

**Psychiatric Security Review Board**  
**Chairman Robert B. Berger, Esq.**  
**Established - 1985 Statutory Authority - Section 17a-581**  
**Central Office - 505 Hudson Street, Second Floor**  
**Hartford, CT 06106**  
**Number of Employees - Four**  
**Recurring Operating Expenses - \$202,540**  
**Structure - One Administrative Unit**

#### Agency Mission

To protect the safety of Connecticut citizens and certain individuals by ordering appropriate treatment, confinement or conditional release of persons accused of crimes but found not guilty by reason of mental disease or mental defect.

#### Statutory Responsibility

The Board, through an administrative hearing process, orders that level of supervision and treatment for an acquittee deemed necessary to protect society. The Board, based on its legal findings on the danger that an acquittee poses, due to his/her mental condition, orders confinement in a maximum security facility, confinement at a hospital for the mentally ill, approves temporary leave for a confined acquittee, placement in the custody of the Commissioner of Mental Retardation or grants conditional release. In addition the Board makes recommendations on the issue of discharge or continued confinement to the Superior Court.

#### Public Service

The general public is the beneficiary of the agency's work. Effectiveness of the agency's work is measured by the recidivism rate of this criminal population. During this fiscal year, there were two escapes from the state hospitals with no other criminal behavior committed by these escapees. One conditionally released acquittee was arrested on a public nuisance charge which was dismissed.

During 1995-96, 186 persons were under the Board's jurisdiction. Four persons were initial commitments to the Board by the court. Eleven persons have been removed from the Board's jurisdiction, one due to death, two were discharged by the Superior Court and eight acquittees' commitment terms expired.

In 1995-96, the Board held 136 hearings and 130 case conferences resulting in 229 orders being issued. There was an 18 percent denial by the Board of applications for a change in placement or status of an acquittee. As of June 30, 1996, 175 persons were under the

Board's jurisdiction. The status of these persons as of June 30, 1996 is as follows: 39 percent confined in maximum security, 42 percent confined at state hospitals for the mentally ill, 18 percent on conditional release, 1 percent in custody of the Commissioner of Mental Retardation.

### **Improvements/Achievements 1995-96**

Instituted training program for community mental health providers with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Standardized reporting procedures and review process of acquittees in the community, improving the quality of monitoring.

Upgraded automated data system.

Provision of consultative services to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

### **Reducing Waste**

The Board is continually increasing efficiency through the use of computer technology.

### **Strategic Planning**

The Board's strategic planning process includes a collaborative process with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to improve its forensic services to this acquittee population. The goals and objectives for 1996-97 include:

Enhance risk management decisions made by clinicians by provision of specialized training.

Improve the quality and availability of evidence for Board hearings.

### **Information Reported as Required by State Statute**

The Board members for 1995-96 were Robert Berger, Esq., Julia Ramos Grenier, Ph.D., Janet Williams, M.D., John Ryan and Sylvia Cancela.

The Board is assisted by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services in meeting the Affirmative Action requirements of the statute and follows such regulations of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.