



Chris Christie, Governor

James T. Plousis, Chairman

NEW JERSEY STATE PAROLE BOARD

Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr., Vice Chairman

2013 ANNUAL REPORT





David W. Thomas
Executive Director



James T. Plousis
Chairman



Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr.
Vice Chairman

MISSION

The New Jersey State Parole Board is committed to promoting public safety and fostering rehabilitation of offenders by implementing policies that result in effective parole case management.

VISION

To improve the safety of the public and the quality of life in New Jersey by administering an innovative parole system that addresses the needs of the community, victims, and offenders through a responsible decision-making process that provides every available opportunity for successful offender reintegration.



State of New Jersey
NEW JERSEY STATE PAROLE BOARD

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TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

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GOVERNOR

KIM GUADAGNO
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JAMES T. PLOUSIS
CHAIRMAN

SAMUEL J. PLUMERI, JR.
VICE-CHAIRMAN

March 20, 2014

The Honorable Chris Christie
Governor, State of New Jersey
The State House
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Christie:

I am pleased to submit the New Jersey State Parole Board's FY 2013 Annual Report. The State Parole Board has taken its responsibility for public safety very seriously and we continue to administer an effective parole system.

On May 9, 2013, the State Parole Board was granted accreditation by the New Jersey Association of Chiefs of Police. This accreditation has improved the agency's operational effectiveness, recruitment, training, and the delivery of services to our offender population.

The Board acknowledges that, in the year ahead, we will be challenged by a difficult economy, fewer staff, and reduced budget. As we go forward, our plans include expanding or strengthening existing projects and policy initiatives as well as building new partnerships, and creating new endeavors; all of which focuses on public safety and offender reentry.

The FY 2013 Annual Report reflects the hard work demonstrated by each of the Associate Board Members, sworn parole officers and the civilian staff who perform their duties and responsibilities with the highest level of professionalism and dedication.

Respectfully submitted,

James T. Plousis
Chairman

**NEW JERSEY STATE PAROLE BOARD
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS**

Chairman: James T. Plousis

Vice-Chairman: Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr.

Executive Director: David W. Thomas

Deputy Executive Director: Lawrence J. Gregorio

Associate Board Members:

Brian T. Butch
Allen DelVento
Reni Erdos
Carmen M. Garcia
Thomas Haaf
Lloyd D. Henderson
Mary Hunt
James B. Jefferson
Charlie Jones
Julio Marenco
Robert Riccardella
Norman Robertson
Yolette C. Ross

Alternate Board Members:

Hope L. Cooper
Laurie Fuchs



DIVISION OF RELEASE

The New Jersey Parole Act of 1979 (N.J.S.A. 30:4-123.45, et seq.) places with the State Parole Board the authority and responsibility of deciding which state and county inmates shall be granted release on parole and the special conditions of parole that will be imposed.

The Division of Release, operating out of Central Office, has offices in each state correctional facility. The primary function of the Division of Release is to evaluate and assess incarcerated adult offenders and determine their eligibility and appropriateness for parole release. The Division of Release prepares each case for consideration for the members of the Board by securing professional reports concerning an inmate's criminal history, including his/her current offense; their social, physical, educational, psychological progress to date; and their objective social and psychological risk and needs assessment. An assigned hearing officer conducts the initial parole consideration hearing.

STATE INMATE PAROLE STATISTICS

Initial Hearing	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Scheduled	12,637	11,128	10,495	9,276
Conducted	10,662	9,658	8,982	7,964
Parole Recommended	571	331	254	207
Deferred	153	139	134	89
Referred to Panel	9,938	9,188	8,594	7,668
Two- Member Panels	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Scheduled	10,835	10,024	9,045	8,598
Decided	10,083	9,355	8,468	8,079
Deferred	43	59	40	43
Parole Denied	5,144	5,255	4,816	4,827
Parole Granted	4,939	4,100	3,652	3,252
Three-Member Panels	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Decided	62	27	53	59
Parole Denied	62	27	53	59
Parole Granted	0	0	0	0
Full Board Panels	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Decided	7	7	3	11
Parole Denied	4	6	2	10
Parole Granted	3	1	1	1
Administrative Reviews	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Reviewed	524	276	219	172
Parole Denied	57	75	78	45
Parole Granted	466	197	140	127
Other	1	4	1	0
Total Paroled	5,408	4,298	3,793	3,380

