

Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board

Minutes of the Meeting of August 4, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Second Floor Conference Room, MH/ID/EI, 220 East Lehman St., Lebanon, PA, 17046

Present

Holly Leahy, MH/ID/EI Administrator and CJAB Chair; Honorable John C. Tylwalk, President Judge; Audrey Fortna, Director of Probation Services; Jamie Wolgemuth, County Administrator; James Donmoyer, Director, Drug and Alcohol Commission and CJAB Vice-Chair; Jeffrie Marley, Sheriff; Tina Litz, LCCF Warden; Briana Riegel, County Coroner's Office; LeAnne Burchik, Executive Director, Domestic Violence Intervention; Alissa Perrotto, Executive Director, SARCC; Kimberly Mackey, CJAB Regional Representative; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner.

Absent

Daniel Lyons, Director, Housing Authority; Pier Hess Graf, District Attorney; Robert J. Phillips, County Commissioner; Stephanie Axarlis, Court Administrator; Megan Tidwell, Chief Public Defender; Jonathan Hess, Chief County Detective, Police Chiefs Representative; Glenda Folsom, Offender Reentry Coordinator; Michael Anderson, Director of Domestic Relations; Erin Moyer, Director, Children and Youth Services; Carla Cyr, Veterans Justice Outreach.

Voting proxies entered for the record: Briana Riegel, Deputy Coroner, for Dr. Jeffrey Yocum, County Coroner.

CJAB Chair Holly Leahy called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Presence of a quorum noted.

Minutes of Meeting of June 23, 2025—Approved on a motion by Ms. Fortna, seconded by President Judge Tylwalk.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

D.U.I. Court—At present, 22 offenders are participating in the program, with three applications under review. Waiting for referrals from Lancaster County.

Prison Reduction—The Average Daily Population (ADP) at the end of July was 298; average length of stay was 22 days.

Mental Health—Team M.I.S.A. continues to meet on a regular basis. Since its inception, the team has built a foundation of relationships among providers and entities involved to assist identified individuals. This has extended beyond the monthly meetings, occurring also through emails and phone calls to assist people in the moment when possible. Although it is difficult to capture any data of Team MISA's success, outcomes could be measured by those who have

transitioned successfully to the community via independent-living arrangements, with other services attached. Team MISA has also strengthened the provider network within the County, providing an understanding of each provider's role in improving collaboration focused on solutions.

As of 7-28-25 the County reports nine suicides. Statistical breakdown: nine males, no females; average age 60, with the youngest being at 19 and the oldest being 89; four by firearm, three by hanging, three by carbon monoxide, and one insulin overdose; two veterans; all residents of Lebanon County; six with known mental health history, one with known substance abuse history, none known to MH/ID/EI; nine Caucasian.

The County-owned cottage is currently vacant. MH/ID/EI is reviewing referrals from LCCF and WellSpan Philhaven Extended Acute Unit to admit two new residents. Seeking referrals to fill the third vacancy.

Veterans' Court--At present, 11 offenders are active participants in the program, with four applications under consideration (including one from Dauphin and one from Berks counties.) One offender is scheduled to be accepted into the program.

Drug Court—26 offenders are currently participating, with five applicants under consideration and three to be accepted into the program.

Courts of Common Pleas in the Commonwealth are contending with legislation and case law that impacts sentencing. *Act 44 of 2024* revamps the definition of a technical probation violation and limits the penalties that can be imposed for such violations. PA Supreme Court' has ruled in the *Shifflett Case* that using a defendant's prior ARD to enhance sentences for a subsequent DUI is unconstitutional. According to the Court, an ARD is neither a conviction nor a guilty plea. The ruling is leading prosecutors not to accept DUI offenders into ARD programs.

CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST

Heroin Task Force Report—Overdose Vigil scheduled for August 28 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. on the Courthouse steps. September is Recovery Month, with an event slated for Sept. 26 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Recovery Center, 701 Chestnut St., Lebanon.

County has confirmed seven overdose deaths as of 6-29-25. Statistical breakdown: five males, two females; average age 61, with the oldest being 76 and the youngest being 36; five males, two females; six residents of Lebanon County. Opiates still a factor in the overdose reports. The County reported 21 overdose fatalities in 2024 and 31 in 2023. Lower number of deaths for the first half of this year is encouraging. Meth and alcohol use remains prevalent. The reduction in fatalities could be attributed to several factors, including Narcan distribution, drug take-back events, Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT), and the new methadone clinic on Schneider Drive (Lebanon City).

Offender Reentry—The Reentry Coalition is active, reenergized, and meeting regularly. The coalition is also considering engaging the services of a consultant to assist in planning and establishing objectives.

MH/ID/EI has initiated a contract with Mental Health America of Lancaster to provide education and advocacy for those with mental health needs. The contract took effect on July 1, 2025. Part of the contract includes a part-time Peer Advocate at LCCF. Details about this position are being worked out. More information forthcoming.

The County also has a promising candidate to serve as Work Release Coordinator at LCCF.

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS—

IP Grant Funding for FY 2025-2026—No update. The IP funding announcement for the new fiscal year will only be released after the FY 2025-2026 has been passed and signed into law by the Governor. The deadline for the new state budget was June 30. Ms. Mackey stated that any IP funding could be part of a block grant/grant-in-aid funding stream. No further details about the amount of IP funds available for counties or grant parameters.

NEW BUSINESS

Strategic Planning—The 2024-2025 CJAB Strategic Plan was adopted by the Board in April 2024. Mr. Shott will continue to keep track of goals and objectives. Suggestion is that the Board should consider priorities for a new plan for 2026-2027. Further discussion is to take place at the October 13 meeting.

PCCD Update—The Commission is about to make technical assistance (“mini grant”) funding available for counties. Under the guidelines, a county CJAB will be able to apply for up to \$2,000 for special projects, including strategic planning. Funds will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. The 2026 CJAB Conference is tentatively scheduled for April 21-22 in State College. Planning for the event is underway.

E-Grants Funding—Federal Byrne grant funding is now available as part of the State Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP). The Community Health Council is applying for Byrne funding for strategies to prevent suicides by firearms.

Lebanon County Behavioral Health Team--Meeting to take place on August 15th in Room 306 at the Courthouse.

SARCC Update—The center saw an increase of 80 victims in FY 2024-2025. This is in addition to a significant increase in hours of service.

ADJOURNMENT—With no further business to conduct, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m. on a motion by Warden Litz, seconded by Ms. Fortna.

NEXT CJAB MEETING—Monday, October 13, 2025, 9:00 a.m., MH/ID/EI.

