

Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Minutes of the Meeting of December 10, 2019

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, Court of Common Pleas; James Donmoyer, Director of the Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse; Jamie Wolgemuth, County Administrator; Stephanie Axarlis, Court Administrator; Holly Leahy, Director of MH/ID/EI; Samuel Ortiz, Offender Reentry Coordinator; Kim Mackey, PCCD Regional Representative; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner.

Absent

David J. Arnold, District Attorney and CJAB Chairman; Robert J. Phillips, County Commissioner; Erin Moyer, Director of Children and Youth; Bruce Klingler, Sheriff; Karen Hess, Director of Domestic Relations; Brian L. Deiderick, Chief Public Defender; Robert Karnes, Warden; Daniel Wright, Police Chiefs Representative; Carla Cyr, Veterans Justice Outreach.

Board Vice Chair Sally Barry called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. *The number of members in attendance did not constitute a quorum under the Bylaws; therefore, no official action could be taken on any matter before the Board.*

Minutes of 10/15/2019 CJAB Meeting—Action deferred until the February 2020 meeting.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- **D.U.I. Court**—At present, 43 offenders are participating in the program. Annual Graduation Program held earlier today to recognize 17 offenders who had successfully completing the phases of the program. Main speaker for the ceremony was a former participant. The number of offenders in the program has remained steadily at the 40-45 range for quite some time. No specific reason for why the numbers are not on the upswing.
- **Renaissance-Crossroads**—Current census is 13 (ten long-term and three short-term), with one long-term admission pending. Increase in the number of referrals is encouraging.
- **Prison Reduction**—No official report. Mr. Wolgemuth reported that the Average Daily Population (ADP) has been around 460 on a consistent basis. Elements of the Intermediate Punishment (IP) Plan, including the Day Reporting Center, are a major factor keeping the inmate population at manageable levels. Although the reduction in the inmate population is not high enough to impact staffing levels at the LCCF, it could impact the amount of overtime paid by the County. The Guardian System, a tracking and monitoring system funded through the County's insurance carrier, is working extremely well. The system involves electronic devices used by corrections officers in the course of their duties to scan, track, interpret, etc. This enhanced tracking system improves accountability at the prison and could protect the county from future liability. Insurance funding has paid for 25 of these tracking devices.

- Mental Health**—One confirmed suicide in November, bringing the total to 15 so far in 2019. Average age of victim was 46. No recent referrals to “Adult CASSP.” Kasy Felty of the MH/ID/EI staff is exploring options for making the program more effective; this entails examining other models, such as in Lehigh County. Ms. Leahy and others have met with PrimeCare at the LCCF to discuss continuing care for inmates, particularly those with mental illness. Another meeting will take place in January to continue these collaborative efforts. Home plans developed by Probation Services for offenders about to be released must also address issues relating to mental health. SAMHSA’s GAINS Center is soliciting applications for Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) Workshops to be held free of charge in selected communities in 2020. SIM workshops are 1.5-day sessions that result in a map charting how those with behavioral-health needs advance through the criminal-justice system. Using the SIM model, the workshops bring together key stakeholders to create a map applicable to their own counties for the purpose of identifying priorities and strategies for improvement. The application is due on Dec. 20th and requires letters of support from Law Enforcement (District Attorney), LCCF, Court(s), mental health and substance use services, and Probation. Ms. Felty is preparing the application. Ms. Leahy requested that CJAB members write letters of support on behalf of their respective departments and submit them to Ms. Felty as soon as possible.
- Veterans’ Court**—At present, 15 offenders are participating in the program, with one pending. The Veterans Trust Fund is once again making funding available to counties and veterans’ service organizations for various programs, including, Veterans Courts. Mr. Shott is preparing a grant application to defray some of the cost of administering the County’s Veterans Court program. Application is due on 12-18. Mr. Shott will present the application to the Commissioners at their Dec. 19th meeting. The funding request is under \$4,860.

CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST

Day Reporting Center—Number of participants as of 12/2 is 40.

Vivitrol Project at the LCCF—The Vivitrol Coordination Program at the LCCF officially began on September 23rd. Since that time, 19 inmates (16 male, 13 female) have expressed an interest in the program. As of today, two inmates have gone through the program and received their shots. Both participants have gone to rehab. The Rase Project coordinates the program, though PrimeCare administers the actual vivitrol injections. Mr. Wolgemuth noted that the Prison Board has rescinded its 2006 policy requiring methadone detox of inmates, and is now permitting methadone maintenance at the LCCF at the discretion of the healthcare provider. This eliminates the security issues that arise when transporting inmates to a clinic or any other facility outside the prison.

Pretrial Diversion/Treatment Program—No report.

Offender Reentry Coalition—Mr. Ortiz conducts monthly reentry classes at the LCCF. A legal clinic and job fair for those reentering the community is in the offing for March 2020. Securing Social Security benefits more quickly for released inmates is also an issue to be addressed. Discussion took place among the members about housing issues and the lack of “bed space” for offenders and inmates with mental health issues or intellectual disabilities. Ms. Mackey reminded everyone that the Commission will be announcing the availability of another round of JAG funding in January. Funding could be used for new initiatives that assist justice-involved individuals with mental-health, substance-abuse, or other disorders. This could include the Stepping Up Initiative, a nationwide movement that has been implemented in several counties in the Commonwealth to reduce the number of people with mental

illness in jail. Next Coalition meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 23rd at 8:30 a.m. at PA Counseling.

Heroin Task Force—To date, the County has recorded 24 overdose deaths; possibility that the Coroner’s Office might be reporting five additional deaths. Of the 24 fatalities, 15 were opiate related, 12 of which involved fentanyl. The average age of the overdose victim is 41.8, with ages ranging from 19 to 79. Gender: 17 males and seven females.

Other Updates from CJAB Departments—The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has announced that federal funds will no longer be awarded to “individuals or organizations that use, prescribe, or provide marijuana for the treatment of opioid use disorder and mental health issues.” SAMHSA has also stated that “treatment programs must document efforts urging patients to stop using marijuana to prevent a loss of federal funding.”

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Election of Officers for 2020—Action deferred until the February 2020 meeting.

Approval of 2020 CJAB meeting schedule: Proposed meeting dates are **February 18, April 14, June 9, August 11, October 13, and December 8.** Action deferred until February 2020 meeting. Board requested Mr. Shott to send an email to the members seeking informal approval.

NEW BUSINESS

Review of CJAB Bylaws—Members are requested to engage in the periodic review of the Bylaws and make any suggestions for revisions. (The Bylaws were last amended on 12-11-2018, adding the Offender Reentry Coordinator as a core member.) Discussion took place regarding section of the Bylaws defining a quorum as “one-half of the Core Membership, plus one.” Board could consider an amendment redefining quorum or requiring no quorum for conducting Board business.

Approval of Intermediate Punishment (IP) Plan—Revised/updated IP Plan must be submitted as part of the grant application for IP funding from PCCD. Funding announcement expected to be released by PCCD in February. Advisable to have the CJAB approve the plan at the February meeting.

End-of-Year Report on 2019-2020 CJAB Strategic Plan—Mr. Shott will prepare a report on the progress made since the CJAB approved the plan in February 2019. Ms. Mackey advised the Board to examine PCCD’s Strategic Plan and to ensure that our plan matches some of the State’s goals and priorities. Wording should be added recognizing the CJAB’s support of Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) and possible future involvement with the Stepping Up Initiative, all focused on reducing the number of inmates with mental-health issues.

ADJOURNMENT—The Vice Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

NEXT CJAB MEETING: Tuesday, February 18, 2020, 11:00 a.m., Second Floor Conference Room, MH/ID/EI, 220 East Lehman Street.