

Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Minutes of the Meeting of December 15, 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; Kevin Schrum, Director, MH/ID/EI; Bruce Klingler, Sheriff; Daniel Wright, City Police Chief; Sarah Primak, Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist; Kim Mackey, PCCD Regional Representative; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner/Grant Coordinator.

Absent

Brian L. Deiderick, Chief Public Defender and CJAB Vice-Chairman; Robert J. Phillips, County Commissioners; Robert Karnes, LCCF Warden; James Holtry, Director, Children and Youth Services; and, Karen Hess, Director of Domestic Relations

Chairman David Arnold called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m.

Minutes of 10/27/2015 CJAB Meeting—Approved as written on a motion by Ms. Barry, seconded by President Judge Tylwalk.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- **D.U.I. Court**—Following this month's round of sentencing, the program will have 67 participants. Graduation ceremony will be held this evening in Courtroom #1, with all CJAB members invited to attend. The program continues to operate efficiently with few problems.
- **Veterans' Court**—President Judge Tylwalk and Ms. Primak agreed that the County has been responding effectively to the needs of veterans entering the criminal justice system. The President Judge noted the solid working rapport between the County and Veterans Justice Outreach in identifying veterans and getting them the assistance they require. Although establishment of a separate Veterans Court in Lebanon County is not a priority, developing a mentoring program is needed to offer veterans an additional level of support. Ms. Primak shared a success story about an offender from Lebanon County who was permitted to participate in the Veterans Court program in Lancaster County. Good collaboration between the Courts and Veterans Justice Outreach made this possible, resulting in a positive result for the offender. Mr. Shott and Ms. Primak attended "Honoring the Sacrifices," a conference at Ft. Indiantown Gap on Nov. 12th. Topics included VA eligibility and services, trauma treatment, traumatic brain injury, PTSD, and homelessness. Justice Debra Todd of the PA Supreme Court was also in attendance, urging the establishment of Veterans Courts in the Commonwealth.

Prison Overcrowding—Committee met on 11-18. Meeting minutes were distributed to attendees. The Board discussed the need for risk/needs assessment at Central Booking and the eventual establishment of a Day Reporting Center as important options for controlling or reducing the prison population. Regarding the former option, the objective is to identify and control offenders at the front end of the process. Ideally,

some offenders could be placed on bail supervision and begin receiving identified services, a process that could result in an offender not needing to be imprisoned.

- **Mental Health/Intellectual Disabilities**—A fifth Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training for law enforcement personnel is scheduled for 3-22-16 at Philhaven. This will be the final MHFA training under the PCCD-awarded grant, which ends on 3-31-16. Mr. Shott is preparing a modification request to transfer funds to pay for the additional training.

Minutes of the committee meeting of 12-9-16 were distributed to attendees. Main focus is on identifying offenders with mental health issues and responding appropriately. Mr. Schrum noted that the current Children and Adolescent Service System Program (CASSP) works well for juveniles involved with multiple agencies. The program is effective because it brings representatives from these agencies together at the same time to discuss the specifics of a minor's case, thus eliminating conflicting narratives that can take place when meeting separately. With this in mind, the County should consider an "Adult CASSP" pilot program based on the same concept of bringing agencies/departments together when discussing an adult's case. According to Mr. Schrum, Northumberland County is the only fifth-class county with a mental health court. Lancaster County's system is voluntary and does include a rep from Veterans Justice Outreach. Ms. Mackey recommended that the County look at Lehigh County's Mental Illness and Substance Abuse (MISA) program as a possible model. The members advised the committee to meet in the near future to consider ways of going forward on these issues.

CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST

Unified Case Management—No report

Naloxone for First Responders Grant Application—Due to the absence of a State Budget for FY2015-2016 and no guarantee of reimbursement, Probation Services has refrained from purchasing naloxone kits for Probation and Corrections under the PCCD awarded in September. Mr. Shott sent drafts of an agreement between Probation Services and an EMS agency to Bryan Smith, Director of First Aid and Safety Patrol, and County Solicitor David Warner. Messrs. Smith and Warner have no issues with the proposed language; Mr. Shott will take it before the County Commissioners early in 2016. Probation officers will begin taking the mandatory online training as soon as possible. Chief Wright reported that members of the Lebanon City Police Department have been issued naloxone kits under a separate program, but no one in the department has had to use naloxone to date. The District Attorney's Office is able to provide additional kits if needed.

