

Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Minutes of the Meeting of February 8, 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; Audrey Fortna, Director of Probation Services; Stephanie Axarlis, Court Administrator; Tina Litz, LCCF Warden; Jamie Wolgemuth, County Administrator; James Donmoyer, Director of Drug and Alcohol Commission; Nichole Eisenhart, District Attorney's Office; Jon Hess, County Police Chiefs Representative; LeAnne Burchik, Executive Director of Domestic Violence Intervention; Bradley Seyfert, Sheriff's Office; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner.

Absent

Robert J. Phillips, County Commissioner; Erin Moyer, Director of Children and Youth; Michael Anderson, Director, Domestic Relations; Carla Cyr, Veterans Justice Outreach; Brian Deiderick, Chief Public Defender; and, Kim Mackey, PCCD Regional Representative

Guests

Lori Burrus, N.A.A.C.P.; Michael Borkert, intern, N.A.A.C.P.

Proxies entered for the record: Nichole Eisenhart, Assistant District Attorney, for Pier Hess Graf, District Attorney and CJAB Chair; Deputy Sheriff Bradley Seyfert for Sheriff Jeffrie Marley.

CJAB Vice Chair Holly Leahy called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. Presence of a quorum noted. Self-introductions by all in attendance.

Minutes of 12/07/2021 CJAB Meeting—Approved on a motion by President Judge Tylwalk, seconded by Mr. Donmoyer.

New core member of the Board is Sheriff Jeffrie Marley, who was unable to attend today's meeting. Official welcome to Sheriff Marley will take place at April's meeting.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- **D.U.I. Court**—At present, 18 offenders are participating in the program, with one offender coming into the program on February 9 and four others under consideration. Continued concern over low numbers. An average of ten D.U.I. cases come before Central Court, which is held approximately 50 times per year; this, however, does not translate into 500 D.U.I. offenders who are candidates for the program. The President Judge noted that first-time offenders are not eligible; neither are those who have offended four or more times. Some eligible offenders opt to serve a jail sentence rather than commit to the program's stringent guidelines.
- **Renaissance-Crossroads**—The Court continues to meet and review cases for offenders who had been in the program. Some offenders not satisfied with their placement following PA Counseling's decision to terminate the inpatient/residential component of the program in late 2021. The Court and PA Counseling

will strive to ensure the best possible treatment option for these participants as they transition out of the program. Eliminating Crossroads necessitated a restructuring of the Intermediate Punishment (IP) grant that had funded the program. The grant approved by PCCD last year was for \$500,000, approximately 86 percent of which had been budgeted for Crossroads. The County submitted a project modification to PCCD in late December for \$365,501, reallocating funds to other areas while adhering to grant guidelines. Focus of the project revisions, which PCDD approved on Feb.4, remains on treatment and positive behavioral change.

- **Prison Reduction**—Average Daily Population (ADP) at the LCCF at the end of January was 282; ADP on Feb. 8 was 286. LCCF installed a body scanner on February 4 to detect contraband being brought into the facility. The vivitrol project has started as part of the federal Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) funding awarded by PCCD. Staffing shortages remain an issue for the prison. LCCF has provided trauma-informed care (TIC) training via YouTube for staff. No decision yet about reinstating the work-release program due to ongoing safety concerns. Warden Litz pointed out that certain counties are able to house their work-release inmates at sites separate from the county prison. Lebanon County has no such site.
- **Mental Health**—TEAM M.I.S.A. (Mental Illness and Substance Abuse) continues to meet monthly and has, to date, discussed 16 individuals. Seven of these individuals have a current or a history of struggles with substance abuse. Fifteen persons discussed have mental-health issues; two have intellectual disabilities. Five have been homeless or will face that situation upon their release from incarceration.

Number of reported suicides in the county for 2021 was 18, including five in October. Statistical breakdown: average age, 52.7, with the youngest being 25 and the oldest 77; 13 male, five female; 10 by firearm; three veterans; four divorced, seven single, five married, two with unknown status; 12 with known mental-health history; four known to MH/ID/EI, five with known substance-abuse issues; 17 white, one Hispanic. Total number of suicides for 2020 was 21.

Viable housing for the forensic population is one of priorities in the CJAB's 2022-2023 Strategic Plan. The County owns a house behind MH/ID/EI that could serve as forensic transitional housing for up to three persons. MH/ID/EI has program funds to pay for needed renovations. The building would have a high level of oversight. Those living there would not pay rent or utilities, giving them the opportunity to pay off fines and fees incurred from the legal system. Such an arrangement would also enable the occupants to save money for apartment deposit and rent when the times comes for them to relocate. The original plan was to have the building ready for occupancy by June 30, but it is now more likely that occupancy will not occur until the end of 2022. County still has zoning issues to address.

- **Veterans Court**—Current number of participants is 18, with some offenders pending. Program is still in need of mentors. The President Judge continues to meet with participants in his courtroom twice per month. Many success stories since the program's inception in January 2017.

CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST

Day Reporting Center—Current number of active participants is 19. Court and Probation are working on processes to boost the rate of participation. The modification to the IP grant appropriates \$50,800 for the DRC to pay for former Crossroads participants and other offenders on house arrest/SCRAM. To date, Probation Services has identified five offenders at the DRC eligible for IP funding.

Heroin Task Force—No updated statistics to report. Number of confirmed overdose deaths through September was 24. The number for 2020 was 39. Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse is holding a narcan giveaway on Feb. 14 at Lebanon Family Health Services. Mr. Donmoyer’s department has plenty of narcan on stock. Next Task Force (“Stronger Together”) meeting takes place on April 14. All 67 counties in the Commonwealth are now on board with the opiate-related lawsuit against pharmaceutical companies. Due to their population size, South Lebanon Township, North Lebanon Township, and the City are able to join the lawsuit as participating municipalities.

Offender Reentry Coalition—No report.

Other Updates from CJAB Departments—None

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- **CJAB “Mini-Grant” for 2021-2022**—PCCD and CCAP recently announced the availability of a new round of funding for CJAB training and technical assistance grants. County CJABs are eligible to apply for up to \$2,000 for special projects. Members should contact Mr. Shott with suggestions or proposals for expending these limited funds.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Justice-Assistance Grant (JAG) Funding**—PCCD has announced the availability of federal funds for local governments and non-profit agencies (including non-profit colleges and universities) for projects that support the goals of PCCD’s Strategic Framework. Applicants may apply for up to a maximum of \$250,000 over a two-year period. Submission deadline is March 31. Mr. Shott had emailed the funding announcement and grant guidelines to CJAB members prior to the meeting.

Chester County MH/ID/EI has distributed a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a full-time Mental Health Assessor to assist Magisterial District Justices in diverting persons with mental health needs from the Chester County Prison. The primary mission of the requested position is to implement a comprehensive assessment, including level-of-care recommendations that the Assessor would present to the court, which would then determine the next step in the process. Members discussed the feasibility of using JAG funds for a similar program in Lebanon County.

- **Possible Housing Option-- Domestic Violence Intervention** owns an unoccupied, renovated two-bedroom apartment above a garage at the rear of 416 North Gannon Street, City of Lebanon. Not sure at this time what to do with this onetime carriage house, which is in a section of the city known for bad activity. Definite security concerns. Possibility of DVI collaborating with other agencies to make the dwelling available for someone in the forensic population.

ADJOURNMENT—With no further business to conduct, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

NEXT CJAB MEETING: Tuesday, April 12, 2022, 11:00 a.m., MH/ID/EI

