

## Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board

### Minutes of the Meeting of December 9, 2024

**Time: 9:00 a.m.**

**Place: Second Floor Conference Room, MH/ID/EI, 220 East Lehman St., Lebanon, PA, 17046**

#### Present

Holly Leahy, MH/ID/EI Administrator and CJAB Vice Chair; Honorable John C. Tylwalk, President Judge; Jamie Wolgemuth, County Administrator; Robert J. Phillips, County Commissioner; Brian Deiderick, District Attorney's Office; Emily Maenza, Office of Probation Services; Jeffrie Marley, Sheriff; Brian Deiderick, District Attorney's Office; James Donmoyer, Executive Director, Drug and Alcohol Commission; Tina Litz, Warden; Karen Raugh, Director, Housing Authority, Stephanie Hamersky, Domestic Relations; Michael Schroeder and Joseph Duke, Lebanon Branch #26AA, N.A.A.C.P.; Norma Gonzalez, SARCC; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner.

#### Absent

Pier Hess Graf, District Attorney and CJAB Chair; Jonathan Hess, Police Chiefs; Megan Tidwell, Chief Public Defender; Glenda Folsom, Offender Reentry Coordinator; Erin Moyer, Director, Children and Youth Services; Carla Cyr, Veterans Justice Outreach; and Kimberly Mackey, PCCD Regional Representative.

***Voting proxies entered for the record: Brian Deiderick, First Assistant District Attorney, for Pier Hess Graf, District Attorney and CJAB Chair; Emily Maenza, Adult Probation Supervisor, for Audrey Fortna, Director of Probation Services; Stephanie Hermasky, Assistant Director, for Michael Anderson, Director of Domestic Relations.***

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

**Minutes of October 7, 2024, CJAB Meeting**—Approved on a motion by Warden Litz, seconded by Sheriff Marley.

#### **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**D.U.I. Court**—At present, 34 offenders are participating in the program, with two offenders about to be accepted into the program. The court team is currently reviewing four applications.

**Prison Reduction**—The current Average Daily Population (ADP) at LCCF is 277.

**Mental Health**—Team M.I.S.A. did not meet in November.

Since February 2024, MH/ID/EI has dealt with 220 previously incarcerated individuals who either have open or have had an open case with the office. Four of these individuals were incarcerated more than once during that same period.

As of 12/6/24, the County reports 26 suicides, exceeding the 20 suicides in 2023 as well as 2022. Statistical breakdown: 23 males, three females; average age, 53.7, with the age range from 12 to 92; 15 by firearm; three veterans; 24 county residents, one out of county, one unknown; 12 with a known mental health history, nine with known substance abuse history, three known to MH/ID/EI; 23 Caucasian, one Dominican, one Hispanic, one Bhutanese.

Two persons left the County-owned cottage in November. One person was a success, while the other was evicted for stealing from other residents. Wellspan Philhaven is working with this individual to find long-term housing within the community. MH/ID/EI received three new referrals for the two available openings. One selected referral participates in the DUI Court program and moved in the week of November 25. The team is in the process of selecting the person for the other opening; this placement will be going to someone who is currently in LCCF.

Several representatives from the County attended the Behavioral Health Summit in Hershey on October 29-30. Many informative workshops. The President Judge plans to meet early in the new year to discuss development of a mental health treatment court in the county. Priorities will include housing and the competency of individuals to stand trial. Co-occurring disorders should also be taken into consideration.

**Veterans' Court**—At present, 13 offenders are active participants in the program, with four under consideration. Members of the court treatment teams attended the annual Pennsylvania Treatment Court Professionals conference in State College, October 9-11. This is training mandated by the Administrative Office of PA Courts (AOPC) as part of the process toward accreditation of specialty courts in the Commonwealth. At present, the D.U.I. Court is accredited by the AOPC, and the President Judge is moving ahead with plans to attain this accreditation for the Veterans' and Drug Court programs.

**Drug Court**—33 offenders are currently participating in the program; two applications are under review. The program offers an alternative to those who would otherwise be spending two years or more at an SCI.

## **CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST**

**Heroin Task Force Report**—As of the end of September, the County had confirmed 14 overdose deaths. If this trend continues, the number of overdose deaths for 2024 will be much lower than the 31 deaths reported in 2023.

**Offender Reentry**—Mr. Shott gave a report on behalf of Ms. Folsom. The Reentry Coalition met in October and December, with the intent to meet on odd months next year (in recognition that the CJAB meets on even months). The number of Coalition partners stands at 44 and growing. At the first meeting, attendees identified mental health and housing as the two major issues of concern to Coalition partners. Glenda has met with Angi Crater, PCCD Reentry Coordinator, who recommends that the Coalition update the mission and vision statements as

well as put together a new strategic plan. Ms. Crater also suggests that the Coalition settle on a definition of recidivism. Glenda is working with Warden Litz and Director Fortna on gathering recidivism-related data. Glenda attended a meeting of the York County Reentry Coalition on Nov. 19, getting a firsthand view of their innovative approaches to helping offenders make a successful transition back into the community. York focuses on health and requires everyone to make an appointment at a clinic upon release. At the January 2025 meeting of the Lebanon Coalition, Glenda plans to make a case for directing all reentrants to set up an appointment as close to release as possible—if not prior to—with either Union Community Care or Lebanon Family First.

#### **ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS—**

***Proposed Amendment to Bylaws (Membership)***—Issue tabled at the October meeting after several questions and issues had been raised. Since that meeting, District Attorney Hess Graf has met with Dr. Yocum’s office about the issue of core membership. They plan to send a representative to discuss statistics and other coroner-related matters if the coroner is added to the CJAB. On a motion by Mr. Deiderick, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, the members approved the amendment to the Bylaws adding the County Coroner as a core member of the CJAB. Mr. Donmoyer and Warden Litz abstained. There were no dissenting votes.

#### **NEW BUSINESS—**

***Election of CJAB Officers for 2025***—Mr. Wolgemuth moved, and Sheriff Marley seconded the motion, that the Board elect Holly Leahy as Chair and James Donmoyer as Vice-Chair for 2025. There were no other nominations, and the Board approved the motion.

***Approval of CJAB Meeting Dates for 2025***—On a motion by Mr. Deiderick, seconded by Mr. Donmoyer, the members approved the following dates for meetings in 2025: February 10, April 7, June 23, August 4, October 13, and December 8. Meetings will start at 9:00 a.m.

***PA Competency Restoration Project (Listening Session)***—The Dept. of Human Services/Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services is holding a listening session on December 11, 2024, focused on counties’ experiences in supporting individual with mental illness who are involved with the criminal justice system. CJAB members have been invited to register for this session. Warden Litz plans to participate and hopes that a representative from PrimeCare, which provides medical services at LCCF, will also take part.

***National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Central PA***—The organization is offering NAMI Peer-to-Peer beginning on Saturday, Dec. 14 at the Lebanon Recovery Center. Peer-to-Peer is an eight-session recovery-focused course for adults with mental health conditions.

***PennLive Report***—Newspaper is printing a four-part series about prosecution of sex crimes in the Commonwealth. Question about Lebanon County’s rate of prosecuting rape and assault cases. No discussion about this issue ensued.

**ADJOURNMENT**—With no further business to conduct, Ms. Leahy declared the meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m. on a motion by Mr. Deiderick, seconded by Sheriff Marley.

**NEXT CJAB MEETING**—**Monday, February 10, 2025, 9:00 a.m., MH/ID/EI.**