

Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Minutes of the Meeting of February 28, 2017

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; Robert J. Phillips, County Commissioner; Stephanie Axarlis, Court Administrator; Jamie Wolgemuth, County Administrator; Robert Karnes, Warden; Bruce Klingler, Sheriff; Kevin Schrum, Director, MH/ID/EI; James Donmoyer, Director of the Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse; Karen Hess, Director of Domestic Relations; Sarah Primak, Veterans Justice Outreach; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner/Grant Coordinator.

Absent

David J. Arnold, District Attorney and CJAB Chairman; Honorable John C. Tylwalk, President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas; Brian L. Deiderick, Chief Public Defender; Daniel Wright, County Police Chiefs Representative; James Holtry, Director of Children and Youth; and Kim Mackey, PCCD Regional Representative.

Guest

Jennah Kuhn, Intern, Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse

Vice Chair Sally A. Barry called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.

Minutes of 12/13/2016 CJAB Meeting—Approved as written on a motion by Mr. Donmoyer, seconded by Commission Phillips.

Mr. Donmoyer introduced his guest, Ms. Jennah Kuhn, a resident of Lebanon and student at Lebanon Valley College, who is serving an internship in his office this semester.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- **D.U.I. Court**—Ms. Barry reported that 52 offenders are currently participating in the program. A record number of persons expected to graduate from the program in the near future. Probation Services and the Court are planning a phone-in drug-testing program for program participants. This requires participants to call a hotline on a daily basis and report to a designed location on a specified date.
- **Renaissance-Crossroads**—The President Judge is holding his first Renaissance-Crossroads Court session this morning. This is similar to how the D.U.I. Court Program operates; participants come to court and give the President Judge a report on their progress. The plan is to hold such sessions once per month. Crossroads can now accommodate offenders in a four-month program if there is no need for them to participate in more extensive treatment. Changes by PCCD also allow Level 2 offenders to participate in Crossroads; the program had been restricted to Levels 3 and 4 offender who would normally be sentenced to State prison. Level 2 offenses are lesser offenses under State Sentencing guidelines. Kim Mackey of PCCD plans a site visitation to Crossroads on March 9th to review the program and facility and to gather information for auditing purposes.

- **Prison Reduction**—The Average Daily Population (ADP) for 2016 was 514, representing a reduction of 33 from 2015. In 2016, the LCCF committed 3,024 offenders. The average length of stay was 44 days, with a cost of \$47 per inmate per day. Demographic breakdown: 52 percent white, 10 percent African-American; 33 percent Hispanic; one percent other. The LCCF is currently at 80 percent capacity. The LCCF Treatment Team is also working to get inmates signed up for Medical Assistance prior to their release to ensure that their medical needs are met without unnecessary delay. (Inmates are not eligible to receive MA while incarcerated.) A reminder that Volunteers in Medicine now has a walk-in service that could benefit released inmates.
- **Mental Health**—The first “Adult CASSP” review meeting was held on February 9th. The case involved a 20-year-old male who had been convicted of burglary and other offenses. The team met with the offender and identified his strengths, interests, and needs. The team then discussed services available to the offender and developed seven action steps. These include G.E.D., job training, and drug/alcohol treatment. A follow-up meeting with this offender is scheduled for May 7th. Mr. Schrum is of the opinion that the first review meeting went well, highlighted by good discussion about the best way to help the offender.

CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST

2-1-1 System for Lebanon County—The system went “live” on January 1st. Call volume for the first several weeks has been reported at 145. Implementation of the new system made possible by funding from the County, the Dixon Foundation, and Wellspan.

IP-Crossroads—PCCD has approved a modification request to the original grant to authorize the admission of Level II offenders in the IP-Crossroads program. This applies only to what remains of the first year of the grant cycle ending 6-30-17. Mr. Shott is required to update the County’s Intermediate Punishment Plan as part of the IP grant’s quarterly program report, which must be submitted by mid-April.

Pretrial Treatment Grant—Three persons are currently participating in the pretrial diversion program, which is part of a \$235,990 grant awarded by PCCD. Another offender, now on bail supervision, could be added to the program soon. The lack of bed space for these and other offenders in need of drug/alcohol treatment remains a major issue. The grant funds two new positions: a Treatment Coordinator who will evaluate arrestees at Central Booking and, in some situations, the LCCF, to assess the need for treatment; and an Adult Probation Officer responsible for supervising those who are accepted into the pretrial diversion program. Ms. Julie Wood has been hired as the new Treatment Coordinator and began her duties on 12-19. The Probation Officer funded under the grant is Ms. Adrienne Wetzal, who started in her position in late November. .

MST “Bridge Funding” Grant—PCCD has awarded the County a one-year grant of \$46,000 to fund Multisystemic Therapy (MST) for juveniles during the “bridge period” until Medical Assistance begins. MST is administered by PA Counseling, which is currently serving three juveniles referred by Probation Services. Probation Services has also identified two more offenders for referral. Using MST could serve as an effective alternative to expensive out-of-county placement for offenders. Lebanon County has no detention facility, though Youth Advocate operates a day program at the former Youth for Christ building on Grace Avenue, North Lebanon Township.

