

Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Minutes of the Meeting of August 13, 2019

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, Court of Common Pleas; James Donmoyer, Director of the Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse; Jamie Wolgemuth, County Administrator; Samuel Ortiz, Reentry Coordinator; Daniel Wright, Police Chiefs Representative; Robert Karnes, Warden; Bruce Klingler, Sheriff; Robert J. Phillips, County Commissioner; Brian L. Deiderick, Chief Public Defender; Stephanie Axarlis, Court Administrator; Kevin Schrum, Director of MH/ID/EI; Kim Mackey, PCCD Regional Representative; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner.

Absent

Erin Moyer, Director of Children and Youth; Karen Hess, Director of Domestic Relations; Carla Cyr, Veterans Justice Outreach.

Guest

Rolando Ponce, PA Counseling Services, Inc., Director of the Day Reporting Center

Board Chairman David Arnold called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. Presence of a quorum noted. The Chairman welcomed and introduced guest attendee Rolando Ponce, Director of the Day Reporting Center. Self-introductions by the other Board members. The Chairman also announced that Ms. Erin Moyer, Director of Children and Youth, is the new core member of the Board, replacing the recently retired James Holtry.

Minutes of 04/16/2019 CJAB Meeting—Approved on a motion by President Judge Tylwalk, seconded by Ms. Barry.

The Chairman noted that no CJAB meeting had been held in June.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- **D.U.I. Court**—At present, 37 offenders are participating in the program, with four individuals about to be accepted into the program and one participant set to graduate. This will leave a census of 40 by the end of August.
- **Renaissance-Crossroads**—Current census is nine (five long-term and four short-term), which is the lowest number in over a decade. The President Judge has held a meeting with the District Attorney and Chief Public Defender to discuss the state of the Crossroads program and the reason for the low number of participants. The end to mandatory minimum sentences in the Commonwealth is a significant factor, giving eligible offenders a reason to opt to serve shorter prison terms rather than entering the 34-month Crossroads program and having to comply with the program’s stringent guidelines. Ms. Barry discussed the feasibility of restructuring the program to emphasize the short-term aspect, with the hope that the program would still qualify for IP funding through PCCD. Matter to be discussed further at the IP Monitoring/Audit meeting, which takes place on Sept. 5th at 10:00 a.m. at Probation Services.

- **Prison Reduction**—Average Daily Population (ADP) at the end of July was 510. Current ADP is 484, with the yearly average at 484. The average length of stay is 49 days, though the average for July was 40. The contract with PrimeCare Medical to provide medical services to inmates at the LCCF began on June 17th. The three-year contract with the county is in response to a Request for Proposal (RFP) announced by the Commissioners in February. PrimeCare specializes in correctional health and currently has a presence in local prisons in surrounding counties. PrimeCare is providing round-the-clock service to inmates, including such in-house services as X-rays, dental care, and mental health assessments. The ability to offer in-house services reduces the need to transport prisoners to off-site locations, thereby eliminating the security concerns that arise when moving an inmate from one site to another. PrimeCare is also working with the LCCF to update a suicide-prevention policy.
- **Mental Health**—No recent referrals to “Adult CASSP.” Number of suicides, to date, is 13; most of the victims have been white males who die by firearm.
- **Veterans’ Court**—Ten offenders are currently participating in the program, which is a higher number than had been anticipated when the new program started at the beginning of the year. The volunteer mentoring component is going well, coordinated by Michael Chabitnoy of Mid-Penn Legal Services. The program benefits from a solid working rapport with the V.A. Medical Center. The County is preparing a Memorandum of Understanding with the V.A. Medical Center to assist those in need of guardianship. Such a memorandum is the first of its kind anywhere, giving the county quite a distinction in this area of veterans’ issues. The President Judge again noted that the program does not require any additional expenditure from the county

CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST

Day Reporting Center—Current number of participants is 50, with the expectation that the number will continue to rise. Mr. Ponce reported that the DRC is operating under a three-shift model, providing participants with more time to come to the center and complete assigned tasks. Referring offenders in the DUI Court program to the DRC is viewed as a positive step.

