

Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Minutes of the Meeting of April 13, 2021

Time: 11:00 a.m.

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

Present

Pier Hess Graf, District Attorney and CJAB Chair; Holly Leahy, MH/ID/EI Administrator and CJAB Vice-Chair; Honorable John C. Tylwalk, President Judge; Robert J. Phillips, County Commissioner; Audrey Rakow, Director of Probation Services; Bruce Klingler, Sheriff; Stephanie Axarlis, Court Administrator; Brian Deiderick, Chief Public Defender; Tina Litz, LCCF Warden; Matthew Rys, Drug and Alcohol Commission; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner.

Absent

Jamie Wolgemuth, County Administrator; Karen Hess, Director of Domestic Relations; Erin Moyer, Director of Children and Youth; Carla Cyr, Veterans Justice Outreach; and, Kim Mackey, PCCD Regional Representative

District Attorney and CJAB Chair Pier Hess Graf called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. *Presence of a quorum announced.*

Noted for the record: Mr. Matthew Rys served as proxy for core member James Donmoyer, Director of Drug and Alcohol Commission. District Attorney Pier Hess Graf had the proxy for Mike DiPalo, County Detective, who is representing the County Chiefs of Police on the Board.

Minutes of 02/09/2021 CJAB Meeting and 03/23/21 Special Meeting—Approved on a motion by Sheriff Klingler, seconded by Ms. Axarlis.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- **D.U.I. Court**—At present, 38 offenders are participating in the program, with three set to graduate early next month. One admission to the program is pending. In an effort to maintain social distancing by limiting the number of participants in the courtroom, the President Judge is now holding D.U.I. Court sessions every Tuesday instead of every other Tuesday, as had been the practice. Assigning two Adult Probation Officers to supervise participants has been working well.
- **Renaissance-Crossroads**-- Current number of offenders in the long-term program is ten, with three in short-term. President Judge Tylwalk continues to conduct monthly reviews onsite at Crossroads rather than in his courtroom in recognition of COVID restrictions and concern about transporting participants from Crossroads to the Courthouse. A return to courtroom sessions could occur in the near future.
- **Prison Reduction**—Average Daily Population (ADP) as of 4/13 is 294. Staff changes at the LCCF: Rebecca Davis is the new Deputy Warden for Treatment; Edward Potter has been the main counselor for female inmates, but will now be the main counselor for the males. County is planning to hire a new counselor who will deal primarily with female inmates and some males.
- **Mental Health**—TEAM M.I.S.A. (Mental Illness and Substance Abuse) has begun meeting on a monthly basis. The Team met this morning to discuss the cases of two incarcerated persons with significant mental-health issues. These offenders are two of seven imprisoned persons who signed Releases of Information to have their cases addressed by the Team. So far, the meetings been well attended and productive.

Number of reported suicides in the county, to date, is four. Statistical breakdown: two male, two female; age range from 29 to 70; one suicide by firearm, the other three by overdose.

- **Veterans Court**—Current number of participants is 19, with the possibility that the Court will have to remove up to three of these participants from the program due to multiple violations. To date, two participants have completed the program and been released early from supervision. One of the successful participants is interested in serving as a mentor.

CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST

Day Reporting Center—Current number of active participants is 44. Number of referrals on the upswing now that some of the COVID-related restrictions are easing.

Heroin Task Force—The number of confirmed overdose deaths in 2020 was 39, representing a 39 percent increase over the 28 deaths in 2019. The ages of victims ranged from 19 to 60. To date, the number of overdose deaths for 2021 is 10. Fentanyl is still prevalent in the county and had been a major factor in last year's OD statistics. Next drug take-back day sponsored by the Task Force will take place on April 27.

Offender Reentry Coalition—No report.

Other Updates from CJAB Departments—

AOPC Grant Funding—Probation Services submitted separate applications to the AOPC for funding to enhance the operation of the D.U.I. Court and Veterans Court programs. No word from the AOPC about the status of these applications.

Intermediate Punishment (IP) Funding for FY 2021-2022 (\$500,000)—The County is preparing an application to PCCD for funding to continue the Renaissance-Crossroads program for another year. Application deadline is April 27. Most (approximately 85 percent) of the \$500,000 in funding is appropriated for treatment provided by PA Counseling Services, Inc., which operates Renaissance-Crossroads out of leased space at the Lebanon V.A. Medical Center. The remainder is set aside for the cost of supervising Crossroads and other participants serving time under house arrest/electronic monitoring, another key element of the County's IP program. Mr. Shott requested that the Board approve the application and authorize the officers to sign a letter of support on behalf of the Board. (The letter of support is a required part of the grant application.) **The Chair called for the vote, and all members voted to approve the grant application for \$500,000, and to authorize the officers to sign a letter of support on the Board's behalf.** Mr. Shott is also going before the County Commissioners on April 15 to secure their authorization to submit the application.

IP Treatment Plan for 2021-2022—PCCD requires the County to attach an updated plan to the IP grant application. Members had received a copy of the plan prior to the meeting. **The Chair called for the vote, and all members voted to approve the plan.**

CJAB “Mini-Grant” for 2021—PCCD will not approve the CJAB’s application for \$2,000 to support the ongoing suicide-prevention campaign in the County until the Board addresses the issue of core membership and Minimum Operating Standards.

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- **Spring CJAB Conference April 20-22 (Virtual)** –A reminder that Board members can still register for next week’s event. PCCD will be posting the conference itinerary/schedule on its website.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Amendment to CJAB Bylaws (Membership)--By a unanimous vote, the members approved a proposed amendment to the Bylaws adding the Executive Director of Domestic Violence Intervention as a Core Member.

Request from Outside Organization—Ms. Lori Burrus of the Organizing Committee of the Lebanon Chapter of the N.A.A.C.P. has requested to attend the June 8 meeting and give a presentation about her organization.

ADJOURNMENT—With no further business to conduct, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m. on a motion by Ms. Axarlis, seconded by Mr. Deiderick.

NEXT CJAB MEETING: Tuesday, June 8, 2021, 11:00 a.m., MH/ID/EI