

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 - \$353,230

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 Psychiatric Security Review Board (the “Board”), through an administrative hearing process, determines the level of supervision and treatment for an acquittee deemed necessary to protect society. The Board takes jurisdiction over the acquittee and determines the level of confinement and circumstances under which an acquittee can be released into the community. The Board can order confinement in a maximum-security facility, approve temporary leave from a hospital setting, grant conditional release into the community and provide recommendations to the Superior Court in the matters of discharge from the Board and continued commitment.

Public Service

The general public is the beneficiary of the agency's work. During fiscal year 2006-2007, 169 persons were under the Board's jurisdiction. Three persons were committed to the Board this fiscal year by the Superior Court. Twelve individuals had their commitment terms extended by the Superior Court. Five individuals had their commitment terms expire; three individuals were discharged by the Superior Court and one individual died.

The placement of individuals under the jurisdiction of the Board as of June 30, 2007 is as follows: 45 individuals (28-percent) were confined in maximum-security at Connecticut Valley Hospital, 94 individuals (59-percent) were confined to a secure non-maximum security setting at Connecticut Valley Hospital, 21 individuals (13-percent) were on conditional release. One conditionally released individual is in the custody of the Commissioner of Mental Retardation.

The Board held 214 hearings and 35 case conferences resulting in 179 Memoranda of Decision being issued.

During this fiscal year, there were no arrests for individuals residing in the community. One individual absconded from the custody of Connecticut Valley Hospital staff and another individual absconded from the grounds of Connecticut Valley Hospital.

Improvements/Achievements 2006-2007

- Collaborated with the Governor's Office in the successful recruitment and appointment of psychiatrist and psychologist Board members.
- Maintained zero percent recidivism of conditional release population, as reflected by no arrests.
- Developed Continuity of Operations Business Plan (COOP) and successfully participated in the state's COOP Functional Simulation Exercise.
- Improved telecommunication resources in response to COOP Strategic Planning.
- Collaborated with the Judicial Department to implement Board "no contact" orders on the statewide registry.
- Trained agency staff to function in the role of administrator for agency website.
- Conducted training for Office of Chief's State's Attorney and state prosecutors.
- In collaboration with the Office of Attorney General, continued to review the Board's Statutes and Regulations to maintain the integrity of the Board's mission.
- Compiled statistics and information related to acquittee confinement and movement into the community.
- Maintained administrative meetings with superintendent of Connecticut Valley Hospital and related administrators to improve collaboration relative to system issues.
- Maintained regularly scheduled treatment team meetings with community providers and DMHAS regarding all conditionally released acquittees.
- Conducted bimonthly PSRB trainings in partnership with DMHAS and provided on-site statewide PSRB training to a variety of community providers.
- Maintained spending at allocated level.
- Continued improvements to the Board's medical and legal records.
- Maintained collaboration with DMHAS and DMR regarding a variety of system and communication issues.

Strategic Planning/Business Planning

The Board's strategic plan includes:

- Collaborate with academic institutions regarding potential research publications.
- Obtain access to the Criminal Justice Information Database to better serve the Board's mission of public safety.
- Collaborate with the Office of Attorney General and the Board's Legislative Liaison regarding modification of the Board's regulatory language.
- Collaborate with DMHAS to develop a testimony workshop for community providers.
- Ensure Board members have access to national forensic forums providing academic and educational opportunities.
- Maintain dialog with Department of Information Technology (DOIT) to ascertain DOIT's ability to respond to the Board's immediate and long term data management needs.
- Continue the Board's collaborative planning process with DMHAS to address service systems issues and best practice protocols.

Information Reported as Required by State Statute

The Board members for 2006-2007 were Robert Berger, Esq. (Chairman), John Ryan (expert in parole/probation), Howard Oakes, Psy.D. (psychologist), Justin Schechter, M.D. (psychiatrist), Sylvia Cancela (member of the general public) and Susan Blair (victim advocate).

The Board is assisted by DMHAS in meeting the Affirmative Action requirements of the statute and follows such regulations of DMHAS.