

Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Minutes of the Meeting of December 16, 2014

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 LCCJAB Chairman; Brian L. Deiderick, Chief Public Defender and CJAB Vice-Chairman; Honorable John C. Tylwalk, President Judge, Court of Common Pleas; Robert J. Phillips, County Commissioner; Jamie Wolgemuth, County Administrator; Stephanie Axarlis, Court Administrator; Robert Karnes, Warden; Bruce E. Klingler, Sheriff; James Donmoyer, Director of Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse; Daniel Wright, Police Chief, City of Lebanon; Sarah Primak, Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator; Karen Hess, Director of Domestic Relations; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner/Grant Coordinator.

Absent

Kevin Schrum, Director of MH/ID/EI; Sally Barry, Director of Probation Services; 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 10/21/2014 CJAB Meeting—Approved as written on a motion by President Judge Tylwalk, seconded by Warden Karnes.

Chairman Arnold introduced Ms. Lauren Holubec, Adult Education Coordinator for the Lebanon County Career and Technology Center (LCCTC) and member of the SouthCentral Workforce Investment Board, who had requested time on the agenda to discuss her role at the LCCTC and interest in joining CJAB. Ms. Holubec discussed training options that are available for adults, including offenders, under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, which has replaced the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. She distributed information about the various adult-education programs now offered at the LCCTC, focusing on the importance of education and job retraining for offenders in reentry.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- **D.U.I. Court**—Lebanon County’s program has been officially accredited by the Administrative Office of PA Courts (AOPC), completing a review process that began in May 2013. The Accreditation awarded by the AOPC is good for three years. The President Judge noted that the AOPC issued a favorable report with several recommendations as the D.U.I. Court program proceeds. One matter discussed by the D.U.I. Court Team is whether to have a formal ceremony recognizing the Accreditation and calling the public’s attention to the positive work and benefits the program brings to the county.
- **Veterans’ Court**—President Judge Tylwalk reported that he has spoken with Karen Blackburn, Executive Director of the AOPC, about the absence of a separate Veterans Court in Lebanon County. The President Judge reiterated his opinion that the County is doing an excellent job of identifying and serving the needs of veterans who enter the criminal justice system. This is due chiefly to the excellent working relationship between the County and the Veterans Administration, particularly Veterans Justice Outreach. Ms. Primak voiced her agreement that the working rapport has been positive. The question remains whether the number

of offenders who are veterans justifies the creation of an entirely separate court. At present, the answer is no. The President Judge urged anyone to contact him if they know of veterans whose needs are not being met. One possible area to address in the future is the establishment of a mentoring program, which is a key component of Veterans Courts in the Commonwealth and the nation. Another suggestion is to involve Compeer of Lebanon County, which trains and matches volunteers in friendship relationships with adults receiving mental health treatment.

- **Prison Overcrowding**—Warden Karnes reported the prison population at 516; the average daily population at the prison at the end of November was 542. The average length of stay per inmate per year is 41 days. Maximum capacity is 645. The Warden also distributed a December 2011 memo he had sent to PJ Tylwalk and Messrs. Arnold and Deiderick notifying them that the rated capacity of the Correctional Facility pursuant to Act 81 of 2008 is 516. If the population is less than 110 percent of the rated capacity, the Warden may certify that the jail can accept offenders sentenced to a term of two years or more, but less than five years. The Commonwealth is making available \$2.5 million statewide to reimburse counties for the cost of prisoners on work release. The funding applies only to Levels 4 and 5 offenders who receive State sentences to be served in county jails. The Warden is identifying eligible offenders to meet the 2-27-15 deadline.
- **Mental Health/Intellectual Disabilities**—A third *Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training* for law enforcement was held on December 9th at Probation Services, with 16 persons in attendance. This is the final training funded under the PCCD grant awarded to the County earlier this year. The grant budget appropriates \$6,000 for the consultant (Community Services Group) to conduct three trainings at \$2,000 per training. The remaining funds (approx. \$8,000) are set aside for overtime payments for Corrections Officers and City Police Officers who are only able to attend MHFA sessions outside of regular working hours. To date, however, none of these funds have been expended. The question is whether Mr. Shott should apply to PCCD for a grant modification, using some of the overtime funding to pay for additional trainings. The members agreed that one or more trainings should be scheduled in 2015, if funding can be made available. Chief Wright expressed his interest in having more City police officers attend future trainings. Another issue is whether a vendor other than Community Services Group should be contracted to conduct the sessions. Philhaven has staffers certified to provide MHFA instruction. Ms. Primak also informed the Board that she is qualified to conduct MHFA training.