COUNTY INMATE PAROLE STATISTICS

Initial Hearings	FY 2010*	FY 2011*	FY 2012*	FY 2013*
Scheduled	36	48	3	1
Conducted	36	48	3	1
Parole Recommended	35	46	3	1
Deferred	0	0	0	0
Referred to the Panel	1	2	0	0
Panel Hearings	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Scheduled	3,680	3,715	3,287	3,167
Decided	2,593	2,711	2,420	2,223
Deferred	4	18	4	3
Parole Denied	749	998	823	817
Parole Granted	1,844	1,695	1,597	1,403
Not Feasible	1,087	1,004	863	740
Administrative Reviews	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Reviewed	35	46	3	1
Parole Denied	0	0	0	0
Parole Granted	35	46	3	1
Total Paroled	1,879	1,741	1,600	1,404

* Beginning in 2008 county inmates were given the option to waive their initial hearing and proceed to a panel hearing. This reflects the reduction in the number of initial hearings scheduled, conducted and parole recommended statistics above.

VICTIM INPUT

The Victim Input Unit is committed to the privacy, safety and well-being of all victims of crime and encourages their participation in the parole process. Effective July 11, 1984, when an adult is convicted of a first or second degree crime, the County Prosecutor must notify the victim of that crime - or nearest relative of a murder victim - of their right to provide information to the State Parole Board before the offender's parole consideration. This notification is in writing and includes a form, which the victim should use to register their interest in providing information to the Board. Regardless of the degree of the crime, all victims have the right to participate in the parole process.

When a victim registers with the State Parole Board's Victim Input Unit, staff will confirm the victim's registration and monitor the offender's parole eligibility. This process aides us in contacting the victim in advance of the offender's parole eligibility. Prior to the time of eligibility, the victim

will be contacted and invited to either submit a written statement, videotaped statement, or appear personally to provide a statement.

If the victim chooses to provide a statement in person, a hearing will be scheduled, and every effort will be made to accommodate the victim in scheduling. Most victim input hearings will take place at the State Parole Board's Central Office in Trenton, but in special situations - such as the victim is physically disabled - it may be possible to conduct the hearing elsewhere or via video teleconferencing.

REVOCATION

The Revocation Unit is responsible for conducting probable cause and final parole revocation hearings to determine if an offender has violated the terms and conditions of his or her parole. The Revocation Unit hearing officers make formal recommendations to members of the Board concerning parole violations. These recommendations include whether or not an offender should have their parole status revoked and be returned to prison or if the terms and conditions of their parole should be modified in some fashion.

REVOCATION UNIT STATISTICS

Adult and Young Adult Statistics	FY 2010	FY2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Revocation Decisions	2,328	2,408	2,368	2,164
Continued on Parole	493	506	368	318
Revoked Term	770	801	987	1,047
Revoked Re-Paroled	3	0	1	0
Revoked Serving MAX	953	988	876	667
Revoked Serving MSV	106	110	136	130
Revoked Other	3	3	0	2

APPEALS

An inmate or offender may appeal any action of a Board Member, hearing officer, unit, or division of the State Parole Board. The Appeals Unit processes administrative appeals and insures that the appeal submitted by an inmate or offender is presented to and reviewed by a Board Panel or the Board.

APPEALS UNIT STATISTICS

Appeals Processed	FY2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Full Board Appeals	1,034	1,178	1,422	1,196
Other	444	395	375	614

LEGAL SUPPORT

The Legal Support Unit provides assistance to Board Members and agency staff thereby assuring that they function in accordance with statutory provisions and administrative regulations. The Legal Support Unit also assists the Board in the development and implementation of policies; the development and promulgation of amendments to the agency's administrative code; the pursuing of clarification of sentencing matters that have an impact on the Board's functions; the review and processing of complex cases; the review of the imposition of special conditions in the cases of certain offenders and the presentation of said cases to Board Members for review; and providing assistance to counsel assigned by the Division of Law to represent the State Parole Board in any legal matter involving the Board or agency staff.

An offender may be eligible to obtain a Certificate of Good Conduct and/or a Certificate Suspending Certain Employment, Occupational Disabilities or Forfeitures to assist in obtaining public employment or employment involving licensure. The Legal Support Unit processes such applications for presentation and consideration by the full Board. In addition, this Unit investigates and processes applications for medical parole for consideration by an Adult Panel.

LEGAL SUPPORT UNIT STATISTICS

Types of Cases Processed	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Community Supervision for Life	252	205	266
Electronic Monitoring	224	291	342
Curfews	117	114	140

JUVENILE

The Juvenile Unit operates within the Division of Release. The Unit is assigned two Panel Members who function as the Board's Juvenile Panel. The Juvenile Panel performs quarterly reviews for the juveniles incarcerated in secure and residential facilities managed by the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission.

