

**Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of August 14, 2018**

**Time: 11:00 a.m.**

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

**Present**

Sally A. Barry, Director of Probation Services and CJAB Vice Chair; Honorable John C. Tylwalk, President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas; Robert J. Phillips, County Commissioner; Bruce Klingler, Sheriff; Jamie Wolgemuth County Administrator; Stephanie Axarlis, Court Administrator; James Donmoyer, Director of the Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse; Brian L. Deiderick, Chief Public Defender; Sarah Primak, Veterans Justice Outreach; Karen Hess, Director of Domestic Relations; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner.

**Absent**

David J. Arnold, District Attorney and CJAB Chairman; James Holtry, Director of Children and Youth; Kevin Schrum, Director of MH/ID/EI; Robert Karnes, Warden; Daniel Wright, County Police Chiefs; Kim Mackey, PCCD Regional Representative.

**Guests**

Mitch Pegg, PA Counseling Services, Inc.

Vice Chair Sally Barry called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. Presence of a quorum noted. Ms. Barry introduced today's guest, Mitch Pegg, PA Counseling Services and Director of the Day Reporting Center. Self-introductions by Board members.

**Minutes of 04/24/2018 and 6/12/18 CJAB Meetings**—Approval on a motion by President Judge Tylwalk, seconded by Sheriff Klinger.

Mr. Pegg gave a status update on the Day Reporting Center, which opened its doors in October 2017:

*The present census is 41, with two clients receiving a higher level of care (in-patient treatment). Seven clients have graduated from the program in the past two weeks, with two more expected to graduate within the next week. Regarding employment: 64 percent are employed, 32 percent are unemployed, with four percent disabled. Client progression through the program: 54 percent at Phase 1 (reporting six days per week), 22 percent at Phase 2, 20 percent at Phase 3, and four percent at Phase 4. Out of the 41 clients now in the program, 36 have been referred for external services; 34 are either participating in these services or have completed them successfully. To date, all graduating clients have successfully completed the external service to which they were referred. The DRC has seen a steadier flow or referrals in recent weeks. All successful and unsuccessful discharges over the past month have been replaced with new referrals. Most referrals come from sentencing judges or Probation Services. Some "bumps in the road" remain for domestic relations cases, pre-trial participants, and offenders assessed prior to sentencing. (Domestic Relations cases slowed by lack of criminal-background checks.)*

First graduation from DRC was held several weeks ago.

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- **D.U.I. Court**—At present, 37 offenders are participating in the program. The census is lower than expected. The County is processing applications for residents who committed DUI offenses in other counties. Note: first-time offenders are not eligible for the program.
- **Renaissance-Crossroads**—Having Crossroads participants appear monthly in the President Judge’s courtroom to discuss their progress in the program is working well. No major issues with the program at this time.
- **Prison Reduction**—Population statistics for July: Average Daily Population (ADP) at month’s end: 502; lowest ADP during the month, 479; number of un-sentenced inmates, 212; number of Parole/Probation violators incarcerated, 243. Regarding the number of un-sentenced inmates: high percentage are behind bars because they could not make bail; others opt to remain incarcerated to accrue time already served prior to sentencing. The President Judge noted the strong movement across the nation to modify or abolish the cash-bail system, which is viewed as unfair to indigent offenders and keeps them languishing in jail longer than necessary. The Pretrial Justice Institute has given Pennsylvania a “D” rating for its continued use of cash bail. New Jersey has the highest “A” rating in the nation for having effectively eliminated bail.
- **Mental Health**—Members of the “Adult CASSP” team have held two reviews since the last CJAB meeting. Dealing effectively with offenders and inmates with mental health issues remains a major issue. The PA Prison Society is very active on this front. An article about the LCCF and how it handles inmates in need of mental health services should be appearing in the Lebanon Daily News in the near future.

## CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST

**Justice-Assistance Grant (JAG) Funding**—The County submitted a grant application to PCCD in late March in the amount of \$150,000 in federal funding to defray some of the cost of maintaining the Day Reporting Center (DRC). Most of the funding would be used to pay the salary and benefits of the Adult Probation Officer assigned to supervise DRC clients. The balance would be used toward the monthly invoices sent by PA Counseling Services, Inc, the consultant contracted to operate the DRC. To date, the application remains “under review,” according to PCCD. Grant cycle to begin on 10-1-18

**IP-Crossroads Grant 2018-2020**—PCCD has awarded Lebanon County \$1,023,645 to continue major elements of the County Intermediate Punishment (IP) Plan. The awarded amount represents a decrease from the \$1,170,000 original requested by the County. Although the grant budget had to be revised to reflect the decreased amount, most of the funding is still appropriated for the intensive in and out-patient treatment that offenders receive at Renaissance-Crossroads.

**Pretrial Diversion/Treatment Program**—Grant cycle ends on 9-30-18. The Adult Probation Officer supervising pretrial offenders left her position at the end of July. Ms. Barry has sent a hiring recommendation to the Commissioners. The individual recommended is a bi-lingual female currently working as a PO in another county. She will not be assigned exclusively to supervise pretrial participants. Possibility that federal funding will be available to continue the pretrial program after September. If continuation funding is approved, funds will not be used to fill the Treatment Coordinator position, which has been vacant for over one year. Empower the Mind has been conducting the drug/alcohol assessments in accordance with a project modification approved by PCCD in October 2017.

**Offender Reentry Coalition**—The County Commissioners have approved the part-time (approx. 15 hours per week) position of Reentry Coordinator. The person in this position will be assigned to Community Action Partnership and be under the direction of Phyllis Holtry. John Shott and Phyllis Holtry developed the job description and sent it to Human Resources for further review. The position has not been officially posted.

**Heroin Task Force**—The Task Force met on 7-12-18 and is slated to meet again on 10-11-18. Number of reported overdose deaths, to date, is 20. Average age of victim is 36, with the youngest victim being 20, the oldest 60. Fourteen males, six females. Overdose deaths in 2017: 27. Important to note that the stats represent those who died in Lebanon County, though some of the victims had resided outside the county. On the reverse side, a person from Lebanon County who, for example, dies at the Hershey Medical Center is included in overdose statistics for Dauphin County.

The Harm Reduction Committee has organized a Lebanon County Recovery Day event slated for Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup> from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Monument Park, 755 Lehman St., Lebanon. This event will feature recovery speakers, treatment providers, children's activities, and free food and beverages.

**PCCD Mini-Grant**—As in previous years, PCCD has offered counties an opportunity to apply for up to \$1,500 in training/technical assistance grant funding for short-term projects. Lebanon County has not submitted an application; no recommendations from Board members on projects to fund.

**Other Updates from CJAB Departments**—The President Judge noted that plans are coming together for the establishment of a Veterans' Track within the Court of Common Pleas. An organizational meeting has been scheduled for September 7<sup>th</sup>. Expectation is that the Veterans' Track will be in place by the first of the year.

## **ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

A reminder that the CJAB should begin the process of developing a new Strategic Plan. Members are requested to complete the survey that was emailed several weeks ago as a first step toward developing the plan. The survey is used to assess Board members' opinions about our CJAB's strengths and weaknesses. This is also an appropriate time to engage in the biennial review of the CJAB Bylaws and to consider any amendatory language. Planning will continue at the next CJAB meeting in October, with discussions about priorities for the coming year and members' roles on the Board.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Nothing to report.

With no further business to conduct, Ms. Barry declared the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Axarlis, seconded by Ms. Hess.

**NEXT CJAB MEETING: Tuesday, October 30, 2018, 11:00 a.m., Second Floor Conference Room, MH/ID/EI, 220 East Lehman Street.**