

Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Minutes of the Meeting of December 13, 2016

Time: 11:00 a.m.

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

Present

David J. Arnold, District Attorney and CJAB Chairman; Sally A. Barry, Director of Probation Services and CJAB Vice Chair; Honorable John C. Tylwalk, President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas; Robert J. Phillips, County Commissioner; Stephanie Axarlis, Court Administrator; Robert Karnes, Warden; Bruce Klingler, Sheriff; Brian L. Deiderick, Chief Public Defender; Kevin Schrum, Director, MH/ID/EI; James Donmoyer, Director of the Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse; Karen Hess, Director of Domestic Relations; Daniel Wright, County Police Chiefs Representative; Kim Mackey, PCCD Regional Representative; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner/Grant Coordinator.

Absent

Jamie Wolgemuth, County Administrator; James Holtry, Director of Children and Youth; Sarah Primak, Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist

Guest

Janine Mauser, CASSP Coordinator

Chairman David Arnold called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

Minutes of 10/25/2016 CJAB Meeting—Approved as written on a motion by Ms. Barry, seconded by President Judge Tylwalk.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- **D.U.I. Court**—Graduation ceremony took place this morning in the President Judge’s courtroom, with seven of the ten graduates in attendance. The ceremony was held during the regular D.U.I. Court session attended by current participants. Family members of graduates, former graduates, county commissioners, and magisterial district justices were also among those in attendance. The President Judge reported that 150 persons have successfully completed the program since its inception in 2008; of that number, approximately 90 percent have remained arrest-free.
- **Veterans’ Court**—No report. Members agreed to remove this committee report from the regular agenda in 2017. President Judge Tylwalk recommended adding a regular report on the Renaissance-Crossroads program in light of changes being planned. Starting in January, the President Judge will begin attending clinical-review meetings on Crossroads participants and will also hold monthly court sessions for offenders in the program. This new approach is similar to the way the D.U.I. Court Program functions.
- **Prison Reduction**—The Average Daily Population (ADP) for November was 554. As of today, the ADP is 508.
- **Mental Health**—The first “Adult CASSP” review meeting scheduled for Dec. 8 was postponed because some members of the core team were unable to attend. Meeting to be rescheduled in January.

CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST

Unified Case Management—No report.

2-1-1 System for Lebanon County—The system will be operational in Lebanon County on January 1st. Information cards in English and Spanish have been distributed to all county departments. The United Way of Lebanon County's website has a 2-1-1 page where department and agency reps can provide information. It is imperative for reps to provide such information so that persons working at the 2-1-1 call center are able to give callers appropriate assistance.

Pretrial Treatment Grant—PCCD has awarded the County \$235,990 to implement a pretrial diversion program over the next two years, beginning October 1st. The program focuses on taking a “front end” approach to criminal justice by assessing offenders at the time of arrest to determine whether they are in need of drug/alcohol treatment and getting them into treatment rather than incarceration. The grant funds two new positions: a Treatment Coordinator who will evaluate arrestees at Central Booking and, in some situations, the LCCF, to assess the need for treatment; and an Adult Probation Officer responsible for supervising those who are accepted into the pretrial diversion program. Ms. Julie Wood has been hired as the new Treatment Coordinator and will begin her duties on 12-19. Although she does not have a background in law enforcement, Ms. Wood does have experience in drug/alcohol assessment. She will need to be trained in administering the Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R). The Probation Officer funded under the grant is Ms. Adrienne Wetzel, who started in her position in late November. Director Barry has been working with Central Booking to get information on arrestees. She has also developed a process chart to give direction as this pretrial program unfolds. The President Judge met recently with the magisterial district justices to discuss the pretrial program and its impact on the operation of their respective courts. The magisterial district justices will most likely not be making bail decisions on offenders under the new program; rather, such decisions will be made at the common pleas level.

MST “Bridge Funding” Grant—PCCD has given the grant application tentative approval; formal approval should come at the PCCD Board meeting on 12-14. This \$46,000 grant would fund Multisystemic Therapy (MST) for juveniles until Medical Assistance begins. MST is administered by PA Counseling; the grant year starts on January 1, 2017.