Mr. Shott took part in a panel discussion on Dec. 2nd in Grantville regarding counties' experience with MHFA training. This was part of a forensics conference sponsored by Drexel University. The PCCD "mini-grant" of \$1,470 awarded to the County earlier this year continues to be used in support of the ongoing Suicide Prevention Campaign. Notices of where to call for help if contemplating suicide are running weekly in the Merchandiser, and Phillips Office Solutions has printed fliers and other materials with information for those seeking assistance. Mr. Shott reported that almost all funds from the grant award have been expended and that he has submitted a final report to the State on how the funds were used.

Mr. Shott, reporting for Mr. Schrum, informed the members that MH/ID/IE is working with PA Counseling to implement Multisystemic Therapy (MST), an intensive family and community-based treatment for youth displaying serious antisocial behavior. MST uses a home-based model of service and is part of a collaborative effort involving Children and Youth, Probation Services, the Capital Area Behavioral Health Collaborative (CABHC), and PerformCare.

CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Initiative—The County has received no word from PCCD regarding the status of the grant submitted by Mr. Shott in mid-September. This is an application for federal grant funding under the DMC Initiative to fund part of the salary and benefits of the Juvenile Probation Officer assigned to supervise offenders participating in the Day Treatment Program operated by Youth Advocate Programs (YAP). The grant application is for \$50,000, to be expended over a two-year period. The DMC Initiative is focused on reducing the disproportionate number of minorities coming in contact with the juvenile justice system. The Commission met on December 10th to review applications and award grants, but the County’s application remains in “Open, Under Review” status in PCCD’s E-grants system. It is uncertain whether PCCD staff recommended that the County’s application be approved.

Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG)—Federal funds are no longer available to counties under this program. At present, Lebanon County uses \$10,000 in JABG funds (plus a local match of \$1,269) for the Community Service program for young offenders who engage in service projects as part of their restitution. The current grant cycle runs through March 2015.

Unified Case Management—Chairman Arnold noted that the District Attorney’s Office and the Magisterial District Justices Offices are now linked and able to access the same data.

Strategic Plan for 2013-2014—Copies of the end-of-year report for the Strategic Plan were distributed at the meeting. Lebanon County’s Strategic Plan was adopted by the CJAB in October 2013. The issue is whether the Board needs to identify and prioritize new issues for a Strategic Plan for 2015 and beyond. PCCD is requiring that CJABs prepare and update plans as part of the process for applying for grant funding. Further discussion will take place at the February 2015 CJAB meeting. Establishment of a Day Treatment/Reentry Center for eligible offenders remains a priority.

CJAB Conference: The next CJAB Conference is scheduled for March 25-26, 2015 in State College. Theme of the conference is “Connecting Criminal Justice, Behavioral Health and Treatment.” Registration will open in January. No details regarding the itinerary are available at this time.

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Central Booking—The County Commissioners have agreed to continue funding for all shifts for Central Booking in 2015. The cost-sharing plan originally proposed by the Commissioners to sustain funding for Central Booking had not been accepted by all municipalities. Mr. Wolgemuth emphasized the need to take a look at the overall practice of booking arrestees and the possibility of relocating Central Booking to the Correctional Facility. Controlling overtime costs at the Correctional Facility is also a major issue for the new year.

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting dates for the CJAB in 2015 are as follows: February 17, April 21, June 16, August 18, October 20, and December 15. All meetings are scheduled for 11:00 a.m. in the Second Floor Conference Room, MH/ID/EI.

Election of CJAB Officers for 2015: David Arnold was nominated to serve as Chairman on a motion by President Judge Tylwalk, seconded by Warden Karnes. President Judge Tylwalk then moved, and Warden Karnes seconded the motion, to nominate Brian Deiderick to serve as Vice-Chairman. With no other names placed in nomination, the members approved the motions, and Messrs. Arnold and Deiderick were duly elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively, for 2015.

Commissioner Phillips reported that the sale of Cedar Haven is close to being settled. Also, the Wellspan merger with the Good Samaritan Hospital should go well, upgrading health care in Lebanon County.

Vice-Chairman Deiderick noted that the Public Defender's Office now has a full staff complement following the departure of some staff members for other opportunities. He also reminded the members that Lebanon County is the largest of the fifth class counties in the Commonwealth, but one with the small number of staffers in the Public Defender's Office.

Chairman Arnold reported that State Senator Folmer plans to introduce legislation that would transfer drug-forfeiture money to the General Fund, action that would have serious implications for the District Attorney's Office, which uses these assets for programs/activities not covered by the County budget.

Mr. Shott noted that Kim Mackey, PCCD Regional Representative, had emailed him on 12/15 inquiring whether Lebanon County has a reentry coalition or reentry strategic plan. Ms. Mackey was not present to discuss why she had posed the questions.

Chairman Arnold wished all CJAB members a happy and safe Holiday season. With no further business to address, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m. on a motion by Warden Karnes, seconded by President Judge Tylwalk.

NEXT CJAB MEETING: Tuesday, February 17, 2015, 11:00 a.m., Second Floor Conference Room, MH/ID/EI, 220 East Lehman Street.