

Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Minutes of the Meeting of August 25, 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; Brian L. Deiderick, Chief Public Defender and CJAB Vice-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 J. Phillips, County Commissioner; Robert Karnes, Warden; Kevin Schrum, Director, MH/ID/EI; Bruce Klingler, Sheriff; Daniel Wright, City Police Chief; Sarah Primak, Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator; Karen Hess, Director of Domestic Relations; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner/Grant Coordinator.

Absent

James Holtry, Director, Children and Youth Services; Kim Mackey, PCCD Regional Representative

Chairman David Arnold called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

Minutes of 06/30/2015 CJAB Meeting—Approved as written on a motion by Director Barry, seconded by Commissioner Phillips.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- **D.U.I. Court**— Number of participants in the program continues to rise. The fact that the program is no longer under PCCD grant restrictions enables the county to change the criteria for acceptance into the program.
- **Veterans' Court**—Justice Debra Todd of the PA Supreme Court is holding regional forums across the Commonwealth to discuss Veterans Courts and programming for veterans. These forums are designed as opportunities for counties to share information about best practices to support veterans in the criminal-justice system. The forum for Region 5, which includes Lebanon County, is scheduled for Sept. 25th in Harrisburg. Those attending include President Judge Tylwalk, Chairman Arnold, Director Barry, Nicholas Sidelnick of the Public Defender's Office, and Mr. Shott.

Concern remains that establishing a separate Veterans Court in the county will reduce the number of offenders currently eligible for the DUI Court and Crossroads programs, jeopardizing their grant funding in the future. A better approach for the county is to utilize mentoring programs for veterans in the criminal-justice system. Coordination of services across county lines should also be addressed. President Judge Tylwalk noted his belief that the Administrative Office of PA Courts (AOPC) is working toward mandating that all counties establish Veterans Courts. Ms. Primak expressed concern that the VA would not have sufficient staff to handle additional courts. She also noted that Lebanon County serves as a good model in identifying and responding to the needs of veterans who commit offenses.

- **Prison Overcrowding**—The average daily population at the LCCF for July was 574, the highest of the year to date. As of 8/24, the inmate population was 524. Discussion ensued regarding the medical costs of inmates serving county sentences who then get sentenced to state prison. In these situations, the county is

still responsible for covering such costs, despite the fact that the State is better equipped to respond to inmates' medical needs, especially chronic conditions. Inmates serving a county sentence and subsequently receiving a State sentence must first be paroled on the county sentence before being transported to a state facility. According to Warden Karnes, inmates have been returned to LCCF from the Diagnostic Center in Camp Hill because they have not been paroled on a simultaneous county sentence. An inmate paroled from a county sentence but is hospitalized ("unfit for transport") will not be accepted by the Diagnostic Center until their medical condition is stabilized. The Warden also noted that he has solicited the Dept. of Corrections to accept inmates prior to parole for certain chronic issues, but has been refused.

Mr. Wolgemuth suggested that the Prison Overcrowding Committee should convene in the near future to discuss this and other issues impacting the inmate population and the cost of incarceration. The committee last met in August 2014. Chairman Arnold will schedule a meeting in the near future.

- **Mental Health/Intellectual Disabilities**—The next Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training for law enforcement personnel is scheduled for October 21st at Philhaven, which needs at least ten persons to pre-register before agreeing to conduct the training. Mr. Shott is in charge of registrations. Mr. Schrum reported that he and other members of the Suicide Prevention Task Force will attend the Sept. 3rd Commissioners' meeting to announce that September is Suicide Prevention Month in Lebanon County and to request the Commissioners' support for the ongoing campaign. This year, to date, five suicides have been reported in the county, a low figure, especially when compared to previous years, indicating that prevention efforts in the county are having a positive impact.

CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST

Unified Case Management—No official report. Director Barry noted that moving Probation documents into UCM continues while working to resolve issues with the county's MIS department. The LCCF is still planning to move its records into UCM, but technical issues must also be addressed.

Naloxone for First Responders Grant Application—PCCD has upgraded the grant application as "Ready for Commission," which most likely means that the \$5,950 application to purchase naloxone kits will be recommended and approved. Chairman Arnold reported that the District Attorney's Office has received a supply of naloxone under a separate grant for distribution to police departments in the county. However, each police department must comply with the following requirements before receiving any naloxone: 1) departments must sign and agree to abide with a naloxone policy, as prepared by the District Attorney's Office; 2) all officers must take an online course before being authorized to use naloxone; and 3) departments must agree to maintain all reports and records pertaining to distribution and use of naloxone. Some concern that sections of the policy might be hard for police departments to implement. Online training for personnel is available through the PA Chiefs of Police Association's website if other training sites are not accessible.

Strategic Plan and Offender Reentry—The Offender Reentry Coalition has met twice, with the next meeting scheduled for August 27th at PA Counseling. The meetings have been productive, giving parties at the table an opportunity to share their ideas and insights as they work toward writing a Reentry Plan for the county in the coming months. The number of individuals interested in joining the Coalition has also grown since the kick-off session in June.

Formation of Heroin Task Force—Recommended to the CJAB by Mr. Donmoyer, who envisions an overdose-prevention campaign similar to the county's suicide-prevention campaign. Mr. Donmoyer

distributed a sign-up sheet for those who want to be part of a prevention team, which will be co-chaired by Mr. Donmoyer and Mayor Sherry Capello. To date, the county has recorded 14 heroin-related deaths in 2015, with seven occurring in July. The total number of such deaths in 2014 was 18. These figures could actually be higher, however, since county residents who, for example, die from heroin overdoses at the Hershey Medical Center are included in statistics for Dauphin County. In response to the overdose epidemic, Probation Services rounded up and incarcerated 26 known heroin users for testing and evaluation. Of these, 24 were referred to treatment. It was also noted that the Good Samaritan Hospital reported 70 visits to the E.R. in May by those having substance-abuse issues. The number for June was 50; no report for July has been received.

Seminar on Cybercrime—Scheduled for October 20th from 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon in the Auditorium of the Courthouse. Anyone involved in law enforcement is eligible to attend this free session.

CJAB Coordinators Workshop—Scheduled for Sept. 30th at the Red Lion Inn, Harrisburg. Mr. Shott plans to attend.

OTHER UPDATES FROM CJAB DEPARTMENTS

No other updates to report

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Nothing to report

NEW BUSINESS

The campaign team of former Congressman Joe Sestak, who is now running for the U.S. Senate, has been sending out emails to CJAB coordinators across the Commonwealth to generate support, including financial support, for his candidacy. PCCD has not authorized these messages, did not see them ahead of time, and had not provided Sestak's committee with CJAB coordinators' contact information.

With no further business to address, Chairman Arnold declared the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m. on a motion by Director Barry, seconded by Warden Karnes.

NEXT CJAB MEETING: Tuesday, October 27, 2015, 11:00 a.m., Second Floor Conference Room, MH/ID/EI, 220 East Lehman Street.