

**Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of October 27, 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; Honorable John C. Tylwalk, President Judge, Court of Common Pleas; Sally A. Barry, Director of Probation Services; Stephanie Axarlis, Court Administrator; James Donmoyer, Director of Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse; Jamie Wolgemuth, County Administrator; Robert Karnes, LCCF Warden; Kevin Schrum, Director, MH/ID/EI; Bruce Klingler, Sheriff; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner/Grant Coordinator.

**Absent**

Brian L. Deiderick, Chief Public Defender and CJAB Vice-Chairman; Robert J. Phillips, County Commissioner; James Holtry, Director, Children and Youth Services; Daniel Wright, City Police Chief; Sarah Primak, Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist; Karen Hess, Director of Domestic Relations; Kim Mackey, PCCD Regional Representative.

Chairman David Arnold called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.

**Minutes of 08/25/2015 CJAB Meeting**—Approved as written on a motion by Ms. Barry, seconded by Sheriff Klingler

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

- **D.U.I. Court**— The program continues to operate efficiently, with the number of participants on the upswing. The President Judge noted an increase this year in the number of offenders violating rules of the program and that, at every D.U.I. Court session, at least one offender is sitting “in the box” for a violation. The session on 10-27 had four such violators. Also noted: some violations are for using controlled substances, including heroin. Members of the D.U.I. Court Team attended the PA Association of Drug Court Professionals (PADCP) Conference in State College during the week of October 19<sup>th</sup>.
- **Veterans’ Court**—President Judge Tylwalk, Mr. Shott, Nicole Eisenhart of the District Attorney’s Office, Nicholas Sidelnick of the Public Defender’s Office, and Ms. Primak attended a regional forum in Harrisburg on September 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss Veterans Courts and programming for veterans. This was one of several forums held across the Commonwealth by Justice Debra Todd of the PA Supreme Court to provide opportunities for counties to share information about best practices in support of veterans in the criminal-justice system.

The President Judge reiterated his opinion that the needs of veterans in the criminal justice system in the county are being addressed, thanks to the efforts of Ms. Primak and Veterans Justice Outreach. No veteran is being missed. With this in mind, establishment of a separate Veterans Court is not a priority, though establishing a mentoring program is an important component that is needed to provide veterans with an additional level of support. It is still possible that the General Assembly will adopt legislation mandating the establishment of Veterans Courts in all counties (judicial districts). Mr. Shott will be attending “Honoring the Sacrifices,” a one-day conference at Ft. Indiantown Gap on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>. Topics include VA eligibility and services, trauma treatment, traumatic brain injury, and homelessness.

**Prison Overcrowding**—The average daily population at the LCCF over the past year is 550. The number of female inmates is now at 91, matching the maximum number of beds for women at the LCCF. Inspectors from the Commonwealth were present at the LCCF last week. The Prison Overcrowding Committee will meet on November 18th to discuss the inmate population and proactive measures that could be taken to address this issue.

- **Mental Health/Intellectual Disabilities**—A Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training for law enforcement personnel took place on October 21st at Philhaven, with 18 in attendance. Feedback from some member of Probation has been very favorable. The MHFA grant through PCCD does not expire until 3-31-16, prompting the question whether enough interest exists to plan at least one additional training before that date. Mr. Shott will discuss with Philhaven.

Ms. Barry recommended that the CJAB revisit the establishment of a Mental Health Court in the county, an issue that had been part of the CJAB's Strategic Plan for 2013-2014. Renewed interest in this matter occurred following an incident involving a mentally disturbed individual at Probation Services. The main focus is identifying those with mental health issues and responding appropriately. Warden Karnes noted that the LCCF is receiving an increased number of inmates with such issues, with the realization that incarceration is often the only option. Members agreed that the Mental Health Committee could discuss ideas with particular emphasis on intervention at the earliest point (prior to adjudication). Lack of resources and privacy concerns will continue to be factors as discussions unfold.

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

**Unified Case Management**—Ms. Barry noted that more District Attorney Office as well as prisons across the Commonwealth are using the system. UCM appears to be going well in Lebanon County with only the occasional technical glitch.

