

Psychiatric Security Review Board
Chairman Robert B. Berger, Esq.
Established -1985 Statutory Authority - Section 17a-581
Central Office - 505 Hudson Street, First Floor
Hartford, CT 06106
Number of Employees - Four
Recurring Operating Expenses - \$224,699
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 was one escape from the state hospital with no other criminal behavior committed by this escapee. No other acquittees were arrested during this time period.

During 1996-97, 182 persons were under the Board's jurisdiction. Nine persons were initial commitments to the Board by the court Four acquittees commitment terms were extended by the Superior Court Three persons have been removed from the Board's jurisdiction, two due to death and one acquittees' commitment term expired.

In 1996-97, the Board held 140 hearings and 90 case conferences resulting in 255 orders being issued, 11 percent over the previous fiscal year. There was a 27 percent denial by the Board of applications for a change in placement or status of an acquittee. As of June 30, 1997, 179 persons were under the Board's jurisdiction. The status of these persons as of June 30, 1997 is as follows: 43 percent confined in maximum security, 38 percent confined at state hospitals for the mentally ill, 18 percent on conditional_ release, 1 percent in custody of the Commissioner of Mental Retardation.

Improvements/Achievements 1996-97

Reduction in the recidivism rate.

Improved methods for the securement and presentation of evidence at Board hearings.

Institution of standardized procedures for development of application for release of acquittees into the community in order to minimize risk.

Provision of increased monitoring of acquittees and consultative services to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Reducing Waste

The Board is continually increasing efficiency through the use of computer technology.

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 1996-97 include:

Improvement of the quality of testimony by witnesses before the Board.

Identification of service needs which will improve risk management of the population.

Development of standards of practice for supervision and treatment of conditional release acquittees.

Information Reported as Required by State Statute

The Board members for 1996-97 were Robert Berger, Esq., Janet Williams, M.D., Julia Ramos Greasier, Ph.D., John Ryan and Sylvia Cancela.

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.