

THE CJAB DOCKET

LATEST NEWS FROM THE LEBANON COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD.



DATE: November 2016

RENAISSANCE-CROSSROADS PROGRAM IN PLACE FOR TWO MORE YEARS

*****PCCD APPROVES FUNDING TO CONTINUE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM*****

Since 2001, the Renaissance-Crossroads program has been assisting drug and alcohol-dependent offenders to break free of addiction and get their lives back on track. The program, a collaborative effort between the County of Lebanon and PA Counseling Services, celebrated its 15th Anniversary on October 13th, an uplifting event attended by past and present participants, as well as officials who were either part of the original planning or are currently involved in administering this successful endeavor. The good news is that Renaissance-Crossroads will be around for another two years, thanks to \$1.2 million in grant funding awarded by PCCD in September. This two-year grant appropriates almost 90 percent of the award for treating eligible offenders at Crossroads. The balance of the award is to defray part of the cost of supervising Crossroads participants as well as certain offenders on house arrest/electronic monitoring. Renaissance-Crossroads is a key component of the County's Intermediate Punishment (IP) Plan, which develops strategies for controlling or reducing the number of inmates at the Lebanon County Correctional Facility (LCCF). Renaissance-Crossroads started with a grant from PCCD in 2001, and the fact that PCCD continues to award funding for this intensive treatment program 15 years later speaks volumes about its rate of success and the positive impact it has had on offenders' lives.

Two graduates of Crossroads spoke from the heart at the Anniversary event, telling the audience about the challenges of completing the program, which lasts 34 months and is definitely not an easy ride. Getting through the program and changing their lives for the better—much better—is the main message everyone heard from the two ex-participants, a message also heard by current

participants who might be wondering whether they can make it through the rigors of the program. Most do. According to PA Counseling, 97 percent of graduates secured employment after discharge, all grads reported the ability to better manage their anger and urges to revert back to drug abuse, and 66 percent of short-term clients maintained their sobriety. Since its inception, almost no participant has been terminated from Crossroads due to a drug or alcohol-related arrest. The partnership between the County and PA Counseling has paid dividends in terms of addicted offenders not resorting to substance abuse and the criminal behavior that often goes with it. Less recidivism means enhanced public safety. We look forward to good things continuing over the next two years.



ASSESSING AND ASSISTING INDIVIDUALS AT THE “FRONT END” OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESS

PRETRIAL DIVERSION FOR THOSE IN NEED OF DRUG/ALCOHOL TREATMENT

More good news on the funding front. PCCD has awarded Lebanon County almost \$236,000 to implement a pretrial drug and alcohol program over the next two years, beginning October 1st. The purpose of this grant is to identify and divert low-risk offenders with drug and alcohol issues from prison to treatment. This is the “front end” approach that assesses individuals at the time of arrest and offers intensive drug/alcohol treatment and supervision as a viable alternative to imprisonment. The pretrial program is focused on giving offenders an opportunity get help as soon possible to get their lives back on track and, in the process, minimize their involvement with the criminal justice system. The grant provides funding for two positions vital to the successful implementation of the pretrial program: a Treatment Coordinator, who will be responsible for assessing individuals at the time of arrest to determine their eligibility for acceptance into pretrial diversion/treatment; and a Probation Officer charged with supervising such persons.

We believe that pretrial diversion in Lebanon County will strengthen offenders’ chances of breaking free of their addictions, and, as a result, reduce the risk of future re-arrest. Diversion

from prison also assists the county with efforts to curtail the cost of incarceration. Pretrial diversion also recognizes that jailing persons with drug/alcohol dependency is not a treatment plan; rather, it is a prescription for guaranteeing that such individuals will continue to commit crimes and return to prison at public expense. To sum it up: it is important NOT to have these offenders languishing behind bars awaiting trial when they could be getting effective treatment for their addictions.



HEROIN TASK FORCE CONTINUES ITS IMPORTANT WORK

As noted in the previous newsletter, the Lebanon County Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse (LCCDAA) formed a task force last year to address the heroin issue in the county and to discuss effective strategies for combatting a problem that has claimed lives and sent many others into a downward spiral. Co-chaired by Jim Donmoyer, LCCDAA Director and CJAB member and Lebanon Mayor Sherry Capello, the Task Force has been meeting quarterly, bringing together a diverse group of individuals willing to share their insight and experience. The Task Force is organized into four sub-committees: Prevention, Harm Reduction, Treatment, and Law Enforcement. These sub-committees meet on a regular basis to tackle specific issues and make recommendations to the full Task Force. Being PROACTIVE is essential!

The Task Force held a community forum at HACC-Lebanon on Sept. 21st, giving attendees an opportunity learn how to administer narcan (naloxone) to someone experiencing an overdose. After passing an online test at the event, an attendee was then provided with a free narcan kit. Teaming up with other partners including PA Counseling Services, the Task Force is sponsoring an appearance by Mr. Chris Herren at Lebanon High School on April 6, 2017. Mr. Herren is a former pro basketball player whose career was cut short due to his substance abuse. He got the assistance he needed, and has now become a much in-demand motivational speaker with a strong anti-drug message. His story has been featured on ESPN's "30 for 30."

Another item to report: the LCCDAA is engaged in a "warm hand-off" approach for those who arrive at the Emergency Room with overdose issues. The "warm hand-off" means that Crisis Intervention is contacted immediately to offer assistance before those recovering from overdoses return home.

2-1-1 SYSTEM COMING TO LEBANON COUNTY



Beginning January 1, 2017, residents of Lebanon County will be able to dial 2-1-1 for assistance with non-emergency matters involving housing, employment, food, health clinics, military/veterans affairs, substance abuse, mental health, transportation, disaster relief, and reentry after prison. Kudos to the United Way of Lebanon County for taking the lead in bringing this vital service to our county. Establishment of the 2-1-1 system has been of pressing interest to the CJAB as well as the Lebanon County Offender Reentry Coalition. Agency/departments reps are urged to download the United Way's website (www.unitedwaylebc.org) and add their information to the 2-1-1 database.

“ADULT CASSP” READY TO LAUNCH

Thanks to efforts by the CJAB'S Mental Health Committee, the so-called “Adult CASSP” is about to become a reality in the county. For years, the county has had the Children and Adolescent Service System Program (CASSP), an effective system for juveniles that brings representatives from multiple agencies together at the same time to discuss the particulars of a child's case. This eliminates conflicting narratives that can take place when agencies meet separately. Earlier this year the CJAB expressed interest in doing something similar to this for adults and asked the Mental Health Committee to develop a plan. The idea of everyone working together to come up with an effective method of dealing with certain adult offenders would be a positive step and one that could be developed at little or no cost to the county. Core-team members of the “Adult CASSP” held a meeting in late October to review the process for referring adults to the program. The first case to come before the team is scheduled for early December. Thanks to everyone for making this new approach to adult cases possible! Also, the committee is still open to suggestions for a suitable name other than “Adult CASSP.”



“The ongoing mission of the Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board is to identify the strengths, weaknesses, and needs of the local criminal justice system, and by means of communication, cooperation, and collaboration, enhance and improve the system and services in the most effective, efficient, and cost-effective manner possible.”

LEBANON COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD

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