

## **Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board**

### **Minutes of the Meeting of February 10, 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; Jamie Wolgemuth, County Administrator; Audrey Fortna, Director of Probation Services; Jeffrie Marley, Sheriff; Jonathan Hess, Chief County Detective, Police Chiefs Representative; Matthew Rys, Drug and Alcohol Commission; Tina Litz, LCCF Warden; Karen Raugh, Director, Housing Authority, LeAnne Burchik, Executive Director, Domestic Violence Intervention; Glenda Folsom, Offender Reentry Coordinator; Briana Reigel, County Coroner's Office; Joseph Duke, Lebanon Branch #26AA, N.A.A.C.P.; Norma Gonzalez, Director of Therapy, SARCC; and, John P. Shott, CJAB Planner.

#### **Absent**

Pier Hess Graf, District Attorney; Robert J. Phillips, County Commissioner; Megan Tidwell, Chief Public Defender; Erin Moyer, Director, Children and Youth Services; Michael Anderson, Director, Domestic Relations; Carla Cyr, Veterans Justice Outreach; and Kimberly Mackey, PCCD Regional Representative.

#### **Guests**

Aleisha Clyde, Women's Advocate, and Jen Strassenburgh, Program Supervisor, ReNew (Bethany Christian Services); Krysten Tyrrell, Sexual Assault Counselor, SARCC.

***Voting proxies entered for the record: Matthew Rys, Case Manager Specialist, for James Donmoyer, Director, Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse and CJAB Vice-Chair; Briana Reigel, Deputy Coroner, for Dr. Jeffrey Yocum, County Coroner.***

CJAB Chair Holly Leahy called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. Presence of a quorum noted. Self-introductions by members.

**Minutes of December 9, 2024, CJAB Meeting**—Approved on a motion by President Judge Tylwalk, seconded by Sheriff Marley.

**Welcome to New CJAB Member**--The Chair welcomed the Board's new core member: Dr. Jeffrey Yocum, County Coroner. (Briana Reigel, Deputy Coroner, attended as Dr. Yocum's proxy.)

**Guest Presenters**—The Chair welcomed today's guest presenters: Aleisha Clyde and Jen Strassenburgh from ReNew, a program within Bethany Christian Services. ReNew is short for

**Recovering Mothers with Newborns.** The mission of ReNew is to provide support for women struggling with addiction who are facing unexpected pregnancies. A support team is available to assist in their recovery goals and keep families together. Through a baby's first year ReNew offers support not only for recovery, but guidance through housing, legal, and other matters. In 2024, the program served nine clients.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**D.U.I. Court**—At present, 29 offenders are participating in the program, with one offender about to be accepted into the program. The court team is currently reviewing two applications.

**Prison Reduction**—The current Average Daily Population (ADP) at LCCF is 259, with an average length of stay of 24.93 days.

**Mental Health**—Team M.I.S.A. is meeting today following the CJAB meeting.

Since February 2024, MH/ID/EI has dealt with 232 previously incarcerated individuals who either have open or have had an open case with the office.

The County reports 30 suicides, exceeding the 20 suicides in 2023 as well as 2022. Statistical breakdown: 26 males, four females; 18 by firearm; five veterans; 28 county residents, one out of county, one unknown; 15 with a known mental health history, 11 with known substance abuse history, four known to MH/ID/EI; 27 Caucasian, one Dominican, one Hispanic, one Bhutanese. *(Attached to the minutes is a report on the number and percentages of suicide deaths from 2002 to the present.)*

At present, two women reside in the County-owned cottage, with one referral pending. Since the cottage opened, three residents have graduated from the cottage and moved on. One also graduated from Drug Court, one is on target to graduate from D.U.I. Court, and one has recorded no further contact with the police.

As a follow-up to the Behavioral Health Summit in Hershey last October, those who attended from the county will be meeting later this month to develop plans based on the topics addressed at the summit. These will include the development of a mental health treatment court in the county. Priorities will include housing and the competency of individuals to stand trial.

**Veterans' Court**--At present, 12 offenders are active participants in the program, with four under consideration. One offender is slated to be accepted into the program this week.

**Drug Court**—29 offenders are currently participating in the program; four applications are under review.

## **CJAB DEPARTMENTS: REPORTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST**

**Heroin Task Force Report**—The County confirmed 21 overdose deaths. This is significantly lower than the 31 deaths reported in 2023. Paige Harrison, Supervisor for PA Counseling's Case Management Unit, is the new Chair of Stronger Together.

**Offender Reentry**—The Reentry Coalition is active and has met three times since Ms. Folsom became the coordinator. Coalition’s website is up and running. Three committees have been formed to focus on various aspects of reentry and the obstacles offenders face upon release. Coalition is having another meeting in March. A Reentry Simulation event is planned for May, with the specific date and location to be announced. This event requires participation of 40 to 50 stakeholders, most of whom should be local and county officials. It is an exercise that lasts approximately 90 minutes. The facility hosting the event should be large enough to accommodate the number of participants as well as the approximately 20 tables needed for reentry “stations.” The city has offered City Hall as a site, though parking in the downtown could pose a problem. Other options are being explored. To make this event a successful one, the Coalition needs enough stakeholders to commit to attending.

**ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS—**

Nothing to report

**NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Leahy distributed announcements about the following training workshops: QPR Institute Gatekeeper Certification (suicide prevention); Trauma-Informed Care, and Mental Health First Aid (MHFA). All sessions are to take place at MH/ID/EI. Training sessions are free of charge but interested parties must register to attend.

**ADJOURNMENT**—With no further business to conduct, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m. on a motion by Ms. Axarlis, seconded by Ms. Fortna.

**NEXT CJAB MEETING—Monday, April 7, 2025, 9:00 a.m., MH/ID/EI.**

## Suicide Deaths Year Over Year Percentages

YEAR	DEATHS	INCREASE/DECREASE
2002	8	
2003	7	12.5% Decrease
2004	8	14.3% Increase
2005	15	87.5% Increase
2006	10	33.3% Decrease
2007	11	10.0 % Increase
2008	19	72.7% Increase
2009	12	36.8% Decrease
2010	13	8.3% Increase
2011	14	7.7% Increase
2012	15	7.1% Increase
2013	26	73.3% Increase
2014	20	23.1% Decrease
2015	13	35.0% Decrease
2016	20	53.8% Increase
2017	18	10.0% Decrease
2018	22	22.2% Increase
2019	19	13.6% Decrease
2020	20	5.3% Increase
2021	19	5.0 % Decrease
2022	20	5.3% Increase
2023	20	Stayed the Same
2024	30	50% Increase