



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## PSYCHIATRIC SECURITY REVIEW BOARD

### PSYCHIATRIC SECURITY REVIEW BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 1985-86

The Psychiatric Security Review Board (PSRB) was established July, 1985 as authorized by P.A. 85-506. It is a five member board appointed by the Governor and confirmed by either house of the General Assembly. The members are Robert B. Berger, Esq., Chair, Jay Katz, M.D., Harry J. Kunze, Julia Ramos-McKay, Ph.D. and John T. Ryan.

The Board has jurisdiction over all persons acquitted of a crime by reason of insanity and committed by the Superior Court to the Board since its establishment on July 1, 1985, as well as for all persons acquitted prior to that date and still under the supervision of the Superior Court. The Psychiatric Security Review Board is charged with the responsibility of ordering an acquittee's placement based on evidence presented at hearings. The Board commits a person found "not guilty by reason of insanity" to a hospital for the mentally ill, specifying if maximum security is needed. It is also responsible for approval or disapproval of hospital requests to allow such a person to temporarily leave the hospital, i.e., day or weekend passes and may grant a conditional release with specific terms and revoke such a release. The Board also reports to the Court on recommendations for discharge or continued commitment beyond the original term. The Board holds hearings to gather evidence for its decisions. All hearings and subsequent actions are pursuant to the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act. The primary concern in all Psychiatric Security Review Board's actions is "the protection of society."

As of July 1, 1985, 116 persons were grandfathered into the Board's jurisdiction, 21 persons were newly committed to the Board by the court in 1985-86. Two persons have been removed from the Board's jurisdiction. The reasons were expiration of commitment term and natural death.

The status of the 135 persons under the Board's jurisdiction as of June 30, 1986 is 25 confined at Whiting Forensic Institute (maximum security), 90 confined at a state hospital for the mentally ill, 7 confined with Board authorized temporary leave privileges, and 13 on conditional release status.

The Psychiatric Security Review Board in 1985-86 has issued 36 orders of confinement, 4 orders of confinement in a maximum security facility, 8 orders for temporary leave, 6 orders for conditional release, and 1 order for termination of conditional release.

The Board, after being appointed by the Governor in October, 1985 began operations. The Board meets at least twice a month, as required by law, for the purpose of holding hearings and other administrative functions. In 1985-86, the Board held 15 meetings, and issued 52 orders. Organizationally, the Board's Executive Director was hired in December, 1985 and the agency was fully staffed by mid-January, 1986. The Board is within the Department of Mental Health for administrative purposes only.

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