

Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Minutes of the Meeting of June 14, 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; Audrey Fortna, Director of Probation Services; James Donmoyer, Director of Drug and Alcohol Commission; Nichole Eisenhart, District Attorney's Office; Michael Anderson, Director, Domestic Relations; Jeffrie Marley, Sheriff; Rebecca Davis, LCCF; LeAnne Burchik, Executive Director, Domestic Violence Intervention; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner.

Absent

Honorable John C. Tylwalk President Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Robert J. Phillips, County Commissioner; Jamie Wolgemuth, County Administrator; Erin Moyer, Director of Children and Youth; Carla Cyr, Veterans Justice Outreach; Brian Deiderick, Chief Public Defender; Stephanie Axarlis, Court Administrator; and, Kim Mackey, PCCD Regional Representative

Guests

Michael Schroeder, Secretary, Lebanon Chapter of the N.A.A.C.P.

Proxies entered for the record: Nichole Eisenhart, Assistant District Attorney, for Pier Hess Graf, District Attorney and CJAB Chair; Rebecca Davis, Deputy Warden, for Tina Litz, LCCF Warden.

CJAB Vice Chair Holly Leahy called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m. Self-introductions by all in attendance.

Ms. Leahy introduced today's guest: Professor Michael Schroeder, Secretary of the Lebanon Chapter of the N.A.A.C.P., representing Lori Burrus.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- **D.U.I. Court**—At present, 22 offenders are participating in the program, with one admission pending. One participant now incarcerated.
- **Prison Reduction**—Average Daily Population (ADP) at the end of May was 278. Average length of stay is 23 days. LCCF has seen an increase in the number of inmates with mental-health issues. The vivitrol project at the LCCF is at a standstill. RASE not able to deliver the services, obligating the County to find another vendor.

The staffing shortage is not as dire as it had been. At present, the LCCF has 22 vacancies, down from 40, thanks to successful efforts to recruit and hire new correctional officers. Special thanks to the N.A.A.C.P. for assisting with the recent job fair. LCCF does not envision a return to work release in the near future. Warden Litz anticipates lifting the State of Emergency on August 1. LCCF might allow visitations to resume in July.

- **Mental Health**—TEAM M.I.S.A. (Mental Illness and Substance Abuse) continues to meet monthly and has, as of June 13, discussed the cases of 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.

Good news to report on the transitional-housing front: MH/ID/EI has received approval to renovate the County-owned cottage behind the MH/ID/EI building. This unit will provide transitional housing for up to three individuals. County Commissioners recently awarded a bid to Woodland Contractors to do the renovations, though Woodland has not yet received the permits to begin the work. MH/ID/EI hopes to have the dwelling ready for occupancy no later than December 31. This is a three-bedroom structure to house no more than three persons. Philhaven, as per an agreement with the County, will provide a house manager to ensure that residents are following all rules. MH/ID/EI will use a strict vetting process to determine eligibility to reside in the cottage. Those ineligible include current drug users, anyone who poses a threat to health and safety of others, Megan's Law offenders, and arsonists.

The County has confirmed six suicides as of April 21. Statistical breakdown: four male, two female, two by firearm, three by overdose, one stepping in front of a train; two veterans; two with known mental health history; two known to MH/ID/EI; two with known drug/alcohol issues; five white, one black. Number of reported suicides in the county for 2021 was 19.

- **Veterans Court**—Current number of participants is 19, with two admissions pending. Program is still in need of mentors. An administrator with the Lebanon School District is working with his church to recruit mentors. The objective is to have one mentor for each participant rather than having one mentor assigned to multiple participants. Most mentors are older, retired adults who have more flexibility in their schedules to, for example, attend court sessions once or twice per month.
- **Drug Court**—Planning for the new Drug Treatment Court continues. Meeting held with the President Judge on June 10 to review a draft of the Drug Court Manual. The County intends to release the manual and applications for the program on July 1, with the first round of cases to come before the Court in August.
- **Minutes of April 12 CJAB Meeting**—With a quorum now present, the Chair entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the April 12 meeting. Minutes approved on a motion by Mr. Donmoyer, seconded by Ms. Fortna.

CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST

Day Reporting Center—Current number of active participants is 21. Two recent absconders. Court and Probation are working on processes to boost the rate of participation. 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 Court has been amending conditions of supervision to comply with this ruling.

Heroin Task Force—As of May 25, the County has confirmed eight overdose deaths. Statistical breakdown; five male, three female; 5 involved fentanyl; 4 deaths in the 17042 zip code, two in the 17046 zip code, and one in the 17067 (Myerstown) zip code; one decedent was from the Bronx, New York, but died in the 17046 zip code.

Upcoming events:

July 2, Rapid Response Narcan distribution, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

August 31, Overdose Awareness Vigil, 6-7 p.m.;

September 24, Lebanon Recovery Day at Monument Park, 12 -4 p.m.

No update regarding when counties can expect the first round of funding from the opiate settlement.

Offender Reentry Coalition—No report. Questions about when the County will hire a Reentry Coordinator to reinvigorate the work of the Reentry Coalition. County has not posted the position. Not certain what role Community Action Partnership (CAP) is playing in the hiring process or what funding is available for the position. The CJAB Strategic Plan lists Offender Reentry as a priority over the next two years. Members discussed the possibility of CAP joining the CJAB.

Other Updates from CJAB Department—

IP Funding for FY 2022-2023—According to PCCD’s website, the PCCD Board met on July 6 and awarded Lebanon County \$236,848 in IP-Treatment funding for the next fiscal year. County has not yet received an official award letter. The grant budget appropriates funding for the new Drug Treatment Court. It also directs 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 funds services for offenders who meet the criteria under Act 115 of 2019 (Restrictive Conditions of Probation).

Body-Worn Camera Grant for Probation Services—Probation Services is preparing a grant application to PCCD for the purchase of body-worn cameras for Adult and Juvenile Probation Officers. This a federal grant that requires a 50-50 match with local or in-kind funding. The proposed budget would use Act 35 Supervision Fees for the local match. President Judge Tylwalk supports the application and use of Supervision Fees for this purpose. Probation Services applied for a similar grant two years ago, but was not awarded funding.

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

NEW BUSINESS

- **Final Report on CJAB**—Michael Borkert, a student at Lebanon Valley College and intern with the N.A.A.C.P., has completed a report on the CJAB and the various programs discussed by the Board on a regular basis. Mr. Shott had emailed copies of the report to all the members at the request of Professor Schroeder. Professor Schroeder urges the members to review the report and feel free to contact him with any questions or suggested revisions before releasing a final version of the report.
- **CJAB Updates from Kim Mackey**—Ms. Mackey was not able to attend today’s meeting, but emailed Mr. Shott some updates. Presentations from the April CJAB Conference are now available on PCCD’s website. Next year’s CJAB Conference will take place March 21-22 in State College. In addition, mini-grant funding is still available; county CJABs may apply for up to \$2,000 to help facilitate their work.

- ***PCCD Grant for Community Health Council***—PCCD’s website also lists the Lebanon County Community Health Council as a recipient of \$149,990 in funding for “Connected Together: Trauma-Informed Schools.” Funding source is JJDPC State Violence and Delinquency Prevention Funds.

ADJOURNMENT—With no further business to conduct, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m. on a motion by Ms. Burchik, seconded by Ms. Fortna.

NEXT CJAB MEETING: Tuesday, August 9, 2022, 11:00 a.m., MH/ID/EI

