

Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Minutes of the Meeting of June 12, 2023

Time: 9:00 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 Administration; Tina Litz, LCCF Warden; James Donmoyer, Director of Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse; Brian Deiderick, District Attorney's Office; Stephanie Hamersky, Domestic Relations; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner.

Absent

Robert J. Phillips, County Commissioner; Jamie Wolgemuth, County Administrator; Jeffrie Marley, Sheriff; Jonathan Hess, Police Chiefs Representative; Erin Moyer, Director, Children and Youth; LeAnne Burchik, Domestic Violence Intervention; Carla Cyr, Veterans Justice Outreach, and, Kim Mackey, PCCD Regional Representative.

Guests

Norma Gonzalez, SARCC; Michael Schroeder and Lori Burrus, Lebanon County Chapter of the N.A.A.C.P.; Karen Raugh, Executive Director, Lebanon County Housing Authority.

Proxies entered for the record: Brian Deiderick, Senior Deputy District Attorney, for Pier Hess Graf, District Attorney and CJAB Chair; Stephanie Hamersky for Michael Anderson, Director of Domestic Relations

CJAB Vice-Chair Holly Leahy called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. Self-introductions by the members. No quorum for conducting official business.

Minutes of April 10, 2023 CJAB Meeting—Approved on a motion by Mr. Donmoyer, seconded by Warden Litz.

Special Presentation--Ms. Leahy introduced today's guest speaker, Ms. Norma Gonzalez, Director of Therapy for Sexual Assault Resource and Counseling Center (SARCC). Ms. Gonzalez emphasized that SARCC provides services to victims and survivors of sexual abuse at no cost to the community. These include counseling, medical and legal support, advocacy, bilingual services, trauma therapy, a 24-hour hotline, and support groups. Services are available for all ages and genders. SARCC also offers programs regarding healthy relationships, mandated reporting, victim compensation, personal body safety, respect at work, and other areas. Ms. Gonzalez noted that her agency has seen an upswing in the number of elderly people as well as high schoolers reporting or experiencing trauma-related issues.

Approval of Amendments to CJAB Bylaws—The Board opted to defer action on the amendments due to the absence of an official quorum. The matter will be addressed at the August 14 meeting. The proposed amendments would add a representative of the Lebanon Chapter of the NAACP and the Executive Director of the Lebanon County Housing Authority as core members.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- **D.U.I. Court**—At present, 26 offenders are actively participating in the program, with one pending. The number of participants has stabilized, and there is doubt that the numbers will ever rise to previous levels. Some eligible offenders are now participating in either the Veterans or Drug Court programs.
- **Prison Reduction**—Current Average Daily Population (ADP) is 277, with 16 inmates currently involved in the Medical Assisted Treatment (MAT) program. The number of inmates in work-release ranges from 8 to ten. Recently, two inmates failed to return to the prison from work release and are still at large.
- **Mental Health**—To date, Team M.I.S.A. has discussed the cases of 41 individuals, all of whom have a current or a history of mental-health issues. Statistical breakdown: four have a diagnosed intellectual disability; 17 have a current or had a history of drug/alcohol abuse; two veterans; and ten are currently or have experienced chronic homelessness. The next team meeting is taking place at 10:00 a.m. today.

The number of confirmed suicides as of May 12 is seven. Statistical breakdown: five males, two females; ages of victims ranged from 18 to 86, making the average age 41.3; four by firearm, two by hanging, one hit by train; one veteran (age 86). Five had mental-health histories; one had history of substance abuse; six white, one Hispanic.

At present no one from the forensic (justice-involved) population resides in the County-owned cottage behind the MH/ID/EI building. Previous residents did not comply with the rules and had to vacate the premises. MH/ID/EI needs appropriate referrals to the cottage. Under current guidelines, no one is eligible for placement there who is a violent offender, sex offender, or arsonist. Concern that the persons who had been referred for placement had drug/alcohol issues. The County must comply with zoning regulations regarding the population served at the site, or face fines. From a fiscal standpoint, the County continues to pay the utility bills for what is now an unoccupied residence. Therefore, it behooves the County to place individuals in the cottage, with the firm understanding that they should meet the criteria for placement.

- **Veterans Court**—Current number of active participants is 18, with two offenders under consideration. Mentors continue to do an admirable job.
- **Drug Court**—Current number of active participants is 13, with the court team reviewing 4-5 applications. Indications are that the County's newest treatment court is on course to become the most active court with the highest number of participants. Those who are accepted into the program receive a good break from the court since these offenders could be serving sentences of three or more years in an SCI.

CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST

Day Reporting Center—Current number of active participants is seven. Probation Services continues to explore options for increasing the participation rate.

Heroin Task Force—Confirmed overdose deaths as of 5-28-23 is 16. Statistical breakdown: 14 from 17042/17046 zip codes, two from 17078 (Palmyra); oldest victim was 56, youngest was 30; nine males, seven females; 12 deaths (75%) involved fentanyl. The number of confirmed overdose deaths in 2022 was 29, meaning the County is on track to exceed that tally in 2023. Mr. Donmoyer's office still has Narcan available. His office has also ordered fentanyl test strips for distribution.

Offender Reentry Coalition—No report. No further information about whether the County is close to hiring an Offender Reentry Coordinator.

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- ***IP Grant for FY 2023-2024***—The County submitted the Intermediate Punishment (IP) grant application to PCCD in May in the amount of \$278,708. Mr. Shott shared a breakdown of how the funds will be expended if PCCD approves the budget. The CJAB approved the grant application at the April 10 meeting, along with the IP-Treatment Plan for 2023-2024. The PCCD Board meets on June 13 to consider all applications.

NEW BUSINESS

- ***Strategic Planning for 2023-2024***—The Board should consider engaging in strategic planning later this year. The current plan, which the CJAB adopted in December 2021, expires at the end of the calendar year. Suggestion that the new round of planning should involve reviewing and perhaps revamping the Board bylaws.
- ***System of Award Management (SAM) Registrations***—At the October 2022 meeting, the members agreed that all County departments should migrate into the County's SAM and use the County's registration and Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) when the need arises. This process continues. The County's SAM registration expires on 8-31-23. The County should designate someone to create a SAM account and administer/update the County's registration.

ADJOURNMENT—With no further business to conduct, the Vice-Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m. on motion by Warden Litz, seconded by Ms. Axarlis.

NEXT CJAB MEETING: Monday, August 14, 2023, 9:00 a.m., MH/ID/EI

