

Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Minutes of the Meeting of April 16, 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; Daniel Wright, Police Chiefs Representative; Bruce Klingler, Sheriff; Robert J. Phillips, County Commissioner; Stephanie Axarlis, Court Administrator; Karen Hess, Director of Domestic Relations; Kevin Schrum, Director of MH/ID/EI; Carla Cyr, Veterans Justice Outreach; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner.

Absent

David J. Arnold, District Attorney and CJAB Chairman; Robert Karnes, Warden; Brian L. Deiderick, Chief Public Defender; James Holtry, Director of Children and Youth; Samuel Ortiz, Offender Reentry; and, Kim Mackey, PCCD Regional Representative.

Board Vice Chair Sally A. Barry called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. Ms. Barry welcomed and introduced the new CJAB member, Ms. Carla Cyr of Veterans Justice Outreach. Ms. Cyr is focusing much of her efforts on the new Veterans Court in Lebanon County. Self-introductions by the other Board members.

Minutes of 02/19/2019 CJAB Meeting—Approved on a motion by Sheriff Klingler, seconded by Mr. Donmoyer.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- **D.U.I. Court**—At present, 36 offenders are participating in the program, which is lower than in previous years. It has been a challenge lately to get the number of participants to 40 or higher, though it is difficult to pinpoint a specific reason for the decrease in numbers. The current number of offenders can be supervised effectively by only one Adult Probation Officer; a second officer could be added if the program has a significant increase in participants. The President Judge emphasized that the program remains quite effective at assisting offenders who are working to get their lives back on track.
- **Renaissance-Crossroads**—Current census is 15, though not all are participating in the long-term (34-month) component, which is funded through the PCCD IP grant. Probation Services is working to keep participation rates as high as possible. Level II offenders have been eligible for the program due to PCCD's changes to the IP grant guidelines. Level II offenders would normally be at the LCCF, while Levels III and IV offenders in the program would have been incarcerated at an SCI.
- **Prison Reduction**—No official report. The Average Daily Membership (ADP) has remained below 500. The cost of the new medical-services program approved recently by the County Commissioners will be based on the number of inmates housed.

- **Mental Health**—No recent referrals to “Adult CASSP.” Number of suicides, to date, is five.
- **Veterans’ Court**—Three offenders are currently participating in the program, with at least two more offenders waiting to be accepted. The President Judge praised Ms. Cyr and the team at the Lebanon VA Medical Center for their enthusiastic support of the program as well as their strong advocacy for veterans in need of assistance. The goal over the next year is to increase the number of participants to between 10 and 15. Anthony Frost, the Adult Probation Officer in charge of supervising these participants, is a veteran. Mr. Michael Chabitnoy of Mid-Penn Legal Services is volunteering to coordinate the mentoring component of the program and recruiting veterans to serve as mentors to participants. The President Judge noted that the program does not require any additional expenditure from the county. In December, Mr. Shott had submitted a \$20,000 grant application to the Veterans Trust Fund to defray some of the program’s costs. However, the Trust Fund recently notified the County that it will not receive grant funding this cycle due to the high volume of grant requests and limited amount of funds available. A representative from the Administrative Office of PA Courts (AOPC) attended a recent court session and expressed approval of the fact that the county has initiated this program.

CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST

Day Reporting Center—Current number of participants is 48. Probation Services continues to provide most of the referrals to the program. Since the program’s inception, some cross-referrals have taken place: to illustrate, DRC participants have been referred to Renaissance-Crossroads, while some DUI Court participants have been referred to the DRC. The Court remains committed to opening the DRC to those in violation of domestic-relations orders as well as to offenders who are in treatment. Mitch Pegg, who supervises the DRC for PA Counseling Services, Inc., is leaving this position in early May. Mr. Rolando Ponce has been named as his successor.

Vivitrol Project at the LCCF—Warden Karnes and staff submitted a grant application to PCCD in late March to fund this project, which involves the administration of vivitrol injections to at least ten percent of the inmate population, on a voluntary basis prior to their release. The grant application designates the RASE Project as the consultant coordinating the program. The grant cycle does not begin until 7-1-19, pending approval of the application by PCCD at the Commission’s June meeting. Mr. Donmoyer noted that his office will be able to provide funding for the program in the meantime or if PCCD rejects the application.

Pretrial Diversion/Treatment Program—Eight offenders are currently participating in the program. Probation is still seeking ways to increase the number of referrals.

Offender Reentry Coalition—No official report. The Coalition met on March 28th at PA Counseling, marking the first meeting of the Coalition since March 2018.

Heroin Task Force—Next meeting is scheduled for July 11 at 8:30 at MH/ID/EI. Mr. Donmoyer noted that the County had recorded four overdose deaths, to date, in 2019; the number of such deaths in 2018 was 27. The Task Force, now known as “Lebanon County Stronger Together,” is sponsoring the second Lebanon County Recovery Day on 9-7-19 at Monument Park, 755 Lehman Street, Lebanon, from 12 to 4 p.m. Mr. Donmoyer distributed copies of Stronger Together’s Guide to Addiction Resources, a pamphlet that provides information on how to seek help or treatment for drug/alcohol

addictions. Mr. Donmoyer has ordered 5,000 copies of the pamphlet to be shared with county departments and other agencies. Information contained in the pamphlet can also be found on the County of Lebanon website, as well as the Commission's webpage, as part of the County's resource-mapping project. Stronger Together's website should also have the information in the near future.

CJAB Spring Conference April 9-10 (State College)—Ms. Barry, Mr. Ortiz, and Mr. Shott attended the conference. Two of the key topics addressed at this year's event were offender reentry and ways to reduce the number of mentally ill persons in local prisons. Ms. Barry attended a workshop on the "Stepping Up" Initiative that is now used in some PA counties to reduce this inmate population. Mr. Shott will research the initiative further to determine the feasibility of starting such a program in Lebanon County.

Other Updates from CJAB Departments—The County Commissioners have accepted a proposal from PrimeCare Medical to provide medical services to inmates at the LCCF. Details of a three-year contract between the County and PrimeCare are being negotiated. This is in response to a Request for Proposal (RFP) announced by the Commissioners in February. The expectation is that the contract will commence in mid-June. County is optimistic that PrimeCare will provide excellent service to inmates, including such in-house services as X-rays and dental care. PrimeCare specializes in correctional health and currently has a presence in local prisons in surrounding counties.

Ms. Barry reported an increase in staff turnover at Probation Services over the past several months. The office is in a "rebuilding" phase.

A meeting was held recently with PA Counseling to discuss the feasibility of establishing a Crossroads program for female offenders.

The County is accepting applications for the newly created position of Sentencing Guidelines Specialist. The person in this position will perform para-professional probation and court administration work. Main duty will be to complete sentencing guideline forms as well as to assist in receiving inquiries and providing information and referral services. The position is designed to lessen some of the burden on Probation Services, freeing up more time for Probation to conduct assessments to determine appropriate levels of supervision. The successful candidate will be located at the Municipal Building (Court Administration).

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

No items to report

NEW BUSINESS

With no further business to conduct, Ms. Barry declared the meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Donmoyer, seconded by Ms. Hess.

NEXT CJAB MEETING: Tuesday, June 11, 2019, 11:00 a.m., Second Floor Conference Room, MH/ID/EI, 220 East Lehman Street.