

Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Minutes of the Meeting of April 15, 2014

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; Brian L. Deiderick, Chief Public Defender and CJAB Vice-Chairman; Honorable John C. Tylwalk, President Judge, Court of Common Pleas; David Wingert, Court Administrator; Sally A. Barry, Director of Probation Services; Jamie Wolgemuth, County Administrator; Bruce E. Klingler, Sheriff; James Donmoyer, Director of Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse; Kevin Schrum, Director of MH/ID/EI; Daniel Wright, Police Chief, City of Lebanon; Kim Mackey, Regional Coordinator, PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner/Grant Coordinator.

Absent

James Holtry, Director of Children and Youth; Julie Bergstresser, Veterans' Justice Outreach Coordinator; Robert Phillips, County Commissioner; Robert Karnes, Warden

Chairman David Arnold called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

Minutes of 02/18/2014 CJAB Meeting—Approved as written.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- **D.U.I. Court**—Still no word on the Accreditation application, which was submitted to the Administrative Office of PA Courts (AOPC) on 5-1-13. President Judge Tylwalk noted that site visitation by AOPC reps are part of the Accreditation process, but that no one is certain when such a visitation will take place in Lebanon County. At present, 49 offenders are participating in the D.U.I. Court program. The possibility of expanding eligibility by admitting offenders who drive under the influence of a controlled substance will raise this number. Concern, however, that the number of participants would rise to the point that offenders convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol would be refused acceptance into the program solely due to lack of space. Mr. Shott reported that Destiny Barker, D.U.I. Court Coordinator, submitted the *Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program FY 2014* application to the U.S. Justice Department on 3-17-14. As endorsed by the CJAB at the meeting of 2-18-14, this application seeks \$200,000 in federal funding to enhance the County's D.U.I. Court program. The funding would be budgeted over two years, 2015 and 2016, with a 25 percent local match, bringing the total budget to \$266,667. U.S. Senator Casey has written a letter of support to the Justice Department for this application.
- **Veterans' Court**—President Judge Tylwalk has been drafting a basic outline for this kind of specialty court, though the question still remains, in his view, whether the number of offenders warrants the establishment of an entirely new program with the existing court structure. Also under consideration as an alternative is the formation of an "umbrella specialty court" designed to meet specific needs of veterans and all other offenders. A proposal from the President Judge is forthcoming within the next few months.
- **Prison Overcrowding**—No report. Population at the Correctional Facility is 542 as of 4-15-14.

- **Mental Health/Intellectual Disabilities**—Mr. Schrum noted that nine suicides have been reported in the County in 2014. From a demographic standpoint, most of these suicides were committed by white male “baby boomers,” fitting a pattern that is prevalent across the nation. A reminder from Mr. Schrum about the suicide prevention and awareness campaign planned for later this year by the Lebanon County Suicide Prevention Task Force.

CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST

Unified Case Management (UCM) Update—The “go live” date for the AOPC Delinquency Project has been moved to October 2014. Regarding UCM, Director Barry reported that migration issues still exist and that statistics reporting has met with complications due to errors on the part of the County Commissioner Association of PA (CCAP). Chairman Arnold reported that the District Attorney’s Office has encountered no major problems with UCM. A “go live” date for the Correctional Facility has yet to be determined.

County IP-RIP Grant for 2014-2015—Application was submitted to PCCD on 4/10. This application seeks funding for continuation of the Renaissance Crossroads program as well as for Electronic Monitoring for eligible offenders, two key components of the County’s Intermediate Punishment Plan. Amount of State funding requested is \$639,849, 80 percent of which would be designated for PA Counseling to administer Renaissance Crossroads, with the remaining funds used to pay the salaries and benefits of two Probation Officers supervising IP offenders. (Taking Medical Assistance payments into account, the total grant budget is \$831,776.) It is important to note that, at present, Crossroads and Electronic Monitoring are covered under separate grants, but that these grants have been combined into one application for the new fiscal year. The President Judge observed that, in a recent case, an eligible offender could not be sentenced to the Crossroads program due to a lack of bed space, showing that the program is currently serving as many offenders as capacity allows.

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training Grant—Application was approved by PCCD in March. County has been awarded funding to provide MHFA training to law enforcement personnel. The first of these sessions is scheduled for June 12th and will be conducted by certified instructors from Community Services Group.

Juvenile (Community Service) Grant—Application approved by PCCD in March. This grant enables the County to continue the community service program for juvenile offenders. Grant award is \$10,000 in federal funding, plus a ten percent local match for a total budget of \$11,269. Most of the funding provides overtime payments for probation officers who supervise projects outside of the regular work day.

Technical Assistance/Training Grants for CJABs—PCCD is inviting local CJABs to apply for mini-grants of up to \$1,500 “to help establish, reinvigorate, and facilitate the work of a CJAB.” Any funds awarded must be expended by 12-31-2014. After discussing some ideas for using these funds, the members suggested a project relating to suicide prevention. Mr. Shott and Mr. Schrum will meet to develop a proposal.

Other Updates from CJAB Departments—Mr. Donmoyer reported that the Capital Area Behavioral Health Collaborative (CABHC) has selected PA Counseling Services to be the provider for OP drug and alcohol services for adolescents in Lebanon County. The clinic will be ready by July 1st and will be located at PA Counseling’s Cumberland Street location. (T.W. Ponessa was the only other vendor to

respond to the RFP posted by CABHC.) Miracle Group, a Harrisburg-based organization, will be starting a Recovery Center, known as “Hope Station Lebanon,” at 418 Cumberland Street. Coordinator of the program is Ms. Cheryl Floyd. Women in recovery will have an opportunity to live there, if needed, though the program serves both men and women. Mr. Donmoyer also reported that four drug-overdose deaths have occurred in the County since January; two of these deaths were confirmed as heroin related.

Director Barry reported that she, Judge Jones, and Susan Christner of Probation Services will be traveling to Toledo, Ohio, during the week of April 21st to visit a Youth Day Treatment Center there. Director Barry also announced that FORE (Female Offender Re-entry) plans to organize a Women’s Intervention Group in the County and that Ms. Marlyn Stein of Lancaster will be conducting training sessions in how to facilitate such a group, which deals chiefly with issues pertaining to self-esteem and co-dependency. Plans are to have at least two officers trained to facilitate the classes.

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Modifications to IP (Electronic Monitoring and Crossroads) Grant—Modification requests for additional funding were approved by PCCD in February

NEW BUSINESS

Director Barry noted that probation-revocation rates are higher than they were last year at this time, though this is more indicative of renewed focus on supervising offenders. A year ago, Probation Services was dealing with staff turnover and learning the new UCM system, leaving less time for field work. Now that these issues are no longer at the forefront, field officers have more time for case management, explaining the rise in revocations.

With no further business to address, Chairman Arnold declared the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

NEXT CJAB MEETING: Tuesday, June 17, 2014, 11:00 a.m., Second Floor Conference Room, MH/ID/EI, 220 East Lehman Street.