

**Lackawanna County Pennsylvania  
Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) Evolution  
and  
EOTC's Women in Transition Program (WIT & WITX)**

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# Lackawanna County Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB)

Established in 2001 by the authority of the Lackawanna County Commissioners

## **Vision**

To foster a system-wide commitment to excellence in the delivery of cost-effective innovative strategies and evidence-based practices aimed at preventing crime and reducing recidivism to provide for a safer community.

## **Mission**

To create a collaborative partnership and forum where key practitioners within the juvenile and criminal justice systems, elected officials, and community stakeholders systematically address juvenile and criminal justice issues, establish and promulgate policies, and explore funding opportunities to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of the juvenile and criminal justice systems in Lackawanna County

# Lackawanna County CJAB

## Core Group of Community Justice Stakeholders

Chairman, Lackawanna County Commissioners

Judiciary, Court of Common Pleas

Court Administration

District Attorney

Public Defender

Sheriff

Pennsylvania State Police

Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare

Director, Adult Probation and Parole

Juvenile Probation

Warden, Lackawanna County Prison

Director Lackawanna County Work Release

Director, Lackawanna County Juvenile Detention Center

Director, Lackawanna County Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse (SCA)

Director, Lackawanna County Emergency Services

Director, Lackawanna County Mental Health/Mental Retardation

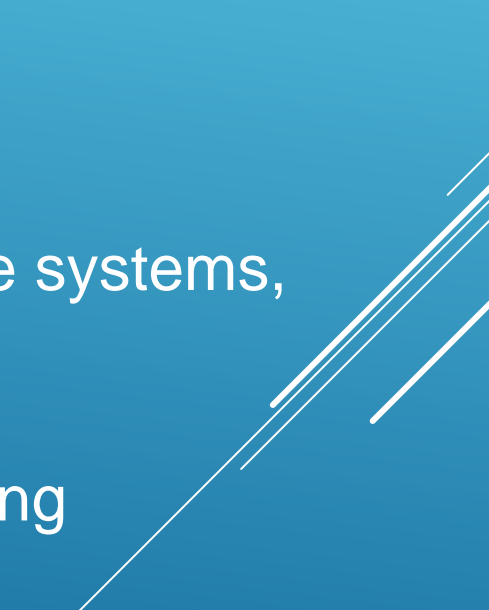
Director, Lackawanna County Children's Advocacy Center

Representative, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare

Representative, Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services

Representative, United Way of Lackawanna County

# CJAB Goals

- Improve effectiveness, efficiency, accountability, and public and professional perception of the juvenile and criminal justice systems in Lackawanna County
  - Reduce recidivism in the county while making the community safer
  - Improve offender outcomes
  - Reduce costs associated with the juvenile and criminal justice systems, while improving the same
  - Increase communication, coordination and collaboration among agencies
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# CJAB Strategies

To achieve its goal, mission and vision, the CJAB will utilize the following strategies:

- Provide a venue for collaboration, communication and coordination among the key decision makers involved in the juvenile and criminal justice systems
- Review programs and policies
- Identify gaps, problems and areas for improvement in the juvenile and criminal justice systems
- Address issues proactively and innovatively
- Explore funding opportunities and ways to reduce costs while improving services
- Initiate innovative methods, programs and solutions to enhance the delivery, effectiveness, and efficiency of services

# Women Offenders Task Force

## *Subcommittee of CJAB*

Established 2009, in response to the growing needs of female offenders and the challenges experienced with reentry

### **Goals for Women Offenders:**

- Supportive attention from both correctional and human service communities directed at restoration of dignity, confidence, and successful reintegration
- Providers work together to achieve continuum of care for needed services: substance abuse, mental health, medical care, housing, child care, education & training, parenting skills, daily living, employment
- Women on work release will be housed in dedicated quarters that reflect their special needs as they move toward reentry
- Community sponsors for mentoring