**Naloxone for First Responders Grant Application**—PCCD has awarded the county \$5,950 in grant funding to purchase naloxone kits for first responders. The grant application appropriates funding for naloxone kits for Probation Services, Corrections, and the District Attorney's Office, though Chairman Arnold's office has already received a supply of naloxone under a separate funding source for distribution to police departments in the county. The next step will be to have officers take and pass the online training course before receiving authorization to use naloxone. Probation Services will have to enter into an agreement with the EMS Agency (First Aid and Safety Patrol) and signed by the Commissioners permitting Probation to obtain and distribute naloxone.

**Strategic Plan and Offender Reentry**—The Lebanon County Reentry Coalition has met a total of five times, working toward the development of a Reentry Plan for the county. Meetings are still well attended, and members are enthusiastic about the ongoing work. A Reentry Plan will be finalized early in 2016 and brought before the CJAB for approval. It will then be submitted to PCCD. Melanie Snyder, the consultant leading the Coalition through the planning process, will no longer be involved with the Coalition after 2015. However, the work of the Coalition will continue, raising the issue of the Coalition's structure and options for the future. PCCD expects the Coalition to continue as an operating entity, with perhaps an executive committee meeting regularly as the Reentry Plan gets implemented. One option going forward is having the Coalition serve as a permanent sub-committee of the CJAB. The other option is designating the Coalition as an independent organization, using a member agency as the fiscal agent until the Coalition receives its own 501c3 status. Warden Karnes recommended the

latter approach, noting that the Coalition, as an independent entity, would be able to make decisions and take action on reentry matters without having to wait for approval from the CJAB, which only meets bimonthly.

**Heroin Task Force**—Mr. Donmoyer reported 17 confirmed heroin-related overdose deaths this year. No such deaths have occurred since September 21<sup>st</sup>. The Heroin Task Force had its first meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup> and will meet again on October 30<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 to 10 at MH/ID/EI. The Task Force has formed sub-committees that will meet regularly to address various issues and make recommendations. Mr. Donmoyer also noted that 33 inmates have been referred to the Medical Assistance Jail Pilot Program, which seeks to get inmates into treatment and expedite their applications for Medical Assistance coverage. Of the 33 inmates referred, 21 were sent to inpatient treatment. The lack of bed space for those in need of treatment remains an issue. Ms. Barry added that Probation Services is tracking offenders referred to treatment and that of the 50 persons tracked, to date, 16 have relapsed. Members discussed funding sources for the Task Force’s activities, particularly those involving an overdose-prevention campaign similar to the county’s ongoing Suicide Prevention Campaign. This will be addressed as the Task Force, which has no budget at this time, continues its work over the next several months. The District Attorney’s Office might be able provide drug-forfeiture dollars to assist the Task Force with its work. In the interim, the Task Force will rely on public-service announcements to get the word out.

**CJAB Coordinators Workshop**—Mr. Shott attended the PCCD-sponsored workshop on Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> at the Red Lion Inn, Harrisburg. Guest facilitator was Jodi Pfarr, a professional consultant from Minnesota, who focused on setting goals/objectives and working with diverse interests on CJABs.

## **OTHER UPDATES FROM CJAB DEPARTMENTS**

Mr. Schrum reported 10 suicides in the county, to date, in 2015. Still lower than the figure of 20 in 2014 and 26 in 2013. Most of the suicides in 2015 have involved white male “baby boomers,” though three involved women.

Lebanon County will be starting a Fairweather Lodge for six to eight people with serious mental illnesses who have been referred from MH/ID/EI. This is a rehabilitation model involving participants in congregate living and collaborative employment.

PA Counseling Services, Inc. will open a Recovery House and Recovery Center in November at 701 Chestnut Street, Lebanon. The facility will be able to accommodate up to eight women.

## **ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Nothing to report

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Election of CJAB Officers for 2016 to occur at the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Members will also approve a meeting schedule for 2016, based on the Court Calendar, which could be released this week.

Kim Mackey of PCCD had sent an email on October 19<sup>th</sup>, noting that PCCD is updating “CJAB minimum standards” that could include requiring that a representative of the Housing Authority and a representative from MH/ID/EI be invited to join CJABs as core members. A final decision could be made at the PCCD meeting on November 10th. Mr. Shott responded to the inquiry that MH/ID/EI is already represented on the LCCJAB. Members agreed to wait until the Commission meeting next month before considering an invitation to the Housing Authority.

With no further business to address, Chairman Arnold declared the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Barry, seconded by Ms. Axarlis

**NEXT CJAB MEETING: Tuesday, December 15, 2015, 11:00 a.m., Second Floor Conference Room, MH/ID/EI, 220 East Lehman Street.**