

Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Minutes of the Meeting of June 30, 2015

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

Absent

Brian L. Deiderick, Chief Public Defender and CJAB Vice-Chairman; Sally A. Barry, Director of Probation Services; James Holtry, Director, Children and Youth Services; Daniel Wright, City Police Chief; Sarah Primak, Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator; Honorable John C. Tylwalk, President Judge, Court of Common Pleas

Chairman David Arnold called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Minutes of 04/28/2015 CJAB Meeting—Approved as written on a motion by Sheriff Klingler, seconded by Mr. Donmoyer.

Introduction of Guest—Chairman Arnold introduced Mr. Joseph Centurione, Communications Manager for the Governor’s Office of Information Technology, who was in attendance to present a brief update regarding the JNET system, and to discuss any issues or concerns, as part of his office’s county-outreach effort. JNET now has a new website with a one-time password for access. Also in development is a system for entering information about gang-related activities. According to the profile developed by Mr. Centurione, Lebanon County has 217 registered JNET users. John Leahy is the county sponsor, Jen Brown is the county registrar, and Michael Dipalo is the county JTAC. JNET Conference is scheduled for October 27-28 at the Penn Stater, State College.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- **D.U.I. Court**—D.U.I. Court Graduation was held on June 25th. Number of participants in the program is on the upswing. Issues having an impact on participation rates center on changing the criteria for acceptance into the program and whether Level 2 offenders should also be included.
- **Veterans’ Court**—PCCD has funding remaining from the FY 2014-2015 grant for Veterans’ Courts. According to Terry Moloney of the PA Department of Human Services, this “leftover” funding could be used for Veterans Court-related activities, such as mentoring programs. The amount of funding available has not been determined, but any proposals for funding should be submitted by July 31st.
- **Prison Overcrowding**—Warden Karnes reported the current inmate population at the LCCF at 564, with an average daily membership since January of 548. At present, 55 inmates are being held over for trial.

- **Mental Health/Intellectual Disabilities**—Mr. Schrum reported that four suicides have been reported in the County during the first six months of 2015. This is a low number compared to the 20 that occurred in 2014 and could be a sign that the ongoing suicide- prevention campaign is having a positive effect. PCCD has also awarded the County a “mini-grant” of \$1,365 to assist in the prevention effort. Funds are being used to print classified and display ads in the Merchandiser with information on where to call for help if contemplating suicide or feeling depressed. Another attempt is being made to hold a Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training for law enforcement under a grant secured by the County last year. The session is scheduled for October 21st at Philhaven; Mr. Shott is in charge of registrations.

CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST

Unified Case Management—Use of UCM continues to expand. The Court has conducted training for magisterial district justices and their staff to prevent further duplication of offenders’ records, which was one of the integrity issues discussed at the April CJAB meeting.

IP Grant for FY 2015-2016—PCCD has approved the IP-Crossroads application for the new fiscal year, albeit with a budget that was reduced from \$650,000 in the original application to \$543,641, as required by PCCD.

Naloxone for First Responders Grant Applications—Chairman Arnold reported that the naloxone grant application submitted by his office through the District Attorneys Association has been approved and that 57 cans of naloxone are being shipped to the County. Mr. Shott has also submitted a grant application to PCCD in the amount of \$5,950 for the purchase of 34 naloxone kits for use by law enforcement and other first responders.

Strategic Plan and Offender Reentry—PCCD awarded the County a grant of \$9,851 to utilize the consulting services of Melanie Snyder to guide the County through the process of developing an Offender Reentry Plan as part of an overall Strategic Plan for the County. The first meeting of the Reentry Coalition took place on June 25th and was a successful event, attended by 25 persons, including Charla Plaines, who coordinates Reentry programs for PCCD. Mr. Shott has been directed to contact other agencies to invite them to participate in the planning process. Warden Karnes stated that he was encouraged by the number of participants and issues discussed. He also noted the crucial importance of the first 48 hours after a prisoner has been released; this is the time period when an inmate is most likely to commit another offense.

IP Grant for 2014-2015—The augmentation funding of \$50,000 that had been approved by PCCD is not sufficient to meet consultant expenses to complete the fiscal year ending June 30th. The budget only has enough funding remaining to make partial payments to PA Counseling for the Renaissance-Crossroads program in May and June. No local match was required under this grant.

OTHER UPDATES FROM CJAB DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Domoyer reported that six heroin-related overdose deaths have been recorded in the county this year, three of which took place in May. In response to this epidemic, Probation Services rounded up and incarcerated 17 known heroin users for evaluation and testing. To date, 13 have been assessed and nine are now in inpatient treatment.

The Medical Assistance County Jail Implementation Project is ongoing in Lebanon County. The objective of this project is to assist inmates in accessing needed drug/alcohol treatment following release and expedite completion of Medical Assistance applications.

Concern still exists about the cost of incarcerating offenders. Warden Karnes estimates the cost at \$45 per day per inmate, which is significantly lower than many other counties' costs.

The Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse has partnered with PA Counseling Services to submit a grant application in the amount of \$173,000 to the PA Dept. of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) for services to address the heroin/opioid overdose problem in the county. This funding initiative is part of the Governor's Proposed FY 2015-2016 Budget containing \$5 million for Single County Authorities to provide these services and requesting local agencies to submit proposals.

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Sue Christner—Ms. Christner of Juvenile Probation was recently named Juvenile Justice Professional of the Year.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Phillips reported that the agreement merging the Good Samaritan Hospital and Wellspan will be signed today, June 30th.

With no further business to address, Chairman Arnold declared the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m. on a motion by Warden Karnes, seconded by Ms. Axarlis.

NEXT CJAB MEETING: Tuesday, August 25, 2015, 11:00 a.m., Second Floor Conference Room, MH/ID/EI, 220 East Lehman Street.