

Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Minutes of the Meeting of February 24, 2015

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Place: Second Floor Conference Room, MH/ID/EI, 220 East Lehman St., Lebanon

Present

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; Stephanie Axarlis, Court Administrator; James Donmoyer, Director of Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse; James Holtry, Director, Children and Youth Services; Kevin Schrum, Director, MH/ID/EI; Sarah Primak, Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator; Kim Mackey, PCCD Regional Representative; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner/Grant Coordinator.

Absent

David J. Arnold, District Attorney and LCCJAB Chairman; Bruce Klingler, Sheriff; Karen Hess, Director of Domestic Relations; Jamie Wolgemuth, County Administrator; Robert Karnes, Warden; Daniel Wright, Police Chief, City of Lebanon;

(Note: the CJAB meeting was held on February 24 instead of February 17, as originally scheduled and approved by the Board at the 12-16-2014 meeting. Dates for CJAB meetings in 2015 had to be revised due to changes in the Court of Common Pleas Calendar.)

Vice Chairman Brian Deiderick called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

Minutes of 12/16/2014 CJAB Meeting—Approved as written on a motion by President Judge Tylwalk, seconded by Commissioner Phillips.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- **D.U.I. Court**—The President Judge announced that the County’s program has received formal certification from the Administrative Office of PA Courts (AOPC), completing a process that began in May 2013. D.U.I. Court Coordinator Kaitlin Stiles will be issuing a press release in the near future regarding the program’s official Accreditation. Federal funding is being made available under a grant to Expand Substance Abuse and Treatment Capacity in Adult and Family Drug Courts. Lebanon County is eligible to apply for this funding since the D.U.I. Court is considered a “drug court model” under the grant’s guidelines. A meeting will be held with PJ Tylwalk, Ms. Stiles, the District Attorney, and others to discuss further. Grant submission deadline is March 27th.
- **Veterans’ Court**—President Judge Tylwalk reported that establishment of a separate Veterans’ Court is on hold permanently, despite the AOPC’s strong support for such a specialty court in Lebanon County. The County will continue to identify and serve the needs of veterans who enter the criminal justice system, with capable assistance from Veterans’ Justice Outreach. Board members agreed that the County should explore the establishment of a mentoring program, similar to one used in Lehigh County, that could assist veterans who commit offenses or are participating in D.U.I. Court or Renaissance/Crossroads program

- **Prison Overcrowding—No report.**
- **Mental Health/Intellectual Disabilities**—Philhaven has offered to conduct a Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training for law enforcement personnel on April 22nd, if enough interest exists. Community Services Group conducted three MHFA trainings in 2014 under terms of a grant awarded by PCCD; however, Mr. Shott informed the Board that he prefers to use a different consultant for any future sessions. The members authorized Mr. Shott to arrange training with Philhaven and to prepare a grant modification request to be submitted to PCCD. All funds appropriated for consultant services under the existing grant have been expended, meaning that funding for additional trainings must come from other line items in the budget, necessitating the modification request. Philhaven's rate is \$25 per person per training, though Philhaven has requested that at least 15 persons be in attendance for any session. This is much less costly than the \$2,000 per-training fee charged by Community Services Group.

Mental Health Awareness Association, Inc. is sponsoring MHFA training for military members, veterans, and their families, March 23-27th at Fr. Indiantown Gap. Those successfully completing the course will become nationally certified Adult MHFA Instructors

CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Initiative—PCCD informed Mr. Shott on February 4th that Lebanon County's application for \$50,000 over the next two years will not be funded. According to the email from PCCD, the Review Team found that "many of the applications demonstrated a need for DMC activities in their communities but could not demonstrate that the community was ready to support forums and other DMC activities." Lebanon County's application under this initiative would have funded 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). A majority of the participants in this program are members of minority groups. PCCD did note that the Commission intends to release a new funding announcement to support communities with DMC planning/implementation activities.

Unified Case Management—The President Judge reported that UCM is working well.

IP Grant for 2015-2016—Funding announcements for IP grants will be released after the Governor presents his proposed budget to the General Assembly on March 3rd. A support letter from CJAB will most likely be required as part of any grant application.

Strategic Plan for 2013-2014—Members discussed the need to revise/update the 2013-2014 Strategic Plan. Ms. Mackey recommended that any new plan focus on Reentry. She also advised the members to review the 2013-2014 plan and provide Mr. Shott with their ideas and priorities for a plan for 2015 and beyond. Establishment of a Day Treatment/Reentry Center for eligible offenders remains a priority.

County Offender Reentry Planning Grants—PCCD has announced the availability of funding to support CJABs in creating reentry plans as a component of their strategic plans. CJABs are eligible for up to \$10,000 toward this endeavor. Mr. Shott, at the advice of Ms. Mackey, has been in contact with Ms. Melanie Snyder, Executive Director of the Lancaster County Reentry Management Organization (RMO), about serving as the consultant of record under the grant application to guide the CJAB through the reentry-planning process. Ms. Snyder has worked with other counties in this regard and is enthused about the prospect of Lebanon County using her consulting services. Ms. Snyder's approach is to form

a Reentry Coalition of major stakeholders who are willing to meet on a regular basis to discuss and formulate a plan. The Board directed Mr. Shott to begin the application process. Deadline for submission is March 20, 2015. The grant cycle runs from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.

CJAB Conference: The next CJAB Conference is scheduled for March 25-26, 2015, at the Days Inn in State College. Theme of the conference is “Connecting Criminal Justice, Behavioral Health and Treatment.” Ms. Primak and Mr. Shott will be in attendance.

OTHER UPDATES FROM CJAB DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Donmoyer reported that the County recorded 18 drug-overdose deaths in 2014, up from eight the previous year. Eight of the overdose deaths in 2014 involved heroin. To date, in 2015, two drug-overdose deaths have occurred in the County, both of which involved a mix of cocaine and heroin. Mr. Donmoyer expressed his concern over budget constraints and the need to provide treatment for so many individuals. How to address the heroin epidemic should be part of any updated Strategic Plan.

Mr. Schrum reported that 20 suicides took place in the county in 2014, a decrease from 26 in 2013. Only one suicide has been recorded in 2015. Recent suicides have not involved youth. Mr. Schrum also reported that Dr. Beth Townsend is the new psychiatrist on staff at MH/ID/EI.

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Lauren Holubec, Lebanon County CTC—Members tabled discussion about a request from Ms. Holubec to become a member of CJAB.

Revised Meeting Dates for the CJAB in 2015 are as follows: February 24, April 28, June 16, August 25, October 27, and December 15. These dates do not conflict with Call of the List on the Court Calendar.

NEW BUSINESS

Amendment to CJAB Bylaws—Mr. Shott suggested that he prepare an amendment to the bylaws regarding the times and dates for CJAB meeting to reflect revisions to the meeting schedule. Members agreed and instructed Mr. Shott to prepare amendatory language,

With no further business to address, Vice Chairman Deiderick declared the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m. on a motion by Mr. Holtry, seconded by President Judge Tylwalk.

NEXT CJAB MEETING: Tuesday, April 28, 2015, 11:00 a.m., Second Floor Conference Room, MH/ID/EI, 220 East Lehman Street.