

Psychiatric Security Review Board

At a Glance

ROBERT B. BERGER, ESQ., *Chairman*

Established - 1985

Statutory Authority - Conn. Gen. Stat.

Sec. 17a-581

***Central Office - 505 Hudson Street, First Floor,
Hartford, Connecticut 06106***

Number of Employees - 4

Recurring Operating Expenses - \$240,879

Organizational Structure - One Administrative Unit

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 three motor vehicle violations by a conditionally released acquittee and one felony arrest of an acquittee confined at Whiting Forensic Division of Connecticut Valley Hospital. No acquittee(s) escaped from custody this fiscal year.

During 1997-98, 181 persons were under the Board's jurisdiction. This fiscal year, three persons were committed to the Board by the Superior Court. Nine acquittees' commitment terms were extended by the Superior Court. Five persons have been removed from the Board's jurisdiction, one due to death, three acquittees' commitment terms expired, and one acquittee was discharged by the Superior Court.

In 1997-98, the Board held 130 hearings and 88 case conferences resulting in 203 orders being issued. There was a 21 percent denial by the Board of applications for a change in placement or status of an acquittee. As of June 30, 1998, 176 persons were under the Board's jurisdiction. The status of these persons as of June 30, 1998 is as follows: 40 percent confined in maximum security, 40 percent confined at Connecticut Valley Hospital, 19 percent on conditional release, and one percent in custody of the Commissioner of Mental Retardation.

Improvements/Achievements 1997-98

- Reduction in the number of escape(s) from custody.
- Development of standardized training curriculum for all persons and agencies providing services to acquittees in the community.
- Institution of new application forms for temporary leave and conditional release in order to expand data available for decision-making process.
- Institution of standardized conditions for conditional release in order to minimize risk to the community.
- Implementation of Megan's Law for this offender population.
- Institution of standardized conditions for temporary leave in order to minimize risk to the community.

Reducing Waste

The Board is continually increasing efficiency through the use of computer technology, resulting in increased effective and efficient use of time.

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 include:

- Development of standards of practice for supervision and treatment of acquttees on conditional release.
- Reorganization of medical and legal records to increase efficiency and effectiveness.
- Centralization of protocols for risk management of this population.

Information Reported as Required by State Statute

The Board members for 1997-98 were Robert Berger, Esq., Janet Williams, M.D., Julia Ramos Grenier, Ph.D., John Ryan, Sylvia Cancela and Susan Blair.

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.