

Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Minutes of the Meeting of February 19, 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; James Donmoyer, Director of the Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse; Daniel Wright, Police Chiefs Representative; Bruce Klingler, Sheriff; Robert J. Phillips, County Commissioner; Sarah Primak, Veterans Justice Outreach; Samuel Ortiz, Offender Reentry Coordinator, Kim Mackey, PCCD Regional Representative; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner.

Absent

Honorable John C. Tylwalk, President Judge, Court of Common Pleas; Robert Karnes, Warden; Stephanie Axarlis, Court Administrator; Jamie Wolgemuth, County Administrator; Brian L. Deiderick, Chief Public Defender; Karen Hess, Director of Domestic Relations; Kevin Schrum, Director of MH/ID/EI; James Holtry, Director of Children and Youth.

Board Chairman David Arnold called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. Number of members present did not constitute a quorum for conducting official business and voting on issues. The Chairman introduced the new member of the Board, Mr. Samuel Ortiz, Offender Reentry Coordinator. Mr. Ortiz began his duties in early January. Although he has not had experience in reentry or working with prison-related matters, Mr. Ortiz is heavily involved with his church and the community. Self-introductions by the other members.

Presence of a quorum now noted by the Chairman. Meeting officially convened at 11:15 a.m.

Minutes of 12/11/2018 CJAB Meeting—Approved on a motion by Ms Barry, seconded by Mr. Donmoyer.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- **D.U.I. Court**—The Adult Probation Officer supervising offenders in the program has accepted another position and will be relocating. Probation Services now needs to fill three positions.
- **Veterans' Court**—Three offenders are currently participating in the program. The Adult Probation Officer in charge of supervising these participants is a veteran. He is also the chief officer in charge of electronic monitoring/houses arrest; a major portion of his salary is covered by the IP-Crossroads grant through PCCD. Sara Primak announced that she has accepted a new position within the Veterans Administration.
- **Renaissance-Crossroads**—No official report. First year of the two-year IP-Crossroads grant cycle ends on 6-30-19. The County does not anticipate needing to request additional funding from PCCD. Updated IP Plan for 2019-2020 must be submitted before the second year of the grant cycle begins.
- **Prison Reduction**—No official report. Prison Board meeting is scheduled for February 20th.
- **Mental Health**—No official report.

CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST

Day Reporting Center—Number of participants continues to average in the high forties, with the current number at 43. Recognized need to not only increase the number of offenders assigned to the DRC, but to enhance the success rate of participants. Ms. Barry and Mr. Donmoyer met recently with President Judge Tylwalk to discuss the feasibility of enabling offenders who are in treatment to also participate in the DRC. This requires a modification of sentencing orders that would normally necessitate a court hearing. Ms. Barry is working on a waiver form that would eliminate this step. However, legislation introduced in the General Assembly would require a court hearing for any modification and, therefore, prohibit waivers. Uncertain whether this bill has enough support to win passage. Commissioner Phillips noted that the County has increased funding for the DRC with the expectation that numbers of offenders assigned there will increase and, as a result, continue to reduce the population at the LCCF.

Pretrial Diversion/Treatment Program—Program has not been as active recently due to the shortage of probation officers. Probation Services continues to take referrals.

Offender Reentry Coalition—Mr. Ortiz is learning the reentry process and the issues involved. He is also getting to know various members of the Coalition and the roles their respective departments and agencies play in assisting inmates transitioning back into the community.

Heroin Task Force—Next meeting is scheduled for April 11 at 8:30 at MH/ID/EI. Mr. Donmoyer noted that the County had recorded 27 overdose deaths in 2018, which was the second lowest among fifth-class counties in the Commonwealth. Mr. Donmoyer is attending the Feb. 20th meeting of the Prison Board to request support to hire a coordinator to supervise the administration of vivitrol injections to inmates at the LCCF. The plan is to administer vivitrol, which blocks opioid receptors in the brain, to at least ten percent of the inmate population, on a voluntary basis prior to their release. The PA Department of Corrections could be announcing the availability of grant funding for this program. In the meantime, Mr. Donmoyer's office might be able to provide funding for the coordinator position.

PCCD "Under 10K" JAG Initiative—PCCD has announced the availability of federal funding for crime-prevention projects. Most municipalities in the County are eligible to apply for assistance. Mr. Shott is preparing an application to purchase new taser units for Probation Officers; many of the tasers are outdated or no longer under warranty. The application also requests funding to purchase drug-testing supplies for Probation Services. Other County departments could be included in the application. Eligible townships and boroughs are also invited to submit their own applications. Application is due by March 22nd and requires letters of support from departments or entities that would benefit from funding.

CJAB Spring Conference April 9-10 at the Penn Stater—Registration is free and open to any CJAB member. Mr. Ortiz has expressed an interest in attending. Reentry is one of the key topics being addressed at this year's event.

LCCF Tour—Warden Karnes is hosting a mandatory tour today for correctional healthcare providers who might be interested in contracting with the County to provide such services at the LCCF. This is in response to a Request for Proposal (RFP) announced at the County Commissioners' meeting on February 7th. Mr. Wolgemuth is also part of this tour.

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- **Strategic Plan**—Members reviewed a final draft of the Strategic Plan for 2019-2020. One goal that had been added to the Plan since the last CJAB meeting pertains to Renaissance-Crossroads (Page 10). More specifically: *“The County will explore feasibility of establishing a Crossroads program for female offenders, to be housed at a separate location in the County.”* This issue had been raised at a recent Renaissance Advisory meeting; the President Judge requested that it be added to the Plan. Ms. Barry noted that female offenders had been included in Crossroads several years ago, but that problems created by both genders being housed at the same location necessitated the program’s suspension. Also noted that the number of female offenders qualifying for a Crossroads program needs to be high enough to justify the additional cost.

The Strategic Plan was approved by the Board, without any additions or revisions, on a motion by Sheriff Klinger, seconded by Chairman Arnold. Mr. Shott will forward a copy of the Plan to PCCD.

NEW BUSINESS

With no further business to conduct, Chairman Arnold declared the meeting adjourned by consensus at 11:55 a.m.

NEXT CJAB MEETING: Tuesday, April 16, 2019, 11:00 a.m., Second Floor Conference Room, MH/ID/EI, 220 East Lehman Street.