# Demographics Female Offenders

## Age

(17-23) 13%  
(24-44) 71%  
(45-54) 12%  
(55+) 4%

## Education

4-8<sup>th</sup> 5%                      9-11<sup>th</sup> 32%  
12<sup>th</sup> 33%                      GED 14%  
Associated Degree or higher 4%  
Other Post Secondary 12%

## Race

White 75%                      Hispanic 4%  
African American 17%      Other 4%

## Criminal History

68% Previously Arrested/Previously Charged  
18% Arrested Under Age of 16

## Marital Status

Never Married 62%          Married 13%  
Separated/Divorced 23%    Other 2%

## Financial

68% Received some form of Assistance  
70% Unable to Budget Money

## Family Type

Single Parent 58%              Single 17%  
Two Parent Family 19%      Other 6%

## Employment

Unemployed 93%  
Employed F/T or P/T 4%  
Never Employed 3%

## Emotional/Personal

54% History of Mental Health Treatment  
33% Reported MH Issues, Not Receiving Services

## Alcohol/Drug Issues

11% Alcohol Problem Only; 31% Drug Problem Only  
55% Drug & Alcohol Problem; 3% No Issues

**Women In Transition (WIT) 2012 – 2014**  
**Women In Transition- Expansion (WITX) 2013 – 2015**  
**Program Funding Provided by PCCD**

**Goals**

- Ensure that reentry services/supervision appropriately address female offenders' risks, needs and characteristics
- Increase reintegration skills and supports for returning female offenders at risk for recidivism
- Increase participants' skills for healthy lifestyle and self-sufficiency
- Increase the county's capacity to effectively serve local female offenders at risk for recidivism



# WIT & WITX Pre-Release Component

## Services Provided

- Participation in assessment, develop individual goal/reintegration plans, begin case management
- Referral/enrollment in appropriate classes- Life Skills, Transitions, Drug & Alcohol Education, Workplace Literacy, Math Applications, Parenting, Anger Management
- Begin post-release arrangements, collaborative transition/home planning (30 – 45 days prior to release)
- Where applicable, remain in contact with the offender's family and any criminal justice entities involved with home planning

## Pre-Release Outcomes WIT & WITX

**Assessment-** Completed 614; Average Assessment Score 40.76

**Educational Classes-** Enrolled 434 in programming

### **Transitions/Employment Education**

100% progress with 1 goal area; 70% progress with 2 or more goal areas

### **Anger Management/Conflict Resolution**

98% progress with 1 goal area; 72% progress with 2 or more goal areas

### **Parenting Education**

100% progress with 1 goal area; 78% progress with 2 or more goal areas

### **Drug & Alcohol Education**

96% progress with 1 goal area; 58% progress with 2 or more goal areas

# WIT & WITX Post-Release Components

## Services Provided

- Individual case management
- Weekly support/report groups- focus on community supports, parenting, addiction/maintaining recovery, planning for success, setting goals for the future, money management, conflict resolution, relationships, employment
- Employment assistance- resume writing, cover letters, mock interviews
- Computer lab/Computer Assistance
- GED preparation classes
- Supportive allowances
- Referral to community service agencies

# Post-Release Outcomes WIT & WITX

**Case Management-** Enrolled 137

54% made progress in more than 1 goal area

**Weekly Support/Report Group-** Enrolled 77

40% completed 8 or more weekly groups

**GED-** Enrolled 28

4 Passed GED exam

78% demonstrated progress in at least 2 goal areas

**Tutoring-** Enrolled 21

42% increased educational level by 2 or more grades

# Post-Release Outcomes WIT/WITX

## Employment/Self-Sufficiency

115 attained self-sufficiency      Total Enrolled in External Program: 137

- 74 have maintained/obtained permanent full-time employment
- 9 working either multiple part-time jobs (to make for full-time work) or are working for temp agencies
- 32 working part time or have obtained economic self-sufficiency through government support

## Outcomes:

- Overall 72% have made very satisfactory progress with this goal area
- 55% maintained employment beyond 3 months

Overall: 83.9% productive community members