

Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Minutes of the Meeting of December 11, 2018

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 of the Court of Common Pleas; Stephanie Axarlis, Court Administrator; Jamie Wolgemuth, County Administrator; Kevin Schrum, Director of MH/ID/EI; James Donmoyer, Director of the Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse; Karen Hess, Director of Domestic Relations; Brian L. Deiderick, Chief Public Defender; Daniel Wright, Police Chiefs Representative; Robert Karnes, Warden; Bruce Klingler, Sheriff; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner.

Absent

Robert J. Phillips, County Commissioner; James Holtry, Director of Children and Youth; Sarah Primak, Veterans Justice Outreach; Kim Mackey, PCCD Regional Representative

Guest

Alyssa Hein, intern in the office of the Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse

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

Minutes of 10/30/2018 CJAB Meeting—Approved on a motion by Sheriff Klingler, seconded by President Judge Tylwalk.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- **D.U.I. Court**—Graduation ceremony was held this morning in the President Judge’s courtroom, with 13 of the 19 graduates in attendance. The program was also well attended by family members, court team members, and Probation staffers. Guest speakers included Tony Finkle, former DUI Court Coordinator, Corbett Blouch, former DUI Court participant, and City Police Officer John Zatorski. At present, 40 offenders are participating in the program. This year marks the program’s Tenth Anniversary. Over the past decade, 310 offenders have been accepted into the program; 203 have successfully completed the program’s requirements.
- **Renaissance-Crossroads**—Number of long-term participants in the program is at the maximum. Possibility that the program is encountering some fiscal issues that could be related to lower Medical Assistance payments for treatment. No specifics. Through November, the County has expended nearly 54 percent of the first-year funding awarded by PCCD for Renaissance-Crossroads, with seven months remaining in the budget cycle. Mr. Shott is keeping PA Counseling apprised of the situation to ensure that the grant budget is not depleted before the end of the grant year (6-30-19).
- **Prison Reduction**—Average Daily Population (ADP) at the end of November was 494. Daily per diem rate/inmate is \$48.72. Average length of stay is 51 days.

- **Mental Health**—No “Adult CASSP” reviews have been held recently. To date, the County has recorded 19 suicides, which now exceeds last year’s total of 18. Most of the victims have been middle-aged white males who die by firearm.
- **Veterans’ Court**—The County’s new Veterans Court will begin on January 1st after months of meetings and planning sessions. Mr. Michael Chabitnoy, a staff attorney at MidPenn Legal Services and a veteran, is volunteering to serve as a coordinator for those who will be mentoring offenders accepted into the program. The program, featuring a strong working relationship with the Lebanon V.A. Medical Center and community providers, will start out with five to 10 participants, with the number expected to grow quickly. Sarah Primak of Veterans Justice Outreach has been working to identify offenders who would be good candidates for the program; she has identified 68 veterans as potential participants. The Lebanon Daily News will be interviewing the President Judge this week for an article about the Veterans Court. First court proceeding expected to take place on January 11th. The Veterans Trust Fund, administered by the State Office of Military and Veterans Affairs, is accepting grant applications from county governments and veterans service organizations to fund various initiatives benefitting veterans. In response, Mr. Shott is preparing a grant application in the amount of \$20,000, the maximum amount available to the county, to help defray part of the cost of administering the Veterans Court program. The application is due on Friday, Dec. 14th. Mr. Shott, President Judge Tylwalk, and Ms. Barry will be attending the Commissioners’ meeting on Dec. 20th to request approval of the grant and to answer any questions the Commissioners might have regarding the new program.

CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST

Day Reporting Center—Number of participants has been averaging in the upper forties. Good collaborative effort at sending offenders to higher levels of care when the need arises. Some pre-disposition issues should be addressed: finding ways to assess and identify offenders as eligible for the DRC earlier in the process. The Public Defender’s Office, for example, cannot in good conscience negotiate or accept a plea bargain that entails going to the DRC if defense counsel does not know for certain that the offender is actually eligible for the program.

Pretrial Diversion/Treatment Program—Although the pretrial program is no longer receiving federal funding, Probation Services is continuing pretrial assessments for offenders, including those in need of mental-health treatment. The Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R) remains the assessment tool used to assess offenders. Those who score 28 or higher on the LSI-R are NOT eligible for pretrial services.

Offender Reentry Coalition—No official report.

Heroin Task Force—Mr. Donmoyer introduced Alyssa Hein, a student from Lebanon Valley College who is interning in his office. Number of overdose deaths, to date, is 27. The Task Force will meet on Thursday, January 10 at MH/ID/EI. Mr. Donmoyer announced that free narcan will be distributed to the public on December 13 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the State Health Center located at 9 North Ninth Street. This is a statewide program focused on preventing overdose deaths and made possible by a standing prescription issued by the Commonwealth. Lebanon County, however, has been limited to 38 doses of narcan for distribution.

Other Updates from CJAB Departments—Nothing to report

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- **Strategic Plan**—Members reviewed a draft of priorities that could be included in the 2019-2020 Strategic Plan. Most of the priorities focus on continuing and strengthening alternatives to incarceration as set forth in the County’s Intermediate Punishment Plan. Mr. Deiderick suggested an additional priority: finding a more workable approach to visitations by defense attorneys to the LCCF. Mr. Shott will prepare a draft of the plan to be considered at the February 19, 2019 CJAB meeting. It is important for the CJAB to have a new Strategic Plan in place; not having a plan could jeopardize the Board’s eligibility for grant funding in the future.
- **Election of Officers for 2019**—David Arnold was nominated to serve as Chairman of the CJAB for 2019 on a motion by President Judge Tylwalk, seconded by Ms. Barry. Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Wolgemuth moved, and Warden Karnes seconded the motion, that nominations be closed. The members approved the motion to close, and Mr. Arnold was named CJAB Chairman for 2019. Ms. Axarlis moved, and Ms. Hess seconded the motion, to nominate Sally Barry to serve as Vice Chair. Hearing no other nominations, President Judge Tylwalk moved, and Warden Karnes seconded the motion, that nominations be closed. The members approved the motion to close, and Ms. Barry was named CJAB Vice Chair for 2019.
- **CJAB Meeting Schedule for 2019**—The following meeting dates for 2019 adopted by consensus: February 19, April 16, June 11, August 13, October 15, and December 10.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Amendment to CJAB Bylaws—On a motion by Mr. Deiderick, seconded by Ms. Barry, the members adopted an amendment to the Bylaws adding the Offender Reentry Coordinator as a Core Member of the Board. The Offender Reentry Coordinator for the County is Ms. Hannah Ozella

With no further business to conduct, Chairman Arnold declared the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m. The Chairman wished everyone a happy Holiday season.

NEXT CJAB MEETING: Tuesday, February 19, 2019, 11:00 a.m., Second Floor Conference Room, MH/ID/EI, 220 East Lehman Street.