronic homelessness. Team M.I.S.A. is always exploring ways to improve their services.

The County has confirmed 18 suicides so far this year. Statistical breakdown: 11 male, seven female; average age of victim was 57.1, with the ages ranging from 19 to 92; three veterans; 11 resided in the 17042

or 17046 zip codes; eleven by gun, one by hanging, four by overdose, one by knife, one by stepping in front of a train; eight had a known mental health history, two were known to MH/ID/EI, four had a drug/alcohol history; 17 white, one black.

Renovations to the County-owned cottage behind the MH/ID/EI building are almost completed. The first tenants should be occupying the home by early January. The County will hold an open house on January 11 and 12. The three-bedroom structure will house up to three individuals at a time; this is not a unit for families. Although the County will monitor the cottage, a staff person will not be housed onsite. The idea is for any resident to remain there for a period of six to 12 months, emphasizing that this is transitional housing, not a permanent residence. The first tenants will be males since most of the referrals the county receives for this kind of housing are for men.

- **Veterans Court**—Current number of active participants is 19, with one offender scheduled for acceptance into the program on 12-23-22. The Court has imposed no cap on the number of offenders participating.
- **Drug Court**—The Court has admitted two offenders in the new program, with two pending. The court team has also been reviewing the applications of seven other offenders. Some offenders are also eligible for admission to one of the other specialty court programs.

CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST

Day Reporting Center—Current number of active participants is 9, which is far lower than desired. The Court and Probation continue to work on ways of boosting the number of participants. The County, through the Office of Probation Services, has been awarded a \$20,260 evidence-based practices planning grant to implement a policy focused on assessing offenders prior to sentencing to determine risk levels and offenders' criminogenic needs. The County contends that administering assessments before sentencing will assist the Court in determining a more appropriate sentence and subsequent levels of supervision/conditions of probation. It is feasible that this proactive approach could lead to more referrals to the DRC. Probation will start the pre-sentence assessment with a pilot group.

Heroin Task Force—At the end of October, the County could confirm 25 overdose deaths. Statistical breakdown: 15 male, 10 female; 13 involved fentanyl; 24 were county residents; 21 resided in the 17042 or 17046 zip codes; ages ranged from 19 to 66; 19 white, five Hispanic, one unknown. *(During the meeting Mr. Donmoyer received word from the County Coroner's office confirming that the total of overdose deaths in the county is now at 31, matching the number of deaths in 2021, with 18 days remaining in 2022.)*

The Drug and Alcohol Commission received the first round of funding from the opioid settlement in mid-August. Amount received was just under \$171,000. Commission is using settlement funds for the following 1) Drug-testing costs for Probation Services; 2) Hiring an adult probation officer with a specialized caseload of offenders with opioid use disorders, substance use disorders, and/or co-occurring issues; 3) MAT maintenance program at the LCCF for inmates who have already been receiving MAT service, enabling them to continue these services while incarcerated at the LCCF. Mr. Donmoyer distributed a List of Opioid Remediation Uses detailing the abatement strategies that are eligible for funding under the settlement. County is scheduled to receive \$319,000 in 2023.

Offender Reentry Coalition—No report.

Other Updates from CJAB Department—No updates.

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- ***Review of CJAB Bylaws***—PCCD urges CJABs to review their bylaws periodically. No member proposed a change to the current bylaws.

NEW BUSINESS

- ***Election of Officers for 2023***—On a motion by Warden Litz, seconded by Mr. Donmoyer, the members voted to elect Pier Hess Graf as Chair and Holly Leahy as Vice Chair of the CJAB for 2023.
- ***Proposed CJAB Meeting Schedule for 2023***—Members discussed possible changes to the regular meeting dates and times for next year due to scheduling conflicts, particularly with next year's court calendar. The CJAB Bylaws do not require the CJAB to meet on Tuesdays, though they do require the meetings to begin no earlier than 11:00 a.m. or later than 12:30 p.m. Consensus of the Board that Mondays at 9:00 a.m. is the best option. Members agreed to hold the next meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 11:00 a.m., at which time the Board plans to vote on an amendment to the Bylaws repealing the language that mandates the starting times, as well as approving the new meeting schedule for the rest of 2023. On a motion by Mr. Donmoyer, seconded by Mr. Deiderick, the members authorized Mr. Shott to prepare an amendment to this effect. Proposed meeting dates for 2023: February 21, April 10, June 12, August 14, October 9, and December 11. Mr. Shott will email the proposed amendment to the members no later than two weeks before the February meeting.
- ***2022-2023 CJAB Strategic Plan End-of-Year Report***—Mr. Shott will prepare an update and distribute to the members in early January.

ADJOURNMENT—With no further business to conduct, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m. on a motion by Mr. Deiderick, seconded by Ms. Leahy.

NEXT CJAB MEETING: Tuesday, February 21, 2023, 11:00 a.m., MH/ID/EI

