

Psychiatric Security Review Board

ROBERT B. BERBER, ESQ., Chairman

***Established* - 1985 Statutory authority - Sec. 17a-581**

***Central Office* - 90 Washington St., Hartford, Conn. 06106**

***Average number of full-time employees* - 3**

***Recurring operating expenses* - 1990-91 - \$146,632**

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 1990-91, 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 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.

During 1990-91, 169 persons were under the Board's jurisdiction. Seventeen persons were initial commitments to the Board by the court. Twelve persons have been removed from the Board's jurisdiction - two due

to death - seven due to expiration of commitment, three by discharge by the court. Two acquittees' commitment terms were extended by the court, after a finding that the acquittee was still dangerous at the end of the original term.

In 1990-91, the Board held 132 hearings and 103 case conferences resulting in 235 orders being issued. Of contested applications, the Board granted 96, totally denied 11 and denied part of the application in 52 instances. As of June 30, 1991, 157 persons were under the Board's jurisdiction. The status of these persons as of June 30, 1991 is as follows: 25 percent confined in maximum security, 52 percent confined at state hospitals for the mentally ill, (27 percent at Norwich Hospital, 21 percent at Connecticut Valley Hospital and 4 percent at Fairfield Hills Hospital), 22 percent on conditional release, 1 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. Research in conjunction with Yale Medical School and the Department of Mental Health has been undertaken in the areas of conditional release effectiveness and predicting AWOLs. The Board is assisted by the Department of Mental Health in meeting the Affirmative Action requirements of the statute and follows such regulations of the Department of Mental Health.