Vivitrol Project at the LCCF—The Vivitrol Coordination Program at the LCCF to be managed by the Rase Project and funded through the Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse. Program involves the administration of vivitrol injections to at least ten percent of the inmate population, on a voluntary basis, prior to their release. The Coordinator from Rase will identify eligible offenders as well as educate prisoners about vivitrol and its effects. The vivitrol shot will be administered by PrimeCare to an eligible inmate approximately 30 days before the inmate’s scheduled release. Rase will follow up with inmates post-release to coordinate the effort to get them a second round of vivitrol injections, many of which will be paid for by Medical Assistance. Released inmates not eligible for Medical Assistance will get vivitrol shots paid for by employer-based insurance or via special funding from the Drug and Alcohol Commission.

Pretrial Diversion/Treatment Program—29 offenders are currently participating in the program.

Offender Reentry Coalition—The Coalition met on July 25; next meeting is slated for Sept. 26. Mr. Ortiz is working to reactive the various sub-committees that had been established by the Coalition to address specific issues. He is also exploring possible funding sources for intensive case management modeled after Franklin County’s Case-Assisted Reentry (CARE) Program. The goal of CARE is to link

offenders with resources to address the person's mental health condition. This could include psychiatric consult, medication management, therapy, and peer support. Another project in the offing is an expungement clinic to assist offenders who qualify to have their records expunged under the Commonwealth's "clean slate" statute.

Heroin Task Force—Next meeting is scheduled for October 10 at 8:30 at MH/ID/EI. Mr. Donmoyer noted that the County had recorded 12 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. The event will feature free food, crafts, and fellowship. Special guest speaker for the day is Brandon Novak, a professional skateboarder and actor who has struggled with substance abuse. Governor Wolf was invited, but cannot attend; a representative from his office will be there. Another event taking place on August 28 is the Overdose Awareness Candlelight Vigil, 7:30-9:00 p.m., in front of the Lebanon County Courthouse. This is to honor and remember those who have lost their battles with addiction and to support those who continue to struggle.

JAG Funding Award for Probation Services—PCCD has awarded the County \$14,276 in Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funding to purchase equipment for Probation Services. More specially, the funding is being used to purchase six new taser units for Probation Officers as well as 1,000 14-panel drug-testing cups.

PCCD Technical Assistance and Training Grants—PCCD and the County Commissioners Association have announced the availability of up to \$2,000 in "mini-grants" for CJABs for special projects. Funds must be expended by March 31, 2020. Board members are encouraged to suggest ways that this funding could be used. Only \$27,000 is available statewide and is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Other Updates from CJAB Departments—Probation Services is down three Probation Officers and one Collections Officer. The District Attorney's Office as well as the Public Defender's Office need to fill an attorney's position in their respective offices. Joe Wheeler is the new Captain of Security at the LCCF; Scott Richmond is the new Training Coordinator.

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Sentencing Guideline Specialist—Neveen Tawadrous started in this newly created position on July 15th. She is responsible for completing sentencing guideline forms as well as assisting 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.

Stepping Up Initiative—At Ms. Barry's request, Mr. Shott is staying current with the Stepping Up Initiative, a nationwide movement to reduce the number of mentally ill persons in prison. Stepping Up has been implemented in several PA counties, including Berks, which has received national recognition and named a "Stepping Up Innovator" for its expertise in collecting data on those in the criminal justice system who suffer from mental illness. Mr. Shott also distributed copies of a sample resolution that could be used by a county as a first step toward developing Stepping Up policies and practices.

NEW BUSINESS

Plans are moving ahead to construct a video conferencing center at the LCCF. Establishing such a facility within the LCCF would reduce the costs and security concerns of transporting prisoners to and from hearings and other court proceedings. Possible funding for this project from the Administrative Office of PA Courts (AOPC). The training and technical assistance grant from PCCD could also be used to defray some of the cost of IT equipment.

PCCD is working to update the Commission's Statewide Strategic Plan. The CJAB should examine its local Strategic Plan for 2019-2020 to discern how much of the plan matches the objectives and priorities set forth by PCCD. This could determine the county's eligibility for Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funding for projects in 2020. Later this fall, PCCD will issue a call for presenters at the April 2020 CJAB meeting. Lebanon should consider offering to present information to other CJABs about some of the projects now underway.

With no further business to conduct, Chairman Arnold declared the meeting adjourned, by consensus, at 12:05 p.m.

NEXT CJAB MEETING: Tuesday, October 15, 2019, 11:00 a.m., Second Floor Conference Room, MH/ID/EI, 220 East Lehman Street.