

Psychiatric Security Review Board

ROBERT B. BERGER, ESQ., *Chairman*

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

Central Office - 505 Hudson Street, 2nd Floor

Hartford, Conn. 06106

Average number of full-time employees - 3

Recurring operating expenses - 1993-94 - \$146,935

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 1993-94, the members of the Board were Robert Berger, Esq., chair, Julia Ramos Grenier, Ph.D., John T. Ryan, Harry Kunze, Ezra Griffith, M.D. (until March 1994) and Janet Williams, M.D. (since March 1994). 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 1993-94, 192 persons were under the Board's jurisdiction. Nine persons were initial commitments to the Board by the court. Eleven persons have been removed from the Board's jurisdiction, one by death, six due to expiration of commitment and four 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 1993-94, the Board held 201 hearings and 32 case conferences resulting in 233 orders being issued. There was a 25 percent denial by the Board of applications for a change in placement or status of an acquittee. As of June 30, 1994, 174 persons were under the Board's jurisdiction. The status of these persons as of June 30, 1994 is as follows: 33 percent confined in maximum security, 41 percent confined at state hospitals for the mentally ill, (20 percent at Norwich Hospital, 17 percent at Connecticut Valley Hospital and 5 percent at Fairfield Hills Hospital), 25 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. 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.