

Psychiatric Security Review Board



At a Glance

ELLEN LACHANCE, Executive Director

Established – 1985

Statutory authority – Connecticut General Statutes, Section 17-a-580 – 17a-603 inclusive

Central office – 505 Hudson Street, First Floor,

Hartford, CT 06106

Number of employees – 3

Recurring operation expenses - \$280,497

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”), determines the level of confinement and treatment, for those individuals found not guilty of a crime by reason of mental disease or defect, necessary to protect society. Acquittes are committed to the Board by the Superior Court. The Board, in turn, orders the appropriate level of supervision and treatment and orders the conditions under which an acquittee may be released into the community. The Board orders confinement in a maximum-security facility, approves temporary leave from a hospital setting, grants conditional release into the community and provides 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 2011-2012, 147 persons were under the Board's jurisdiction. A total of 6 persons were committed to the Board this fiscal year by the Superior Court and 11 individuals had their commitment terms extended by the Superior Court. The commitment term for 1 individual expired and 2 individuals were discharged prior to the end of their commitment by the Superior Court. While under the Board's jurisdiction, 1 individual died while under the Board's jurisdiction during this fiscal year.

As of June 30, 2012, 145 individuals remained under the Board's jurisdiction. Of the 145 individuals, 24 were confined in maximum-security at Connecticut Valley Hospital, 1 acquittee was confined in a high security setting with the Department of Developmental Services, 86 individuals were ordered confined in a secure non-maximum security setting at Connecticut Valley Hospital and 32 individuals held conditional release status. In addition, 1 acquittee remained in federal custody serving a concomitant sentence with his Board commitment and 1 acquittee has been AWOL since June 1991.

During this fiscal year, the Board held 133 hearings and 61 Board conferences resulting in 168 Memoranda of Decision and 14 Reports to Court regarding the matters of Continued Commitment and Discharge from the jurisdiction of the Board.

There were no arrests of individuals under the Board's jurisdiction during this fiscal year.

Improvements/Achievements 2011-12

- Maintained zero percent criminal recidivism of conditionally released acquittees, as reflected by no criminal convictions.
- Member, NICS (National Instant Criminal Background Check System) Act Record Improvement Program (NARIP), a multi-agency initiative to improve the quality, completeness and availability of NICS records.
- Introduced statutory language changes pertaining to sex offender registration requirements for acquittees on Temporary Leave status residing in the community.
- Streamlined office procedures and cross-trained staff to effectively downsize agency staff from 4 full-time employees to 3 full-time staff members.
- Apprised the public of all Board hearings and conferences via timely posting of information to agency website.
- Conducted agency procedures as required by law within statutorily mandated timeframes.
- Updated statistical 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 Connecticut Valley Hospital administrators to improve collaboration and address system issues.
- Participated in regularly scheduled community providers meetings with the Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services regarding conditionally released acquittees.
- Conducted bimonthly Psychiatric Security Review Board (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.

Strategic Planning/Business Planning

The Board's strategic plan includes:

- Collaborate with the Office of Attorney General and the Board's Legislative Liaison to implement modifications and additions to the Board's statutes and regulations, as needed.
- Continue partnership with the Department of Information Technology, providing quality improvements to agency acquittee database.
- Ensure the continued cross-training of agency employees to effectively manage continuity of operations.
- 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.
- Update Agency Continuity of Operations Business Plan.

Information Reported as Required by State Statute

The Board members as of June 30, 2011, were John Ryan (expert in parole/probation), Mark Kirschner, Ph.D. (psychologist), Justin Schechter, M.D. (psychiatrist), Sylvia Cancela (member of the general public) and Susan Blair, M.S., L.P.C. (victim advocate). Robert B. Berger, Chairman, submitted his letter of resignation on June 28, 2012.

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.