

Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Minutes of the Meeting of August 19, 2014

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Place: Second Floor Conference Room, MH/ID/EI, 220 East Lehman St., Lebanon

Present

Brian L. Deiderick, Chief Public Defender and CJAB Vice-Chairman; Honorable John C. Tylwalk, President Judge, Court of Common Pleas; Robert J. Phillips, County Commissioner; David Wingert, Court Administrator; Robert Karnes, Warden; Bruce E. Klingler, Sheriff; James Holtry, Director, Children and Youth Services; James Donmoyer, Director of Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse; Daniel Wright, Police Chief, City of Lebanon; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner/Grant Coordinator.

Absent

David J. Arnold, District Attorney and CJAB Chairman; Sally A. Barry, Director of Probation Services; Julie Bergstresser, Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator; Kevin Schrum, Director of MH/ID/EI; Jamie Wolgemuth, County Administrator; Kim Mackey, Regional Coordinator, PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency;

Vice Chairman Brian Deiderick called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

Minutes of 06/17/2014 CJAB Meeting—Approved as written on a motion by Mr. Wingert, seconded by President Judge Tylwalk.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- **D.U.I. Court**—Mr. Nevin Warner, a representative from the Administrative Office of PA Courts (AOPC), conducted site visitations on July 22 and 29 as part of the ongoing Accreditation process. Mr. Warner attended a D.U.I. Court session as well as a meeting of the D.U.I. Treatment Team. He also interviewed each member of the Team, including the President Judge. A formal report on his findings will be released within the next couple of months. Ms. Kaitlin Stiles is the new D.U.I. Court Coordinator, replacing Destiny Meyers.
- **Veterans' Court**—As noted by President Judge Tylwalk, the establishment of a Veterans' Court in Lebanon County is "on hold." Legislation mandating these courts in all PA counties has been introduced in the General Assembly, though passage of the bill in the near future is not likely. The President Judge has met with Ms. Bergstresser to discuss whether there are unmet needs with veterans in the county. President Judge Tylwalk is of the opinion that the county has been doing a solid job of identifying veterans who come through the criminal justice system and responding appropriately. A good rapport exists between the County and the VA Hospital. The ongoing question is whether the number of offenders who are veterans justifies the creation of an entirely new specialty court. Concern also exists that creating a new court could remove offenders from the existing—and quite successful—D.U.I. Court and Renaissance Crossroads programs, both of which receive funding for their ongoing operations. A reduction in the number of offenders in these programs could jeopardize future funding.
- **Prison Overcrowding**—Warden Karnes reported that the daily population at the prison was 535 at the end of July. The Prison Overcrowding Committee met on August 11th at the recommendation of Warden Karnes to discuss proactive approaches to ensuring that an overcrowding problem does not occur in the future. (Minutes of the committee meeting were made available at the CJAB meeting.) Two of the main issues discussed at the committee meeting were 1) greater use of videoconferencing to reduce the number of

inmates transported from SCIs to Lebanon County for court proceedings; and 2) eventual establishment of a Day Reporting Center as a jail alternative for eligible offenders. Members agreed that a multi-pronged strategy is needed to reduce, or at least manage, the current inmate population. For example, placing those in contempt of domestic relations orders on supervision instead of incarceration is worth considering. Another question is whether bails are being set artificially high in light of the fact that, at times, up to 50 percent of offenders at the Correctional Facility are offenders who cannot make bail. Strategies aimed at keeping the prison population at a manageable level must also be part of reentry plans for inmates about to be released.

- **Mental Health/Intellectual Disabilities**—The next Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training is scheduled for Sept. 18th at Probation Services. The County Commissioners approved a \$6,000 contract between the County and Community Services Group (CSG), which is conducting the trainings, as per the grant awarded by PCCD. Such a contract was required because the grant is funded chiefly by federal dollars. The grant calls for three MHFA trainings at \$2,000 per training. The PCCD Technical Grant of \$1,470 is being used to support the ongoing Suicide Prevention Campaign.

CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST

CJAB Strategic Plan for 2013-2014 Update—Copies of the 7/29/14 update had been emailed to members earlier, but hard copies were also available at the meeting.

Medical Assistance County Jail Implementation Project—Mr. Donmoyer discussed this pilot program initiated by the PA Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP). At present the project is a collaborative effort involving Single County Authorities (SCAs) in Armstrong/Indiana/Clarion, Lycoming/Clinton, Berks, and Dauphin and key stakeholders in these counties. The project recognizes that 70 percent of offenders have untreated substance abuse problems, but are not eligible for Medical Assistance while incarcerated. Upon release, these offenders have a high risk for relapse and recidivism. The objective is to assist inmates in accessing needed treatment, expedite completion and approval of Medical Assistance applications, and reduce the impact on Single County Authorities' limited treatment budgets. A statewide "rollout" of this program is expected soon. Mr. Donmoyer noted that Lebanon County is already engaged in this type of activity for offenders violating probation and inmates 30 days away from being released. It is the pre-trial population that needs to be served. The next step is to work with the District Attorney's Office to determine who is eligible for or should be referred to drug/alcohol rehab.

Unified Case Management (UCM) Update—No report.

County IP-RIP (Crossroads) Grant for 2014-2015—PCCD reviewed and approved a revised grant budget of \$539,073, representing a \$100,000 reduction in the original amount requested. The mandated budget reductions were taken from personnel line items, reserving 86 percent of the budget for treatment of drug-dependent offenders. The formal Award Letter was received on August 18th.

Other Updates from CJAB Departments

Commissioners Litz and Ames, Sally Barry, John Shott, Audrey Rakow, and Rich Worley visited a State-established **Day Reporting Center** in Harrisburg on June 25th. This facility, like many others across the Commonwealth, is operated by GEO/BI Inc., a private firm specializing in corrections

programs. Youth Advocate Programs (YAP) opened the new **Day Treatment Center for juvenile offenders** on July 7th at YAP's new location in North Lebanon Township. This will serve as a cost-effective alternative to serving youth who would otherwise be placed in facilities outside the county. Probation is identifying eligible offenders for this program, which will also serve as a transition site for juveniles who get released from placement. Youth Advocate will serve as the consultant; a contract between the County and Youth Advocate was approved by the County Commissioners on June 19th. At present, ten juvenile offenders have been assigned to the program.

No report on the issue of continued funding for **Central Booking**.

CJAB Chair and Coordinator Workshop being held in State College on Sept. 16th. Mr. Shott plans to attend this PCCD-sponsored event. No cost for registration.

Mr. Shott will continue writing a periodic **CJAB newsletter**. All CJAB members are invited to contribute articles or information for future editions.

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

"Hope Station Lebanon," a recovery center operated by Miracle Group, a Harrisburg-based organization, has not yet begun admitting clients at its site at 418 Cumberland Street. Once opened, women in recovery will have an opportunity to live there as a safe haven, though the program serves both men and women. A grant of \$55,000 was used to purchase the building, with another grant of \$75,000 utilized to operate the recovery house.

The out-patient drug and alcohol clinic for adolescents began operations on July 1st. Funded through a grant of \$150,000, the clinic is located at PA Counseling's Cumberland Street site.

New Perspectives is planning to relocate its Intensive Outpatient (IOP) treatment program to downtown Lebanon. All other programming, including inpatient treatment, will remain at the facility's site in North Cornwall Township.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Barry had requested that the members consider an amendment to the CJAB Bylaws adding the Director of Domestic Relations as a Core Member. The current director is Ms. Karen Hess. Ms. Barry had also recommended that Ms. Hess be included as a member of the Prison Overcrowding Committee. The members agreed with these recommendations and directed Mr. Shott to draft a proposed amendment to the Bylaws to be voted on at the October 21st CJAB meeting.

With no further business to address, the meeting adjourned at 12 Noon on a motion by Commissioner Phillips, seconded by President Judge Tylwalk.

NEXT CJAB MEETING: Tuesday, October 21, 2014, 11:00 a.m., Second Floor Conference Room, MH/ID/EI, 220 East Lehman Street.