

Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Minutes of the Meeting of December 8, 2020

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; Audrey Rakow, Director of Probation Services; Robert J. Phillips, County Commissioner; Daniel Wright, Police Chiefs Representative; Bruce Klingler, Sheriff; James Donmoyer, Director of Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse;* Jamie Wolgemuth, County Administrator;* Stephanie Axarlis, Court Administrator;* and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner.

Absent

Honorable John C. Tylwalk, President Judge; Karen Hess, Director of Domestic Relations; Robert Karnes, LCCF Warden; Brian Deiderick, Chief Public Defender; 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. * *Noted for the record: Mr. Donmoyer, Mr. Wolgemuth, and Ms. Axarlis participated in the meeting via proxy, giving Commissioner Phillips authorization to vote in their stead.*

Minutes of 10/13/20 CJAB Meeting—Approved on a motion by Sheriff Klingler, seconded by Ms. Rakow

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- **D.U.I. Court**—At present, 42 offenders are participating in the program. One participant graduated from the program this month.
- **Renaissance-Crossroads**-- Current number of offenders in the long-term program is 11, with two in short-term. Two admission to the long-term program are currently pending.
- **Prison Reduction**—As reported by Mr. Wright, the ADP at the LCCF as of December 7th was 293.
- **Veterans Court**—Current number of participants is 22, with two participants recently graduating. No new participants pending.
- **Mental Health**—Efforts to implement TEAM M.I.S.A. in the county are proceeding. A team meeting is slated for January 12th. Number of reported suicides in the county, to date, is 17. Statistical breakdown: average age is 54, with the youngest being 21 and the oldest 89; 11 males, six females; all victims white; ten by firearm, three by hanging, two by overdose, one by drowning, and one by carbon monoxide. Marked increase in the number of female suicides.

CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST

Day Reporting Center—Current number of active participants is 40, with eight referrals pending. Five participants have graduated recently, and two have been identified as needing a higher level of care.

Offender Reentry Coalition—According to Samuel Ortiz, Director of Community Action Partnership, F.O.R.E. has offered to manage the position of Offender Reentry Coordinator. No further details. The proposal is still under consideration, though a few candidates' applications and resumes are on file.

Agreement that it is important to fill this position, formerly held by Mr. Ortiz, and to reactive the Offender Reentry Coalition.

Heroin Task Force—At the end of August, the County confirmed 30 overdose-related deaths, with several pending cases pending toxicology results. Mr. Donmoyer’s office has begun supplying the Wellspan ER pharmacy with Narcan for people who come to the ER because of an overdose, but refuse to stay or seek help. The Heroin Task Force (Lebanon County Stronger Together) and the Drug & Alcohol Commission are offering free Narcan kits to county residents. One event was held on December 5th, with another slated for December 12th from 12 to 3 p.m. at Mazzitti & Sullivan Counseling, Palmyra. Those who come to the drive-by distribution will receive information on recognizing and reversing an opiate overdose with nasal naloxone (Narcan). The December 5th distribution took place at the RASE Project, 815 Cumberland Street, Lebanon.

Other Updates from CJAB Departments—

IP Funding for FY 2020-2021—PCCD’s Board of Directors awarded Lebanon County \$500,000 in IP funding at their Sept. 9th meeting, enabling the County to continue the successful IP-Crossroads program. At the time, however, PCCD cautioned award recipients that the State Budget enacted in June only provided funding for five months and that funding for IP and other programs would expire at the end of November. Fortunately, the Supplemental Budget adopted by the General Assembly and signed into law by the Governor last month provides sufficient funding for the county to continue Crossroads for the entire fiscal year without a reduction in the \$500,000 originally awarded.

Coronavirus Supplemental Funding—In late October, PCCD invited counties to apply for a second round of COVID funding for law enforcement. In response, Lebanon County submitted an application for \$33,336 in additional funding to supplement the \$74,630 that had been awarded by PCCD in August. PCCD has not yet approved the funding request.

Body-Worn Cameras (BWC) Initiative—The County submitted a grant application to PCCD on October 15th for federal funding to purchase body-worn cameras (BWCs) and related equipment and training for Probation Officers. Under terms of the application, requests for federal funding must be matched dollar-for-dollar with local funding. The total grant budget is for \$63,846. Of this \$31,923 will come from federal funds, with the other half coming from Act 35 Supervision Fees. Although the grant cycle is slated to begin on January 1st, PCCD has still not notified the county whether the application will be approved. It was assumed that the application would come before the PCCD Commission Board when it meets on December 9th. However, PCCD has informed Mr. Shott that all applications for BWC funding remain under review and that the county will be notified of the status of the application within the next two weeks.

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Nothing to report or discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

- ***Election of Officers for 2021***—Mr. Wright moved, and Ms. Rakow seconded the motion, that the CJAB Officers for 2021 remain District Attorney Hess Graf as Chair and Ms. Leahy as Vice-Chair. Motion carried.

- **Approval of 2021 CJAB Meeting Schedule**—Sheriff Klingler moved, and Commissioner Phillips seconded the motion, that the Board approve the following CJAB meeting dates for 2021: February 9, April 13, June 8, August 10, October 12, and December 7th. Motion carried.

- **2019-2020 Strategic Plan Final Report**—Mr. Shott will prepare the report and email a copy to the members.

- **Strategic Planning for 2021 and Beyond**—Early next year, the Board should consider priorities for a new two or three-year plan. PCCD expects CJABs to engage in regular planning to meet minimum operating standards.

- **PCCD Grant Opportunity: Overdose Prevention**—A forthcoming grant opportunity will focus on overdose prevention among the probation and/or reentry populations. Specific guidelines to be released after the PCCD Commission Board meeting on December 9th. These will be targeted, non-competitive awards up to \$50,000 based on data and county interest.

- **PCCD/CCAP “Mini Grants”**—Technical Assistance and Training Grants are once again available to facilitate the work of CJABs. Maximum award per county is \$2,000, and funds must be expended by 9-30-21. Streamlined application process. In the past, the CJAB has used these “mini-grant” funds to support suicide-prevention campaigns in the county. Members are urged to contact Mr. Shott with any thoughts on projects that could be funded with this grant.

ADJOURNMENT—With no further business to conduct, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. on a motion by Commissioner Phillips, seconded by Sheriff Klingler. District Attorney Hess Graf wished all members a happy Holiday season.

NEXT CJAB MEETING: Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 11:00 a.m., MH/ID/EI