

Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Minutes of the Meeting of October 11, 2022

Time: 11:00 a.m.

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

Present

Brian Deiderick, Chief Public Defender and Acting CJAB Chair; Honorable John C. Tylwalk, President Judge; Jamie Wolgemuth, County Administrator; Chris Frye, Probation Services; Matthew Rys, Drug and Alcohol Commission; Stephanie Axarlis, Court Administrator; Nichole Eisenhart, District Attorney's Office; Michael Anderson, Director, Domestic Relations; Tina Litz, LCCF Warden; LeAnne Burchik, Executive Director, Domestic Violence Intervention; Carla Cyr, Veterans Justice Outreach; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner.

Absent

Holly Leahy, MH/ID/EI Administrator and CJAB Vice-Chair; Robert J. Phillips, County Commissioner; Jeffrie Marley, Sheriff; Jonathan Hess, County Police Chiefs; Erin Moyer, Director, Children and Youth; and, Kim Mackey, PCCD Regional Representative.

Guests

Michael Schroeder, Lebanon Chapter of the N.A.A.C.P.; Dan Page, Assistant District Attorney

Proxy entered for the record: Chris Frye, Deputy Director, Adult Unit, for Audrey Fortna, Director of Probation Services; Nichole Eisenhart, First Assistant District Attorney, for Pier Hess Graf, District Attorney and CJAB Chair; Matthew Rys, Case Manager, for James Donmoyer, Director of Drug and Alcohol Commission.

Acting CJAB Chair Brian Deiderick called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. Presence of a quorum noted.

Minutes of August 9, 2022, CJAB Meeting—Approved on a motion by Mr. Wolgemuth, seconded by President Judge Tylwalk.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- **D.U.I. Court**—At present, 22 offenders are actively participating in the program, with one, possibly a second, expected to be accepted into the program on November 9th. Just as many offenders in the program are in aftercare, meaning that they no longer report to the D.U.I. Court, but remain under probation supervision.
- **Prison Reduction**—Average Daily Population (ADP) at the end of September was 295. Average length of stay for inmates has been 21.7 days. Warden Litz has proposed using some funds from the opioid settlement to work with PrimeCare to expand the current Medical Assistant Treatment (MAT) at the LCCF. More specifically, the proposal would allow anyone with a pre-existing, validated MAT regimen to continue it during their incarceration. At present, the LCCF receives individuals who have been in a successful MAT program from other prisons. Current Prison Board policy, however, requires PrimeCare to gradually decrease the medication, often resulting in a setback to an inmate's recovery. Probation Services also supervises clients who are on approved MAT medications. Under the proposal, PrimeCare would invoice

the LCCF for providing these expanded services. The LCCF would, in turn, invoice the Drug and Alcohol Commission for reimbursement of the costs. Prison Board will address this matter in the near future.

- **Mental Health**—As reported by Mr. Wolgmuth, renovations to the County-owned cottage behind the MH/ID/EI building are nearing completion. A ribbon-cutting could take place in December, with the first tenants occupying the unit early in the new year. This unit will provide transitional housing for up to three people.

Discussion ensued about the feasibility of TEAM M.I.S.A. (Mental Illness and Substance Abuse) identifying persons and addressing their needs prior to incarceration. At present, the team focuses on those in prison.

- **Veterans Court**—Current number of active participants is 14, with two pending admissions. Four former participants remain in aftercare, meaning that they no longer report to the Court, but remain under probation supervision. Census in the program has remained steady and within original expectations. Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) is doing an admirable job working with offenders.
- **Drug Court**—The Court anticipates admitting the first offender to this new treatment court sometime in November.

CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST

Day Reporting Center—Current number of active participants is 18. The Court and Probation continue to work on ways of boosting the number of participants. The County, as per the contract with PA Counseling Services, Inc., pays for a minimum of 40 participants per month, so it behooves the County, from a fiscal standpoint, to increase the number of participants. Possibility of raising this number by conducting cognitive-based therapy (CBT) groups at the DRC.

Heroin Task Force—To date, the County has confirmed 18 overdose deaths, though the last confirmed death occurred on 7/8/22. Therefore, it is likely that cases are pending. Statistical breakdown: ten male, eight female; 11 involved fentanyl; 17 victims were county residents, including 15 residing in the 17042 or 17046 zip codes; youngest victims was 19, oldest was 66; 13 white, four Hispanic. Number of confirmed overdose deaths in 2021 was 31.

Task Force meeting is slated for October 13. The Recovery Day held on Sept. 24 in Lebanon was a well-attended, event.

The Drug and Alcohol Commission received the first round of funding from the opioid settlement in mid-August. Amount received was just under \$172,000. The Commission remains open to suggestions and proposals for use of these settlement payments, emphasizing that the County may expend these funds solely to address opiate disorders.

Narcan is still available through Mr. Donmoyer's office.

Offender Reentry Coalition—No report.

Other Updates from CJAB Department—

- ***EBP Planning Sessions*** —President Judge Tylwalk, Audrey Fortna, Chris Frye, John Shott, Brian Deiderick, Michelle Marshall, and James Doty attended the Regional EBP Planning Workshop in Harrisburg on September 29-30 sponsored by the PA Partnership for Criminal Justice Improvement. Lebanon County has been selected as a Learning Site, authorizing the County to apply for up to \$21,000 in funding to implement and enhance evidence-based practices in the county. Probation Services is focusing on a plan to conduct assessments on offenders prior to sentencing. At present, Probation conducts such assessments after sentencing to determine offenders' criminogenic needs. The plan is to conduct assessments when an offender enters a guilty plea, enabling the Court to determine an appropriate sentence based on the results of that assessment. Revamping the assessment process would also adhere to the PA Superior Court's *Koger* ruling, which requires Courts in Pennsylvania to advise defendants of specific rules and conditions of their probation at the time of sentencing, or they cannot be charged with technical violations of those conditions. Probation will be developing an action plan and budget as part of the application process. Grant application is due no later than November 1st.

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- ***Review of CJAB Bylaws***—Mr. Deiderick asked the members to review the bylaws and offer any suggestions for proposed amendments at the December meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- ***SAM Registrations for CJAB Departments***—Most CJAB departments have had their own System of Award Management (SAM) accounts for years, making them eligible to receive federal grant dollars. Due to changes to the SAMA system earlier in 2022, renewing certain SAM registrations has been difficult and might not occur. Some entities previously registered under SAM are now required to submit certain acceptable documentation to verify their existence, a requirement that they will not be able to meet. Since the CJAB departments are all part of the County and all financial transactions go through the County Controller, suggestion that the departments should eventually migrate into the County's SAM and use the County's registration and ID numbers when the need arises. Mr. Shott, who has been keeping track of SAM renewals for CJAB members, will continue to monitor this issue
- ***December CJAB Meeting***—Two matters to address: election of CJAB officers and approval of meeting schedule for 2023. Proposed meeting schedule will be based on the 2023 Court Calendar.

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

NEXT CJAB MEETING: Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 11:00 a.m., MH/ID/EI

