



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
PSYCHIATRIC SECURITY REVIEW BOARD
PSYCHIATRIC SECURITY
REVIEW BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
1986-87

The Psychiatric Security Review Board (PSRB) was established July, 1985 as authorized by Public Act 85-506 (Sections 17-257a - 17-257w of the General Statutes). It is a **five** member board appointed by the Governor and confirmed by **either** house of **the General** Assembly. The members are Robert B. Berger, Esq., Chair, Jay Katz, M.D., Harry J. Kunze, Julia Ramos-McKay, Ph.D. and John T. Ryan. The board is within the Department of Mental Health for administrative purposes only.

The 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 since its establishment on July 1, 1985, as well as for all persons acquitted prior to that date and still under the supervision of the Superior Court. The Psychiatric Security Review Board is charged with the responsibility of ordering an acquittee's placement based on evidence presented at hearings. The Board commits an acquittee to a hospital for the mentally ill, specifying if maximum security is needed. It is also responsible for approval or disapproval of hospital **requests** to allow such a person to temporarily **leave the hospital, i.e.,** day or weekend **passes**. The Board may order the acquittee discharged from the hospital and placed on a conditional release with specific terms and revoke such a release. The Board also reports to the Court on recommendations for discharge or continued commitment beyond the original term. The Board holds hearings to gather evidence for its decisions. All **hearings** and subsequent actions are pursuant to the Uniform **Administrative** Procedures Act. The primary concern in all Psychiatric Security **Review Board's actions** is "the protection of society."

As of July 1, 1986, 135 persons were under the Board's jurisdiction, 17 persons were newly committed to the Board by the court in 1986-87. **Six persons have been removed** from the Board's jurisdiction. The **reasons for discharge were expiration of commitment term and natural death.** As of June 30, 1987, **the Psychiatric Security Review Board has an active 146 cases.**

The status of the 146 persons under the Board's jurisdiction as of June 30, 1987 is 15% confined at Whiting Forensic Institute (maximum security), 47% confined at a state hospital for the mentally ill, 25% confined at a state hospital with Board authorized temporary leave privileges, and 13% on conditional release status.

The Psychiatric Security Review Board in 1986-87 issued 159 orders concerning the placement of acquittees.

The Board meets at least twice a month, as required by law, for the purpose of holding hearings and other administrative functions. In 1986-87, the Board held 25 meetings.

The board has worked in cooperation with the Department of Mental Health in providing forensic training for Department of Mental Health staff and community agencies. The board has made over twelve presentations to governmental and community groups. The board issued and developed a statement of acquittees' rights distributed to all persons under the board's jurisdiction. The board promulgated new regulations on its hearing procedures which were adopted. The board's regulations are in compliance with the provisions of Section 46a-78 of the General Statutes. 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.

