

## 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 - \$369,358***

***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 2007-2008, 163 persons were under the Board's jurisdiction. Three persons were committed to the Board this fiscal year by the Superior Court. Fourteen individuals had their commitment terms extended by the Superior Court. Four individuals had their commitment terms expire and seven individuals were discharged prior to the end of their commitment by the Superior Court.

As of June 30, 2008, 152 individuals were committed to the jurisdiction of the Board as follows: 36 individuals were confined in maximum-security at Connecticut Valley Hospital, 1 acquittee was confined in a high security setting at the Department of Developmental Services, 92 individuals were confined in a secure non-maximum security setting at Connecticut Valley Hospital, 22 individuals were on conditional release, 1 acquittee was housed in the Connecticut Department of Correction, and 1 acquittee has been AWOL since June 1991.

Of the 152 acquittees committed to the jurisdiction of the Board, 98 percent were ordered confined to the Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services and 2 percent were ordered confined to the Department of Developmental Services.

The Board held 225 hearings and 39 case conferences resulting in 188 Memoranda of Decision being issued.

During this fiscal year, there were no arrests for individuals while on conditional release status. One individual absconded from the grounds of Connecticut Valley Hospital and is currently placed in the Department of Correction.

### **Improvements/Achievements 2007-2008**

- Maintained zero percent recidivism of conditionally released acquittees, as reflected by no arrests.
- Collaborated with the Department of Information Technology to ensure agency compliance with Safe Boot technology designed to protect data security on agency computers.
- Participated in the Department of Information Technology's Small Agency Initiative to deliver IT services in a cost-effective and efficient manner.
- Collaborated with the Office of Attorney General, continuing to review and modify the Board's Statutes and Regulations, as needed, in order to maintain the integrity of the Board's mission.
- Modified agency acquittee database to improve data quality, automated additional reports and implemented state-of-the-art off-site data storage plan.
- Tailored agency website to enhance user friendliness and provide additional training materials.
- Compiled statistics and information related to acquittee confinement and movement into the community.
- Maintained administrative meetings with the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services and the Superintendent of Connecticut Valley Hospital and related administrators to improve collaboration relative to system issues.
- Modified community provider reporting mechanisms to enhance supervision oversight for conditionally released acquittees.
- Maintained regularly scheduled treatment team meetings with community providers and the Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services regarding all conditionally released acquittees.
- Conducted bimonthly PSRB trainings in partnership with the Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services 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.
- Collaborated with the Department of Development Services to implement a pilot residential plan for a dually diagnosed acquittee in need of intensive and secure treatment.

### **Strategic Planning/Business Planning**

The Board's strategic plan includes:

- Continue partnership with the Department of Information Technology to make quality improvements to agency acquittee database.
- Collaborate with the Office of Attorney General and the Board's Legislative Liaison to successfully implement modifications and additions to the Board's regulations and statutes as needed.
- Continue the Board's collaborative planning process with the Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services to address ongoing service systems issues and best practice protocols.
- Maintain outreach to community agencies and the public regarding the Board's mission of public safety.

### **Information Reported as Required by State Statute**

*The Board members for 2007-2008 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 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.