

Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Minutes of the Meeting of December 12, 2017

Time: 11:00 a.m.

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

Present

David J. Arnold, District Attorney and CJAB Chairman; Sally A. Barry, Director of Probation Services and CJAB Vice Chair; Honorable John C. Tylwalk, President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas; Daniel Wright, County Police Chiefs Representative; Kevin Schrum, Director of MH/ID/EI; Stephanie Axarlis, Court Administrator; Brian L. Deiderick, Chief Public Defender; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner/Grant Coordinator.

Absent

Jamie Wolgemuth, County Administrator; Bruce Klingler, Sheriff; Karen Hess, Director of Domestic Relations; Robert Karnes, Warden; Robert J. Phillips, County Commissioner; James Donmoyer, Director of the Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse; James Holtry, Director of Children and Youth; Sarah Primak, Veterans Justice Outreach; and Kim Mackey, PCCD Regional Representative.

Chairman David Arnold called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.

Minutes of 10/24/2017 CJAB Meeting—Approved as written on a motion by President Judge Tylwalk, seconded by Ms. Axarlis.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- **D.U.I. Court**—The 14th graduation ceremony in the history of the program was held recently, with 14 graduates in attendance, the largest number ever to attend. Since the program’s inception, 281 offenders have participated, with a 70 percent success rate. At present, 47 offenders are participating. The Administrative Office of PA Courts (AOPC) has also renewed the program’s certification for another three years
- **Renaissance-Crossroads**—At present, 14 offenders are enrolled in the program, 12 long-term and two short-term. The team meetings and court review sessions have been going well. Word from PCCD that IP funding for the next two years looks secure, which means that the Crossroads program will be able to continue operating. Changes in funding guidelines also enables Level II offenders as well as offenders with mental health issues to participate in IP.
- **Prison Reduction**—As recently reported, the Average Daily Population (ADP) has been under 500 for the first time in 18 months. Opening of the new Day Reporting Center is one of the factors leading to this lower number of inmates.
- **Mental Health**—An “Adult CASSP” review meeting is scheduled for 12-14. To date, the county has recorded 18 suicides. (The number of suicides in 2016 was 20.) Demographic breakdown: average age of 50, the youngest, age 15 and the oldest, age, 86; 17 males, one female; 15 white, three Hispanic. Suicide by firearm was the most common. Mr. Deiderick is working on a proposal for pretrial diversion for offenders with mental health issues.

CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST

IP-Crossroads Grant—PCCD has announced that counties will not be required to reduce their IP budgets for the second year of the grant cycle. Mr. Shott submitted a project modification in November request to authorize the participation of Level II offenders in the Crossroads program and for additional funding to reflect higher personnel costs. PCCD is still reviewing the request.

Pretrial Diversion/Treatment Program—Program is still encountering difficulty getting referrals. Probation Services is the primary referral source, with almost no referrals coming from the magisterial district justices. Empower the Mind, a licensed contractor, is conducting drug/alcohol evaluations at the prison since the county has not been able to fill the position of Treatment Coordinator. PCCD approved a modification request authorizing grant funds to pay for Empower the Mind's services until the position is filled or if another vacancy occurs in the position between now and the end of the grant cycle on 9-30-18. Ongoing concern about the lack of privacy at the LCCF for conducting interviews and evaluations.

Day Reporting Center—The DRC is now operational, with 20 offenders currently assigned to the program. Domestic relations cases will be referred to the DRC starting in January. Main focus for domestic cases will be securing employment.

MST "Bridge Funding" Grant—This one-year grant will end on 12-31-17. Probation Services intends to continue funding Multisystem Therapy (MST) services through its needs-based budget after Jan 1, 2018, and did not apply to PCCD for a second round of grant funding.

CJAB Webpage—Information Tech Services has developed a login to enable department heads or their reps to update their respective pages in the County's website. Mr. Shott has received authorization from IT to edit the CJAB page.

Offender Reentry Coalition—Coalition meeting held on November 16, 2017; next meeting is slated for January 25, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. at PA Counseling Services. The local chapter of the Society of Human Resource Managers (SHRM) has invited Coalition partners to attend a meeting on 2-22-18 at Philhaven to discuss the employment needs of returning citizens. Strong probability that grant funding will be made available next year to assist returning citizens with employment.

Heroin Task Force—No official report.

Naloxone for First Responders—PCCD has approved an application by the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) to distribute naloxone kits to first responders over the next two years. As per application guidelines, the EMA is acting as the Centralized Coordinating Entity (CCE) for the county and will be responsible for distributing the kits. A letter of support from the CJAB signed by Mr. Arnold and Ms. Barr was attached to the application.

Other Updates from CJAB Departments—Nothing to report

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Election of Officers for 2018—President Judge Tylwalk moved, and Ms. Axarlis seconded the motion, to nominate David Arnold as CJAB Chairman for 2018. Hearing no other nominations, President Judge Tylwalk moved, and Ms. Barry seconded the motion, that nominations be closed. The members approved the motion to close, and Mr. Arnold was named CJAB Chairman for 2018. Mr. Wright moved, and Mr. Schrum seconded the motion, that Sally Barry be nominated as CJAB Vice Chair for 2018. Hearing no other nominations, Ms. Axarlis moved, and Mr. Schrum seconded the motion, that nominations be closed. The members approved the motion to close, and Ms. Barry was named CJAB Vice Chair for 2018.

Approval of Meeting Schedule for 2018—The members agreed to set the following dates for CJAB meetings in 2018: February 20, April 24, June 12, August 14, October 30, and December 11.

NEW BUSINESS

The Commissioners have approved two new staff positions for Probation Services: a second Adult Probation Officer for the Day Reporting Center and an additional support person for the Collections and Disbursements Unit. The latter position will focus on juvenile costs and fines.

The County has received criticism from the American Civil Liberties Union about the handling of offenders brought to court for failure to pay fines. The President Judge noted that the average length of incarceration for someone found in contempt is six days, which is not unreasonably long and does not indicate that the County is running an unwarranted “debtor’s prison.”

With no further business to address, Chairman Arnold declared the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m. Chairman Arnold wished all CJAB members a happy Holiday season.

NEXT CJAB MEETING: Tuesday, February 20, 2018, 11:00 a.m., Second Floor Conference Room, MH/ID/EI, 220 East Lehman Street.