

**Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of October 30, 2018**

**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; Honorable John C. Tylwalk, President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas; Robert J. Phillips, County Commissioner; Stephanie Axarlis, Court Administrator; Kevin Schrum, Director of MH/ID/EI; James Donmoyer, Director of the Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse; Brian L. Deiderick, Chief Public Defender; Daniel Wright, Police Chiefs Representative; Kim Mackey, PCCD Regional Representative; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner.

**Absent**

Jamie Wolgemuth, County Administrator; Bruce Klingler, Sheriff; James Holtry, Director of Children and Youth; Karen Hess, Director of Domestic Relations; Robert Karnes, Warden; Sarah Primak, Veterans Justice Outreach

Board Chairman David Arnold called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. Presence of a quorum noted.

**Minutes of 08/14/2018 CJAB Meeting**—Approved on a motion by President Judge Tylwalk, seconded by Ms. Barry.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

- **D.U.I. Court**—At present, the number of participants in the program is just shy of 40. One offender was recently removed. The participation rate has been lower than in previous years due to the U.S. Supreme Court's *Birchfield* ruling as well as the fact that many DUI offenders opt for incarceration rather than comply with the program's strict guidelines.
- **Renaissance-Crossroads**—Current census is 18. One participant was expelled recently and is now at an SCI. As is the case with DUI Court, some offenders who are eligible for Crossroads choose to go to prison instead of having to adhere to the program's stringent rules. Giving Crossroads participants an opportunity to appear monthly in the President Judge's courtroom to discuss their progress in the program is working well. Graduation ceremony was held this morning in the President Judge's courtroom.
- **Prison Reduction**—Average Daily Population (ADP) as of today: 521. Daily per diem rate /inmate is \$48.72; average length of stay per inmate is 50.77 days. Mr. Donmoyer and Warden Karnes plan to go before the Prison Board early next year to seek authorization to apply for a DOC grant that will fund vivitrol shots for approximately ten percent of the inmate population before their release. This will be strictly voluntary and not part of a court order or other mandate. The actual amount of funding for this grant has not been released by the DOC.
- **Mental Health**—"Adult CASSP" process continues, though it has been difficult at times to get review team members together to discuss cases; as a result, not all reviews have been completed. To date, the County has recorded 15 suicides, with the youngest victim being 14, the oldest 87. Number of suicides in 2017: 18.

Ms. Jessica Creter, a longtime staff member at MH/ID/IE, is retiring in March. Her experience and expertise will be sorely missed. Another experienced staff member, Ms. Holly Leahy, is on extended medical leave.

- **Veterans' Court**—Meetings to plan the implementation of a full-fledged Veterans' Court in Lebanon County have been well attended and productive. The intent is to have the new court in place by the beginning of 2019. Sarah Primak of Veterans Justice Outreach has been working to identify offenders who would be good candidates for the program. Mr. Michael Chabitnoy, a staff attorney at MidPenn Legal Services and a veteran, has stepped forward to serve as a coordinator for those who will be mentoring offenders. Must be emphasized that the Veterans' Court program does not entail any additional expense for the County. The President Judge recognized Ms. Axarlis and Ms. Barry for the major role they played in making this program possible. Establishment of a Veterans' Court will be embraced by the Administrative Office of PA Courts (AOPC) as well as legislators who want every county in the Commonwealth to have such a program.

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

**Justice-Assistance Grant (JAG) Funding**—The PCCD Review Team did not recommend the County's grant application for approval at the Commission's Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. In March, the County submitted a grant application for \$150,000 to defray some of the cost of operating the Day Reporting Center (DRC), which had opened its doors in October 2017. Because the DRC had already been in operation by the time the application was submitted, the Review Team decided not to recommend funding, in accordance with grant guidelines that limited the JAG dollars "for the implementation of new projects only and not the expansion or improvement of existing projects." The County was hopeful that the Commission would recognize and reward the County's initiative in establishing the DRC without using state or federal dollars. According to PCCD, the grant application received positive feedback from the Review Team, but the Commission felt that it had to adhere to a strict interpretation of the grant guidelines.

**Day Reporting Center**—Current census is 48. The DRC has been in place at its current location for one year and has encountered no serious criticism from the business community or civic leaders. The County continues to give the DRC strong support by funding the project out of local dollars. Plan is to make more referrals to the DRC to increase participation rates.

**Pretrial Diversion/Treatment Program**—Grant cycle ended on 9-30-18, but the County intends to continue with the pretrial process. The Adult Probation Officer in charge of supervising pretrial offenders remains in place. The two-year grant had limited pretrial diversion to offenders identified as having drug or alcohol-related issues. Going forward, pretrial could be expanded to those with mental-health concerns. The Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R) is still the assessment tool used to assess offenders.

**Offender Reentry Coalition**—Phyllis Holtry, Director of Community Action Partnership, and John Shott interviewed three candidates for the Reentry Coordinator position and have recommended a name to the Commissioners for approval. Many applications/resumes were received, but most applicants were either not qualified or withdrew from consideration. The plan is to have the applicant approved at the Commissioners' meeting on November 1<sup>st</sup> and begin working on November 5<sup>th</sup>. This is a part-time position (approx. 15 hours per week) under Ms. Holtry's supervision.

**Heroin Task Force**—The Task Force met on October 11<sup>th</sup> and is scheduled to meet on January 10, 2019. Number of reported overdose deaths, to date, is 22. Victims' ages range from 20 to 60. Twenty of the deaths were opiate related. Overdose deaths in 2017: 27.

**Other Updates from CJAB Departments**—As reported by Ms. Barry, Probation Services has changed the protocol when it comes to supervising offenders in treatment. Recognized need for more frequent contact with these offenders. As noted by Commissioner Phillips, the County's recent settlement of the lawsuit involving the drug-withdrawal death at the LCCF was recommended by the County's insurance carrier, which will pay the negotiated settlement of \$4.75 million. Payment is not coming from the County's General Fund or local dollars.

## **ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

### **Strategic Planning**

- **Strategic Planning Survey Results**—Only three members completed the online survey distributed by PCCD. Other members are urged to add their thoughts about our CJAB's strengths and challenges, though the consensus is that our CJAB is functioning well, evidenced by the fact that so much of the 2013-2014 Strategic Plan has been accomplished.
- **Review of CJAB Bylaws**—Board members agreed that the Offender Reentry Coordinator should be a core member of the CJAB. Mr. Shott will prepare an amendment to the bylaws to be considered by the Board at the December meeting.
- **Review of Mission Statement and Role of CJAB Members**—Members agreed to keep the current wording of both documents.
- **Discussion of Priorities for Strategic Plan**—Members reviewed the priorities that had been included in the 2013-2014 Strategic Plan and discussed areas that could be prioritized in the new plan. Priorities and areas of focus for the next two years should be finalized at the December meeting, with a new Strategic Plan to be approved in February 2019. General agreement that the focus should be on continuing and strengthening alternatives to incarceration. It is important for the CJAB to have a new Strategic Plan in place; not having a plan could jeopardize the Board's eligibility for grant funding in the future.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Two items to be addressed by the Board at the 12-11-18 meeting: Election of Officers for 2019 and the 2019 meeting schedule.

With no further business to conduct, Chairman Arnold declared the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

**NEXT CJAB MEETING: Tuesday, December 11, 2018, 11:00 a.m., Second Floor Conference Room, MH/ID/EI, 220 East Lehman Street.**