Day Reporting Center—The County intends to appeal the City Zoning Board’s decision in December against locating the DRC in downtown Lebanon. No date for a hearing before the Court of Common Pleas has been set. Because the DRC comes under the authority of the local court, an outside judge would have to hear the case. PA Counseling Services, the contractor selected to operate the program, intends to establish a temporary DRC at its headquarters located at 200 North Seventh Street, only a few blocks from the original planned site. However, even this action requires a change in zoning ordinance. City Council has passed such a change in ordinance on first reading, but the proposed ordinance must go through a second reading before it is official adopted. This could take place in March. It is important to note that the amended ordinance only clears the way for the version of the DRC at 200 North 7th Street and does not affect the Zoning Board’s ruling against the downtown proposal. Probation Services plans a site visitation to 200 North 7th Street on March 3rd to determine whether the facility has adequate space to offer a viable program until the zoning issues get resolved.

LSI-R Grant—PCCD has approved a \$15,077 grant to defray the cost of administering the Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R) to offenders under supervision. PCCD has also approved the County’s joint application with Lancaster County to allow up to five persons from Probation Services to attend a workshop in Lancaster to learn how to train others in administering the LSI-R. The training will take place in mid-March.

Offender Reentry Coalition--The Coalition has come to a standstill with no activity since last November. Concern that fewer partners are willing to attend meetings if nothing is getting done. The Coalition Executive Committee is meeting on March 2nd at PA Counseling to discuss the Coalition’s future and what next steps should be taken to keep it a fully functioning entity. Main issue involves a void in leadership. Charla Plaines, Reentry Coordinator for PCCD, has informed Mr. Shott that some counties have hired a full or part-time Reentry Coordinator to keep reentry activities moving forward. It might behoove the County to consider such action if the Reentry Coalition is to continue having the kind of presence and importance expected by PCCD.

Heroin Task Force—The Task Force met in January and is scheduled to convene again on April 21st. It has received State grant funding of \$24,475 for various activities planned this year. Mr. Donmoyer reported that the number of overdose-related deaths was 16 in 2016, representing a slight decrease from the 17 in 2015. Although 16 deaths are 16 too many, Lebanon County’s death rate is still significantly lower than the numbers in surrounding counties. Dauphin County, for example, reported 91 overdose deaths last year. Mr. Donmoyer’s office has worked diligently to distribute naloxone kits to EMTs, Probation, and others to combat this epidemic. Kits are also available to members of the public who take an online course and can produce a completion certificate. Mr. Donmoyer noted that his office still has 10 kits available. On April 6th, Chris Herren, a former pro basketball player, will be speaking at Lebanon High School, beginning at 7 p.m. The free event is sponsored by the Task Force, PA Counseling, and other organizations. Mr Herren’s promising career was cut short due to his substance abuse, and he now travels across the nation with his message of hope and living a drug-free life. The April 6th event will also give providers an opportunity to distribute information about their respective agencies. The Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse is also planning a program to administer vivitrol treatments to those struggling to break free of drug addiction.

CJAB Minimum Operating Standards—PCCD has recommended that CJABs across the Commonwealth review the Minimum Operating Standards revised in November 2015. Mr. Shott is of the opinion that the Lebanon County CJAB definitely meets these standards in terms of collaboration among participants and the organizational structure set forth in the bylaws. *Mr. Shott also suggested*

that this could be an appropriate time to review the 2013-2014 Strategic Plan and consider a new plan or revisions to the previous one. Approved by the CJAB in October 2013, the plan set forth a number of priorities, but gave particular emphasis to four areas: establishment of a Veterans' Court, establishment of a Day Reporting Center, establishment of a Mental Health Court or mechanism to deal with mentally ill persons in the system, and implementation of Unified Case Management.

Spring CJAB Conference—This year's conference is at the Penn State in State College, April 4-5. Any CJAB member is invited to attend this event, which has no registration fee. Registration deadline is March 15th.

OTHER UPDATES FROM CJAB DEPARTMENTS

None to report

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

None to report

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Wolgemuth discussed the issue of "sanctuary" and its impact on the county. The Center for Immigration Studies has designated Lebanon County as a "Sanctuary County," which is an arbitrary designation and one that the County did not invite. Other counties and municipalities in the Commonwealth have also received this designation, raising the public's ire at a time when immigration has become such an emotional and divisive issue. Lebanon County's "sanctuary" status is a result of the LCCF's refusal to house or detain undocumented immigrants without a court order. The County does not harbor undocumented persons or release them into the community. Such persons are detained at the LCCF until federal authorities take them to the federal facility in York County. Undocumented persons arrested for committing criminal offenses are treated like any other arrestee. Federal law does not specifically define "sanctuary," thus creating more confusions about the designation. Legislation winding its way through the PA General Assembly would withhold funding from counties and municipalities acting in the "sanctuary" capacity despite the absence of any clear statutory definition. Warden Karnes reiterated that the LCCF's practice of handling undocumented persons is in compliance with current federal guidelines.

Mr. Shott reminded the members that it is time for the Board to review the CJAB Bylaws, which must be reviewed biennially at a minimum. Review will be part of April's agenda.

With no further business to address, Ms. Barry declared the meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m. on a motion by Warden Karnes, seconded by Ms. Hess.

NEXT CJAB MEETING: Tuesday, April 25, 2017, 11:00 a.m., Second Floor Conference Room, MH/ID/EI, 220 East Lehman Street.