

Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Minutes of the Meeting of April 10, 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; LeAnne Burchik, Executive Director of Domestic Violence Intervention; Stephanie Axarlis, Court Administration; Robert J. Phillips, County Commissioner; James Donmoyer, Director of Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse; Jeffrie Marley, Sheriff; Nichole Eisenhart, District Attorney's Office; Todd Hirsch, Police Chiefs Representative; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner.

Absent

Jamie Wolgemuth, County Administrator; Tina Litz, LCCF Warden; Brian Deiderick, Chief Public Defender; Michael Anderson, Director of Domestic Relations; Erin Moyer, Director, Children and Youth; Carla Cyr, Veterans Justice Outreach, and, Kim Mackey, PCCD Regional Representative.

Guests

Michael Schroeder, Lebanon County 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; Sgt. Todd Hirsch for Jonathan Hess, Police Chiefs Representative.

CJAB Vice-Chair Holly Leahy called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Presence of a quorum noted. Self-introductions by the members.

Minutes of February 21, 2023 CJAB Meeting—Approved on a motion by President Judge Tylwalk, seconded by Ms. Axarlis.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- **D.U.I. Court**—At present, 27 offenders are actively participating in the program, with one pending. This represents a slight increase from previous months.
- **Prison Reduction**—Current Average Daily Population (ADP) is 264. Average length of stay at the LCCD was 21.59 days. Should be emphasized that interventions (treatment and counseling) are still available to inmates post-release. This includes inmates participating in the Medical Assisted Treatment (MAT) program.
- **Mental Health**—No Team M.I.S.A. report. The team is meeting later this morning. The number of reported suicides as of March 29 is four. Statistical breakdown: three male, one female; ages ranged from 18 to 80; three by firearm, one by hanging; one veteran; two with known mental-health histories; three white, one Hispanic; three suicides in February, one in March.

At present only one individual resides in the County-owned cottage behind the MH/ID/EI building. The other resident who had been residing there had to vacate the premises for not following the rules. The County continues to receive and review referrals, with the expectation of having at least one more person in the cottage soon.

The President Judge noted that he is considering the establishment of a mental-health treatment court in the county. This is based on the idea that individuals with mental-health issues should not be incarcerated. Concern about the number of inmates at the LCCF with such issues has been ongoing and referenced in the IP Treatment Plan. The cost associated with the program will be one of the areas to be addressed as planning unfolds.

- **Veterans Court**—Current number of active participants is 19, with two offenders in the pipeline. Quite likely that the Court will soon accept its first female offender into the program. The volunteer mentors are doing a great job.
- **Drug Court**—The County’s newest treatment court now has ten participants, with the court team reviewing 10-12 applications. After a slow start, the program is getting positive reviews and generating interest among defendants who might be eligible for admission.

CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST

Day Reporting Center—Current number of active participants is seven, though more referrals could be coming through the Court. Also, the DRC is allowing offenders receiving cognitive-based therapy (CBT) to come to the DRC at no additional cost to the county.

At the beginning of the year, the Office of Probation Services began implementing the evidence-based practices planning grant that focuses on assessing offenders prior to sentencing to determine risk levels and offenders’ criminogenic needs. Administering assessments before sentencing is assisting the Court in determining a more appropriate sentence and subsequent levels of supervision/conditions of probation, including referrals to the DRC. The Court provides a room at the Courthouse where a probation officer can conduct assessments immediately after a defendant enters a plea. This is much more efficient than requiring a defendant to come to the Probation Office and running the risk of getting “lost” on the way.

Heroin Task Force—No updated overdose statistics to report. Stronger Together meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 13 at 8:30 a.m.

Offender Reentry Coalition—Encouraging news that the County has a promising candidate to become the Reentry Coordinator. This part-time position will be funded through a grant.

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

No business to report.

NEW BUSINESS

IP Grant Application for FY 2023-204—PCCD is again making funding available for counties seeking to develop or continue IP programs. Under the funding announcement, Lebanon County is eligible to apply for a maximum of \$500,000, \$130,720 of which can be directed toward supervision and non-treatment services. In the past, the county applied for and received maximum funding, though approximately 85 percent of those funds had been used for the now-defunct Renaissance-Crossroads program. This year's grant application will probably weigh more heavily toward supervision and non-treatment. Application deadline is May 15. On a motion by President Judge Tylwalk, seconded by Ms. Fortna, the Board authorized Mr. Shott to submit a completed IP grant application to PCCD by the May 15 deadline. The Board also authorized the officers to send a letter to PCCD on behalf of the CJAB expressing their support for the IP grant application. A letter from the officers is required under the grant guidelines.

Approval of IP Treatment Plan for 2023-2024—Mr. Shott had emailed members an advance draft of the plan prior to the meeting. An updated plan must be approved by the CJAB and attached to the IP grant application. On a motion by Ms. Axarlis, seconded by Ms. Fortna, the members approved the plan with the understanding that Mr. Shott will continue to update the information and narratives before submitting it to PCCD.

Core Membership on the CJAB—The Board discussed adding the Lebanon County Chapter of the N.A.A.C.P. as well as the Lebanon County Housing Authority as core members of the Board. Representatives of the N.A.A.C.P. have been attending CJAB meetings as guests since June 2021 and have requested membership on the Board, bringing a community-based organization's perspective to the table. Karen Raugh, Director of the Housing Authority, has expressed interest in the work of the CJAB. Having a member of a county housing authority on the CJAB is recommended under PCCD's minimum operating standards for CJABs in the Commonwealth. Adding members to the CJAB requires an amendment to the Bylaws. Such a vote could take place at the June 12 meeting. On a motion by President Judge Tylwalk, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, the members authorized Mr. Shott to prepare amendments to the Bylaws adding the N.A.A.C.P. and County Housing Authority to the core membership. Mr. Shott will email a draft of the amendments to each member at least two weeks prior to the next CJAB meeting, as required under the Bylaws.

ADJOURNMENT—With no further business to conduct, the Vice-Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

NEXT CJAB MEETING: Monday, June 12, 2023, 9:00 a.m., MH/ID/EI

