

Psychiatric Security Review Board
Chairman Robert B. Berger, Esq.
Established - 1985 Statutory Authority - Conn. Gen. Statutes Sec. 17a-581
Central Office - 505 Hudson Street, Second Floor
Hartford, CT 06106
Number of Employees - Three
Recurring Operating Expenses - \$154,644
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 apprehension within six hours and no other criminal acts by this population.

During **1994-95**, 186 persons were under the Board's jurisdiction. Fourteen persons were initial commitments **to** the Board by the court. Three persons have been removed from the Board's jurisdiction, one due **to** death and two were discharged by the Superior Court. Four acquittees' commitment terms were extended by the court, after a finding that the acquittee was still mentally ill and dangerous at the end of the original term.

In 1994-95, the Board held 150 hearings and 123 case conferences resulting in 273 orders being issued. There was a 23 percent denial by the Board of applications for a change in placement **or** status **of** an acquittee. As of June 30, 1995, 185 persons were under the

Board's jurisdiction. The status of these persons as of June 30, 1995 is as follows: 33 percent confined in maximum security, 41 percent confined at state hospitals for the mentally ill, (18 percent at Norwich Hospital, **19** percent at Connecticut Valley Hospital and 4 percent at Fairfield Hills Hospital), 25 percent on conditional release, 1 percent in custody of the Commissioner of Mental Retardation.

Improvements/Achievements 1994-95

Developed management system with the Department of Mental Health to increase compliance and enforcement of Psychiatric Security Review Board orders.

Modified method for scheduling of hearing resulting in savings of \$3000.

Upgraded automated hearing notice system resulting in a savings of \$1500.

Reducing Waste

The Board is reducing waste through automation and streamlining of hearing scheduling. Savings is \$3000 - \$5000. **In** addition, the Board in conjunction with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, is working towards reducing duplicate services to this acquittee population and improving necessary services.

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 **1995-96** are:

Automated clerical functions. Potential savings \$5000.

Improve availability and quality **of** data on acquittees for decision making purposes.

Automation of acquittee tracking system.

Development of joint management information system with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for forensic services. Potential savings \$10,000.

Information Reported as Required by State Statute

The Board members for 1994-95 were Robert Berger, Esq., Julia Ramos Greiner, Ph.D., Janet Williams, M.D., John Ryan and Harry Kunze.

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.