For each juvenile entering a secure or residential facility, the Juvenile Panel conducts an initial review, establishes time goals, monitor and assess the juvenile's overall progress and community suitability during routine follow-up review sessions. Based on these reviews, the Juvenile Panel may render one of the following decisions: continue confinement, defer release for review at a future date, refer the juvenile to the Adult Panel, have the juvenile serve the maximum sentence, or grant the juvenile a release to parole supervision or Post Incarceration supervision. The Juvenile Unit is responsible for processing all revocation and rescission hearings for the juvenile offenders.

JUVENILE UNIT STATISTICS

Juvenile Panel Statistics	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Time Goals	535	507	342	323
Quarterly Reviews	1,807	1,739	1,453	1,380
Annual Reviews	219	206	164	173
Continued Confinement	1,677	1,702	1,401	1,369
MAX	283	212	207	190
Deferred	31	31	16	47
PDS	281	267	249	166
Referred to Adult Panel	4	0	1	1
Parole Approved	256	265	191	105

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

The Community Programs Division provides oversight to State Parole Board contracted community partners who, under existing contract agreements, provide residential and non-residential transitional rehabilitative programs to offenders under parole supervision. These programs include: Stages to Enhance Parolee Success

(STEPS) Program, Reentry Substance Abuse Program (RESAP), Community Resource Centers (CRC), the Mutual Agreement Program (MAP) and a number of programs for specialized populations. The programs are designed to promote public safety, sustainable reintegration of parolees into society and reduce recidivism.

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION STATISTICS

Contracted Residential Community Program	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Mutual Agreement Programs (MAP)	82	153	214	192
Stages to Enhance Parolee Success (STEPS)	2,026	1,700	1,627	1,186
Reentry Substance Abuse Programs (RESAP)	903	889	591	800
Regional Assessment Centers (RAC)	537	561	399	133
Total Residential Placements	3,548	3,303	2,831	2,311
Non-residential Community Programs	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Community Resource Centers (CRC)	3,485	2,797	2,258	1,840

PROCUREMENT OF RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMMING AND SERVICES

In Fiscal Year 2013, the State Parole Board enlisted the assistance of the New Jersey Department of the Treasury, Division of Purchase and Property to procure residential and Community Resource Center programs and services for contracts that were approaching their expiration dates. The State Parole Board felt it would be very beneficial to collaborate with the statewide authority on the procurement of goods and services to ensure the production of detailed bid specifications and the procurement of quality services in a continuing effort to reduce recidivism.

EXPANSION OF PAROLEE EMPLOYMENT PLACEMENT PROGRAM (PEPP)

In 2011, the State Parole Board and Department of Labor and Workforce Development partnered to leverage resources to maximize the potential for parolees to successfully find employment. The Parolee Employment Placement Program was created in an effort to reduce recidivism rates, improve the level of employment serv-



As part of the PEPP program, parolees learn resume writing, interviewing skills, career planning, and internet job search techniques.

ices and placements provided to offenders, and provide reimbursement to employment providers only upon the securing and maintenance of established employment benchmarks. The program commenced in February, 2012 and as of June 30, 2013, all programs have met or exceeded established benchmarks in terms of successfully obtaining employment and remaining in employment positions for stipulated 30, 60 and 90 day time periods.

Given the demonstrated success of the Parolee Employment Placement Program, in Fiscal Year 2013, the State Parole Board will be expanding the program into additional New Jersey counties via the issuance of a Notice of Grant Opportunity by New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Contract awards are expected to be announced during Fiscal Year 2014.

DIVISION OF PAROLE

The Division of Parole is managed by a command staff consisting of a Director, Captains (Supervising Parole Officers-SPO), Lieutenants (District Parole Supervisors-DPS) and Sergeants (Assistant District Parole Supervisors-ADPS). The community supervision of offenders is the responsibility of sworn parole officers.

The Division of Parole is one of New Jersey's largest police agencies and consists of fifteen operational units statewide, of which ten are District Parole Offices (DPO). The remaining operational units include: the Electronic Monitoring Unit (EMU), the Office of Interstate Services (OIS), the Special Operations Group (SOG), the Training Unit, the Sex Offender Management Units (SOMU) and the Investigations Management Office (IMO).

The IMO is responsible for processing all new criminal charges filed by the State Parole Board's law enforcement staff. The processing includes maintaining and forwarding as discovery the official investigation reports. In addition to processing all new charges, IMO handles all evidence control functions for any and all criminal related evidence. This includes, but is not limited to, transporting evidence to the State Police lab and conducting forensic searches of computers and other electronic data storage/transmittal devices. Lastly, IMO staff act as the coordinator of all State Parole Board fingerprint live scan machines.

In addition to their supervision duties, a number of the parole officers serve as members of the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force and/or the U.S. Marshals Service New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force. All parole officers partner with local and state investigations as needed.

