

Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board

Minutes of the Meeting of October 13, 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; James Donmoyer, Director of Drug and Alcohol Commission and CJAB Vice-Chair; Robert J. Phillips, County Commissioner; Jamie Wolgemuth, County Administrator; Brian Deiderick, District Attorney's Office; Tina Litz, LCCF Warden; Daniel Lyons, Director, Housing Authority; Glenda Folsom, Offender Reentry Coordinator; Briana Reigel, County Coroner's Office; LeAnne Burchik, Executive Director, Domestic Violence Intervention; Alissa Perrotto, Executive Director, SARCC; Michael Schroeder, Secretary, Lebanon County Branch 26AA of the NAACP; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner.

Absent

Audrey Fortna, Director of Probation Services; Stephanie Axarlis, Court Administrator; Megan Tidwell, Chief Public Defender; Jonathan Hess, Chief County Detective, Police Chiefs Representative; Jeffrie Marley, Jr., Sheriff; Michael Anderson, Director of Domestic Relations; Carla Cyr, Veterans Justice Outreach; Kim Mackey, CJAB Regional Representative

Voting proxies entered for the record: Briana Riegel, Deputy Coroner, for Dr. Jeffrey Yocum, County Coroner; Brian Deiderick, First Assistant District Attorney, for Pier Hess Graf, District Attorney; Sharon Gassert, Administrator, for Erin Moyer, Director, Children and Youth.

CJAB Chair Holly Leahy called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Presence of a quorum noted.

Minutes of Meeting of August 4, 2025—Approved on a motion by Mr. Wolgemuth, seconded by Ms. Folsom.

Self-introductions by the members.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

D.U.I. Court—At present, 20 offenders are participating in the program, with four individuals – possibly a fifth--scheduled to be accepted into the program on Oct. 22.

Prison Reduction—The Average Daily Population (ADP) at the end of September was 315, with an average length of stay of 22 days. LCCF has applied to PCCD for funding under the 2026 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) Program. The purpose of the program is

to assist counties seeking to increase opportunities to provide Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in county prisons and work-release centers.

Some concern about a rise in the number of inmates at LCCF over the age of 60. An aging inmate population poses greater health-care challenges and fiscal implications.

Mental Health—Since Team MISA’s inception, the team has built a foundation of relationships among providers and other entities 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 the Cottage or other 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.

Since February 2024, MH/ID/EI has dealt with 401 incarcerated individuals who have either open or have had open cases with the agency. Of these, 69 have been incarcerated more than once during the same period.

The County has reported 13 suicides so far this year. Statistical breakdown: 12 males, one female; average age 55, with the youngest being 19 and the oldest being 89; six by firearm, four by asphyxiation, two by deliberate overdose, and one by carbon monoxide; two veterans; all county residents; eight had a known mental health history, three had known substance-abuse history, one known to MH/ID/EI; all Caucasian. Discussion about why suicides seem to be so prevalent among middle-aged white males nationwide.

The County-owned cottage has only one resident currently. MH/ID/EI is seeking referrals to fill the other two vacancies.

District Attorney Hess Graf and Attorney General Dave Sunday are holding a press conference on October 15 at 11:00 a.m. at the County Department of Emergency Services to announce the county’s participation in the Law Enforcement Treatment Initiative (LETI). The goal of this initiative is to enable law-enforcement personnel to connect individuals suffering from substance use disorders with treatment options.

Veterans’ Court--At present, 11 offenders are active participants in the program, with four applications under consideration (including two from other counties). Veterans’ Court team lost the annual softball tournament to Dauphin County.

Drug Court—28 offenders are currently participating, with three applicants about to be accepted into the program.

CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST

Heroin Task Force Report—County has confirmed eight overdose deaths as of 9/30/2025. Statistical breakdown: seven county residents; six males, two females; average age of 58 (with an age range of 36 to 76), marking a noticeably higher number of older victims. The County reported 21 overdose fatalities in 2024 and 31 in 2023. Lower deaths for the first nine months of

the year are encouraging. The reduction in fatalities could be attributed to several factors, including Narcan distribution, drug take-back events, Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) at LCCF, and the new methadone clinic on Schneider Drive (Lebanon City). Drug and Alcohol Commission is on track to distribute over 1,900 Narcan kits by the end of the year.

Offender Reentry—The Reentry Coalition continues to meet regularly. Coalition’s website (www.lebanoncountyreentry.org) provides helpful information on reentry services. Members of the Coalition have also agreed on the definition of recidivism, as noted on the website:

“The Lebanon County Reentry Coalition defines recidivism as the repeated involvement of an individual with the legal system, including re-arrest and reincarceration, regardless of whether a conviction occurs.”

The Coalition is also considering engaging the services of a consultant to assist in developing a new strategic plan. Pressing issue is securing funding for the consultant’s services. Applying for a grant through PCCD or other venue is preferable to requesting funding directly from the County. Coalition has discussed forming a grant committee to explore funding opportunities. PCCD has a new Reentry Coordinator.

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS—

- ***Strategic Planning--*** The Board should consider priorities for a new Strategic Plan for 2026-2027. First step in the process of developing an updated plan is to review the CJAB Mission Statement and “Your Role as a CJAB Member.” Members are asked to review these documents and offer suggestions for revisions. Mr. Deiderick suggested that the words “and/or systemically” be added to one of the lines in “Your Role as a CJAB Member”:

“Remain aware of trends that commonly present themselves as matters of concern within your department or agency, and/or systemically.”

Members will address this and priorities for a new plan at the December 8 meeting.

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. No sign that the State Budget impasse will end anytime soon. It is Important to note that Intermediate Punishment programs, such as the treatment courts, continue to function in the absence of PCCD funding.

NEW BUSINESS

Items for December Meeting—Board will need to elect new officers for 2026 and approve a 2026 CJAB meeting schedule. Proposed dates for meetings will be structured around the 2026 Court Calendar and availability of the MH/ID/EI Conference Room.

CJAB Technial Assistance Grants—PCCD and the County Commissioners Association have announced the availability of \$24,000 in Technical Assistance and Training grants to help facilitate the work of CJABs. County CJABs are eligible to apply for up to \$2,000 for projects, including strategic planning. Funds will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Ms.

Perrotto and Ms. Burchik proposed using the funds for a community workshop addressing sexual assault and domestic violence. The objective of the workshop would be to increase understanding of how the criminal and civil justice systems interact when dealing with sexual assault and domestic violence. Funds would be used to pay presenters' fees. Any grant application requires CJAB support.

State Budget Impasse-Mr. Wolgemuth reported that the County continues to pay providers at a rate of 100 percent in the face of the State Budget impasse. Other counties are either not paying providers at all or paying them at a reduced rate. The result has been a cutback in services. So far, no providers have reduced services in Lebanon County. The fact that the County can continue paying providers is a testament to the County's sound fiscal condition.

ADJOURNMENT—With no further business to conduct, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

NEXT CJAB MEETING—Monday, December 8, 2025, 9:00 a.m., MH/ID/EI.