

PSYCHIATRIC SECURITY REVIEW BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT

1989-90

The Psychiatric Security Review Board (PSRB), a five member board, has jurisdiction over all persons acquitted of a crime by reason of mental disease or mental defect and committed by the Superior Court to the Board, or grandfathered into its jurisdiction by statute. In 1989-90, the members of the Board were Robert Berger, Esq., Chair, Julia Ramos Grenier, Ph.D., John T. Ryan, Ezra Griffith, M.D. and Harry Kunze. The Board is within the Department of Mental Health for administrative purposes only.

The Board, through an administrative hearing process, orders the 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, approval of 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.

During 1989-90, 162 persons were under the Board's jurisdiction, 15 persons were initial commitments to the Board by the court. Six persons have been removed from the Board's jurisdiction - one due to death - five due to expiration of commitment.

In 1989-90, the Board held 135 hearings and issued 255 orders. As of June 30, 1990, 156 persons were under the Board's jurisdiction. The status of these persons as of June 30, 1990 is as follows: 26 percent confined in maximum security, 51 percent confined at state hospitals for the mentally ill, 22 percent on conditional release, one percent in custody of the Commissioner of Mental Retardation.

The Board, in cooperation with the Department of Mental Health, has provided training for Department of Mental Health staff and community agencies. The Board is assisted by the Department of Mental Health in meeting the Affirmative Action requirements of the Institute and follows such regulations of the Department of Mental Health.

