

**Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of June 8, 2021**

**Time: 11:00 a.m.**

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

**Present**

Holly Leahy, MH/ID/EI Administrator and CJAB Vice-Chair; Honorable John C. Tylwalk, President Judge; Robert J. Phillips, County Commissioner; Audrey Rakow, Director of Probation Services; Stephanie Axarlis, Court Administrator; Tina Litz, LCCF Warden; Jamie Wolgemuth, County Administrator; James Donmoyer, Director of Drug and Alcohol Commission; LeAnne Burchik, Executive Director of Domestic Violence Intervention; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner.

**Absent**

Pier Hess Graf, District Attorney and CJAB Chair; Bruce Klingler, Sheriff; Karen Hess, Director of Domestic Relations; Brian Deiderick, Chief Public Defender; Erin Moyer, Director of Children and Youth; Carla Cyr, Veterans Justice Outreach; Jon Hess, County Police Chiefs Representative; and, Kim Mackey, PCCD Regional Representative

**Guest**

Lori Burrus, Lebanon Chapter of the N.A.A.C.P.

CJAB Vice-Chair Holly Leahy called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m... *Presence of a quorum noted.*

**Minutes of 04/13/2021 CJAB Meeting**—Approved on a motion by President Judge Tylwalk, seconded by Ms. Axarlis.

Ms. Leahy welcomed new CJAB member LeAnne Burchik, Executive Director of Domestic Violence Intervention. Self-introductions by the other Board members.

Ms. Leahy welcomed and introduced today’s guest: Ms. Lori Burrus, Organizing Committee of the Lebanon Chapter of the N.A.A.C.P. Ms. Burrus made a presentation about the Lebanon organization, which currently has 150 members and became an official chapter two weeks ago. Ms. Burrus is originally from the “Goosetown” section of Cornwall and currently resides in West Lebanon Township. She has a professional background in workforce development and working with the disabled. Main reasons cited by minority groups for relocating to Lebanon County: safer streets, better schools, opportunity to own a home. Ms. Burrus expressed strong support for community policing in minority neighborhoods and discussed the rising number of persons with disabilities getting into trouble. Ms. Burrus invited Board members to the upcoming Juneteenth (July 19) celebration. Details forthcoming. The Lebanon Chapter hopes to be able to attend future CJAB meetings, referencing the CJAB’s role, as stated on the webpage, to invite other agencies to participate in meetings and discussions when addressing a problem in the community.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

- **D.U.I. Court**—At present, 34 offenders are participating in the program, with three set to graduate in the near future. Two admissions pending. President Judge Tylwalk is conducting in-person court sessions.

- **Renaissance-Crossroads--** Current number of offenders in the long-term program is eight, with one pending. President Judge Tylwalk is now conducting in-person court sessions with participants.
- **Prison Reduction—**Average Daily Population (ADP) of 329 as of 6/8. Numbers on the increase. Warden Litz is preparing a grant application to PCCD for federal Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) funding to continue the vivitrol program at the LCCF. Application is due by June 15.
- **Mental Health—**TEAM M.I.S.A. (Mental Illness and Substance Abuse) continues to meet monthly. To date, the team has discussed the cases of three incarcerated persons with significant mental- health issues. Competency determination has been at the forefront of two of these cases. The meetings have been well attended and productive.

Number of reported suicides in the county, to date, is seven. Statistical breakdown: four male, three female; average age of 51.4; four suicides by firearm; one veteran; two victims known by MH/ID/EI; two known to have had drug/alcohol issues. No confirmed suicides in May.

- **Veterans Court—**Current number of participants is 17, with two recent graduations. Veterans Court sessions take place twice per month on Fridays. The Court has returned to in-person sessions. The program continues to look for individuals interested in serving as mentors. The President Judge invited Board members to attend a court session, though they should contact Court Administration in advance.

## **CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST**

**Day Reporting Center—**Current number of active participants is 45, with four admissions pending. Two participants recently completed all phases of the program.

**Heroin Task Force—**The number of confirmed overdose deaths, to date, is 12, with three toxicology reports pending. The number for 2020 was 39. The April 27 drug take-back day sponsored by the Stronger Together Heroin Task Force was a highly successful event, with the largest amount of drugs, by weight, ever collected. Upcoming events sponsored by Stronger Together:

*July 2—Narcan distribution, 2-5 p.m., Lebanon Recovery Center, 701 Chestnut St., Lebanon*  
*Aug. 31—Overdose Awareness Vigil & Recovery Celebration, 6:30 p.m., County Courthouse*  
*Sept. 25—Recovery Day, 3-5 p.m., Monument Park, 755 Lehman Street, Lebanon*

**Offender Reentry Coalition—**No report.

### **Other Updates from CJAB Departments—**

**AOPC Grant Funding—**The AOPC has rejected the two applications submitted by Probation Services for funding to enhance the operation of the D.U.I. Court and Veterans Court programs. No specific issues with the County’s applications; rather, the issue was that the number of applications statewide had exceeded the amount of funding available. President Judge Tylwalk acknowledged and thanked the County Commissioners for their willingness to fund these court programs—the D.U.I. Court program in particular-- with local dollars in the absence of other funding sources.

***Intermediate Punishment (IP) Funding for FY 2021-2022 (\$500,000)***—The County submitted an application to PCCD on April 27 for funding to continue the Renaissance-Crossroads program for another year. No word from PCCD on the status of the application. Most (approximately 85 percent) of the \$500,000 in funding is appropriated for treatment provided by PA Counseling Services, Inc., which operates Renaissance-Crossroads out of leased space at the Lebanon V.A. Medical Center.

***CJAB “Mini-Grant” for 2021***—PCCD and the County Commissioners Association of PA have approved our CJAB’s application for \$2,000 to support the ongoing suicide-prevention campaign in the County. Mr. Shott, on behalf of the CJAB, had submitted the application in February, but PCCD would not approve it until the Board resolved the issue of core membership. The County must expend the funds by the end of June. Unlike previous years, PCCD will not provide funding for this grant in advance; rather, the funds will be in the form of reimbursement for expenses incurred.

## **ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

- No items to report.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

***CJAB Strategic Planning***--Members should think about priorities for the next round of Strategic Planning, as recommended by PCCD.

***VOCA Funding***--Ms. Burchik announced that today is a National Day of Action in support of funding for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), which has had its funding levels reduced over the past few years. Legislation to reverse this trend passed in the U.S. House, but its fate remains uncertain. Definite concern over the impact that further reductions could have on Domestic Violence Intervention.

**ADJOURNMENT**—With no further business to conduct, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m. on a motion by Ms. Axarlis, seconded by Commissioner Phillips.

**NEXT CJAB MEETING: Tuesday, August 10, 2021, 11:00 a.m., MH/ID/EI**