

## Psychiatric Security Review Board

### *At a Glance*

**ROBERT B. BERGER, ESQ., Chairman**

***Established – 1985***

***Statutory Authority – Conn. Gen. Stat.***

***Sec. 17a-580 – 17a-603 inclusive***

***Central Office – 505 Hudson Street, First Floor,  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106***

***Number of Employees – 4***

***Recurring Operating Expenses \$349,165***

***Organizational Structure – One Administrative Unit***

### **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 Psychiatric Security Review Board (the “Board”), determines the level of confinement and treatment, for those individuals found not guilty of a crime by reason of mental disease or defect, necessary to protect society. Acquittees are committed to the Board by the Superior Court. The Board, in turn, orders the appropriate level of supervision and treatment conditions under which an acquittee may be released into the community. The Board orders confinement in a maximum-security facility, approves temporary leave from a hospital setting, grants conditional release into the community and provides recommendations to the Superior Court in the matters of discharge from the Board and continued commitment.

### **Public Service**

The general public is the beneficiary of the agency's work. During fiscal year 2009-2010, 156 persons were under the Board's jurisdiction. Six persons were committed to the Board this fiscal year by the Superior Court. Fifteen individuals had their commitment terms extended by the Superior Court. Seven individuals had their commitment terms expire, two individuals were discharged prior to the end of their commitment by the Superior Court and two individuals expired.

As of June 30, 2010, 145 individuals remained under the Board's jurisdiction: 35 individuals were confined in maximum-security at Connecticut Valley Hospital, one acquittee was confined in a high security setting with the Department of Developmental Services, 81 individuals were confined in a secure non-maximum security setting at Connecticut Valley Hospital, 26 individuals had conditional release status, one acquittee was in federal custody serving a concurrent sentence with his commitment and one acquittee has been AWOL since June 1991.

The Board held 222 hearings and 30 conferences resulting in 181 Memoranda of Decision and 22 Reports to Court regarding the matters of Continued Commitment and Discharge from the jurisdiction of the Board.

During this fiscal year, there were no arrests for individuals while on conditional release status.

### **Improvements/Achievements 2010-2011**

- Maintained zero percent criminal recidivism of conditionally released acquittees, as reflected by no arrests.
- Modified the Board's Statutes to clarify the confidentiality of acquittee records in the Board's possession via HB 5249.
- Conducted agency procedures as required by law within statutorily mandated timeframes.
- Apprised the public of all Board hearings and conferences via timely posting of information to agency website.
- Expanded green technology initiative in reducing paper waste by increasing the use of electronic records in a variety of circumstances.
- Continued modification of agency acquittee database by improving the data quality and automating additional reports.
- Reappointed the psychiatrist Board member for a second term.
- Updated statistical information related to acquittee confinement and movement into the community.
- Continued to advocate for Board's inclusion in SAVIN (Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification) software program via collaboration with Judicial Department's Office of Victim Services.
- Maintained administrative meetings with the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services and the Superintendent of Connecticut Valley Hospital and related administrators to improve collaboration relative to system issues.
- Participated in regularly scheduled treatment team meetings with community providers and the Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services regarding all conditionally released acquittees.
- Conducted bimonthly Psychiatric Security Review Board (PSRB) trainings in partnership with the Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services and provided on-site statewide PSRB training to a variety of community providers.
- Participated in statewide emergency operations exercise utilizing the Board's Continuity of Operations Plan.
- Continued improvements to the Board's medical and legal records.

### **Strategic Planning/Business Planning**

The Board's strategic plan includes:

- Collaborate with the Office of Attorney General and the Board's Legislative Liaison to successfully implement modifications and additions to the Board's regulations and statutes, as needed.
- Continue partnership with the Department of Information Technology, providing quality improvements to agency acquittee database.
- Ensure the continued cross-training of agency employees to effectively manage continuity of operations.
- Continue the Board's collaborative planning process with the Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services to address ongoing service systems issues and best practice protocols.
- Maintain outreach to community agencies and the public regarding the Board's mission of public safety.
- Update Agency Continuity of Operations Business Plan.

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

*The Board members for 2009-2010 were Robert Berger, Esq. (Chairman), John Ryan (expert in parole/probation), Howard Oakes, Psy.D. (psychologist), Justin Schechter, M.D. (psychiatrist), Sylvia Cancela (member of the general public) and Susan Blair, M.S., L.P.C. (victim advocate).*

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.