Strategic Plan and Offender Reentry—The Lebanon County Reentry Coalition has met a total of six times since June, with another meeting scheduled for Dec. 17th. Meetings are well attended, and members remain enthusiastic about the ongoing work. New members have joined the Coalition over the past month, giving reasons to feel optimistic about the Coalition's future and its dedication to the entire reentry issue. The Coalition's proposed Strategic Plan will be brought before the CJAB for approval at the February 2016 meeting; it will then be submitted to PCCD. Melanie Snyder, the consultant leading the Coalition through the planning process, has completed her work and will not be involved directly with the Coalition after 2015. However, the Coalition will continue its mission, as recommended by PCCD, raising the issue of the Coalition's structure and options for the future. At its November meeting, the Coalition voted to request that the CJAB allow the Coalition to become an independent entity instead of a permanent CJAB sub-committee. One of the Coalition members, Compass Mark, has already volunteered to become the Coalition's fiscal agent, allowing it to use Compass Mark's 501c3

status for the foreseeable future. The Coalition also intends to elect an executive committee to meet regularly to monitor the implementation of the Reentry Plan. *On a motion by President Judge Tylwalk, seconded by Ms. Barry, the CJAB voted to allow the Lebanon County Offender Reentry Coalition to become an independent entity in Lebanon County and to elect an Executive Committee.* Regular reports on the Coalition's work will be part of every CJAB agenda.

Heroin Task Force—The Task Force has met twice, with 30-35 in attendance. It has also been divided into four sub-committees (pillars): Prevention, Harm Reduction, Treatment, and Law Enforcement. The Task Force is scheduled to meet again on January 15, 2016, 8:30 a.m. at MH/ID/EI. Mr. Donmoyer also noted that 43 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 43 inmates referred, 40 have been assessed, with 26 of those sent to inpatient treatment. The lack of bed space for those in need of treatment and handling offenders who relapse remain key issues.

PCCD is hosting the *2016 Opioid Symposium: Prevention, Intervention and Recovery* on January 27, 2016, from 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel Harrisburg in Camp Hill. PCCD urges CJAB chairpersons, directors of Single County Authorities (SCAs) and three to five additional members to attend.

Members discussed the feasibility of a "Harm Reduction Project," including needle exchange programs, for Lebanon County as part of a strategy to combat opioid abuse.

Open House for Lebanon Recovery Center—Event is scheduled for Dec. 18th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The facility, located at 701 Chestnut Street, Lebanon, is a drop-in facility for those struggling with addiction. Operated by PA Counseling Services, the facility provides assistance in accessing treatment, employment application assistance, 12-Step and peer support resources, and other case management services.

OTHER UPDATES FROM CJAB DEPARTMENTS

Ms. Barry reported that the Adult Probation Leadership Team continues to focus on Evidence-Based Practices (EBP). The pending "Justice Reinvestment II Initiative" in the Commonwealth is designed to include pre-trial (front-end) services that could establish avenues for alternatives to incarceration.

Ms. Barry announced that Richard Worley, Deputy Director at Probation Services, is retiring at the end of the year.

Mr. Schrum noted that the County has received final approval to establish 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.

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Ms. Mackey reported that the PCCD Board has decided not to require that representatives from county mental health departments and housing authorities be invited to sit as core members of CJABs. Most counties, including Lebanon, already have MH representatives on their CJABs; the Commission also realized that most of the issues housing authorities deal with do not involve criminal justice.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of CJAB Officers for 2016—President Judge Tylwalk moved, and Ms. Barry seconded the motion, to nominate David Arnold as CJAB Chairman for 2016. Ms. Barry moved that the nominations be closed, and the member elected Mr. Arnold as Chairman. President Judge Tylwalk moved, and Ms. Axarlis seconded the motion, to nominate Sally Barry as CJAB Vice Chair for 2016. Mr. Wolgemuth moved to close the nominations, and the members elected Ms. Barry as Vice Chair.

Approval of 2016 CJAB Meeting Schedule—CJAB meeting will be held on the following dates: February 23, April 26, June 28, August 16, October 25, and December 13. Mr. Schrum will reserve the conference room for those dates.

With no further business to address, Chairman Arnold declared the meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Barry, seconded by Sheriff Klingler. The Chairman wished everyone a happy and safe Holiday season.

NEXT CJAB MEETING: Tuesday, February 23, 2016, 11:00 a.m., Second Floor Conference Room, MH/ID/EI, 220 East Lehman Street.