Day Reporting Center—Plans for starting the program at the beginning of 2017 have hit a snag due to the proposed location of the facility in downtown Lebanon at a site already maintained by PA Counseling. Business owners and others have voiced their concern about more offenders being present in that area of the city. A hearing before the City Zoning Board is scheduled for Dec. 21 at 4:00 p.m. Main issue is whether housing the DRC at 632-636 Cumberland Street is an appropriate use for that particular building, which had once been used for retailing. If the zoning board rules against the DRC, the case could be appealed to the Court of Common Pleas; however, an outside judge would have to hear the case since the DRC comes under the authority of the local court. Commissioner Phillips attended a meeting of the Community of Lebanon Association (CLA) at which the member opted not to send a letter to the zoning board voicing opposition to the DRC's location. The commissioners as well as the judges continue to support the DRC program as a viable alternative to incarceration. Acknowledgement that an information campaign was needed to separate fact from fiction in discussing the DRC. PA Counseling, the contractor selected to operate the program, has already hired staff for the DRC, with the expectation of starting early in the new year. It was noted that the opening of the

recovery house for females has also been delayed due to concerns about its location and the clientele served.

LSI-R Grant—PCCD has given tentative approval of a \$15,077 grant application to defray the cost of administering the Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R) to offenders under supervision. Tentative approval has also been given to the County’s joint application with Lancaster County to allow up to five persons from Probation Services to attend a workshop in Lancaster to learn how to train others in administering the LSI-R.

Offender Reentry Coalition--The Coalition met in November; dates for meetings in 2017 have yet to be determined, pending the results of a survey of Coalition members. One item of business in the new year is to have the Coalition voice support for the Day Reporting Center as a vital component of successful reentry. The Coalition is always looking for new partners while encouraging existing partners to continue their participation. Growing concern about the dwindling attendance at Coalition meetings.

Heroin Task Force—The Task Force will hold their next meeting in January. The County has recorded nine overdose deaths, to date, in 2016. Although there has been an upswing in the number of deaths since the last CJAB meeting in October, the number is still lower than the 2015 total of 17. Mr. Donmoyer reported solid cooperation among all participants in the “warm hand-off” approach for persons who arrive at the Emergency Room with overdose issues. “Warm hand-off” means that Crisis Intervention is contacted immediately to offer assistance before patients return home. The Emergency Room has reported 16 overdose cases in the last month. Of these, eight have been referred to the Drug and Alcohol Commission; three or four are now in treatment. To add another component to “warm hand-off,” the Commission is also exploring the feasibility of using funding for “mobile assessment”; this would entail contracting with Crisis Intervention or other agency to provide a regular connection with the Emergency Room to respond to overdose cases.

OTHER UPDATES FROM CJAB DEPARTMENTS

Ms. Barry noted that the County has been the target of a negative campaign via social media about the way it handles Probation supervision, drug/alcohol treatment for addicts, etc. These include unfounded accusations that the County does not do enough to assist persons in need of rehabilitation. The individual initiating the campaign is a so-called “treatment specialist” from Florida, originally a resident of Wyomissing. He has also targeted Lancaster County. The matter showcases the power of social media to spread misleading information and “fake news.”

Mr. Schrum announced that the number of suicides, to date, in 2016 is 19, an increase over the 15 suicides recorded in 2015.

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers for 2017—President Judge Tylwalk moved, and Warden Karnes seconded the motion, to nominate David Arnold as Chairman and Sally Barry as Vice-Chair of the CJAB for 2017.

On a motion by Commissioner Phillips, seconded by Ms. Axarlis, the members voted to close the nominations. Mr. Arnold and Ms. Barry were then declared elected to their respective positions.

Consensus of the Board to approve the CJAB meeting schedule for 2017: February 28, April 25, June 27, August 15, October 24, and December 12.

Chairman Arnold wished everyone in attendance a happy holiday season. With no further business to address, Chairman Arnold declared the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m. on a motion by Warden Karnes, seconded by Ms. Axarlis.

NEXT CJAB MEETING: Tuesday, February 28, 2017, 11:00 a.m., Second Floor Conference Room, MH/ID/EI, 220 East Lehman Street.