

PSYCHIATRIC SECURITY REVIEW BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT

1988-89

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 1988-89, the members of the Board were Robert Berger, Esq., Chair, Julia Ramos Brenier, Ph.D., John T. Ryan, Ezra Griffith, M.D. and Harry Kunze. The Board is within the Department of Mental Health for administrative purposes only.

The Board through an administrative hearing process orders the 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 mental condition orders confinement in a maximum security facility, confinement at a hospital for the mentally ill, approval of temporary leave for a confined acquittee, placement in the custody of the Commissioner of Mental Retardation, grants conditional release or makes a recommendation on the issue of discharge or continued confinement to the Superior Court.

During 1988-89, 172 persons were under the Board's jurisdiction, 17 persons were initial commitments to the Board by the court. Three persons have been removed from the Board's jurisdiction, one due to death, two due to expiration of commitment. One acquittee's commitment term was continued by order of the Superior Court. The board experienced an 11.5 percent increase in the number of persons under its jurisdiction this fiscal year over last.

In 1988-89, the Board held 159 hearings and issued 223 orders. As of June 30, 1989, 169 persons were under the Board's jurisdiction. The status of these persons as of June 30, 1989 is as follows: 14 percent confined in maximum security, 64 percent confined at state hospitals for the mentally ill, 20 percent on conditional release, 0.5 percent in custody of the Commissioner of Mental Retardation. During the course of the year the conditional release of six persons was terminated. Three acquittees are currently at Department Of Corrections facilities.

The Board in cooperation with the Department Of Mental Health has provided training for Department of Mental Health staff, Office of Adult Probation 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.