At the end of FY 2013, there were 15,283 offenders supervised by the Division of Parole. The offenders supervised include:

- * Offenders released at the discretion of a Board Panel;
- * Offenders released to serve a period of mandatory supervision under the No Early Release Act;
- * Sex offenders sentenced to community life time supervision under Megan's Law;

- * Court ordered conditional discharge cases released from the Special Treatment Unit; and
- * Tier III sex offenders subject to mandatory GPS monitoring.

DIVISION OF PAROLE STATISTICS

Offender Supervision	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Parole and Community Supervision for Life	3,937	5,067	5,320	6,700
GPS Monitoring	225	301	324	349
General Parole Supervision	8,800	10,081	10,280	7,996
Electronic Monitoring	400	236	231	238
Total Number Supervised	15,929	15,685	16,155	15,283

ACCREDITATION

The State Parole Board achieved the New Jersey Association of Chiefs of Police Law Enforcement Accreditation on May 9, 2013. Accreditation status represents a significant professional achievement as it acknowledges the implementation of policies and procedures that are conceptually sound, operationally effective and consistent with nationally recognized best practices. Accreditation is a progressive and time-proven way of improving overall performance.

The rigorous standards set forth by the Chiefs of Police have resulted in significant enhancements to the operational efficiency and efficacy of the agency. Some specific areas of improvement have been realized in the areas of



(From left) NJSACOP Accreditation Program Manager Harry J. Delgado, NJSACOP Executive Director Mitchell C. Sklar, present the Accreditation Certificate to State Parole Board Chairman James T. Plousis.

recruitment, evidence collection and storage, performance management, officer safety, and training. The State Parole Board continues to strive to maintain compliance with accreditation standards on a daily basis and is looking forward to re-accreditation in 2016.

DCJ TRAINING ACADEMY BASIC COURSE FOR INVESTIGATORS

At the end of 2011 the State Parole Board Executive Staff made the decision to initiate a new comprehensive hiring process for all new parole officer recruits. A major factor in this new process was to have all future recruit classes attend the DCJ Training Academy's Basic Course for Investigators in Sea Girt. The first recruit class attended in 2012, and during Fiscal Year 2013, 16 parole recruits graduated from two separate academy classes.

The six-month Basic Course for Investigators covers general topics such as investigative procedures essential to the successful investigation, apprehension and prosecution of criminals. Basic firearms training and physical conditioning training are also conducted during this rigorous training academy course.





Academy Graduates are sworn in as Parole Officer Recruits at the State Parole Board's Central Office in Trenton.

The DCJ Academy is a Police Training Commission certified academy that conducts a wide range of in-service and pre-service training programs for the state's law enforcement and criminal justice communities, including state and county investigators, deputy attorney generals, assistant prosecutors, municipal and county police, police executives, arson investigators, parole, and corrections personnel.

FUGITIVE SAFE SURRENDER

During Fiscal Year 2013 the State Parole Board was intimately involved in the planning of the fifth New Jersey Fugitive Safe Surrender Program that took place in Jersey City in November of 2013. Over 4,500 individuals turned themselves in safely over the four-day program. This number represents the highest turnout of all five Fugitive Safe Surrender events held so far in New Jersey.

A total of nearly 18,000 individuals have turned themselves in at New Jersey's five Fugitive Safe Surrender opportunities. The Jersey City event had the third-highest turnout of the 26 Fugitive Safe Surrender events held nationwide since 2005, surpassed only by those held in the much larger cities of Cleveland (where 7,200 fugitives surrendered in 2010) and Detroit (where 6,578 surrendered in 2008).

Fugitive Safe Surrender enabled individuals who were fugitives for non-violent crimes to turn themselves in at the Jersey City location for a period of four days. Fugitive Safe Surrender is not an amnesty program. However, those who turned themselves in may have received favorable consideration from the court. This typically results in probation or reduced fines. A vast majority of those who turned themselves in did not go to jail. Less than one percent of participants were taken into custody.



Fugitive Safe Surrender participants wait inside the National Guard Armory in Jersey City for their number to be called to have their case adjudicated in temporary court rooms set up for the program.

VETERAN OFFENDER REENTRY INITIATIVE

The State Parole Board Veterans Reentry Initiative, begun in 2011, is an effort to recognize that veterans who have served our country and later became involved in the criminal justice system are entitled to our respect and support.

These efforts resulted in veteran reentry training presentations to the US Attorney's Office, the New Jersey State Warden's Association, the Gloucester County Police Chiefs Association, the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and the Attorney General's Veterans Civil Rights Seminars held in Atlantic City and Camden.

As a result of these training programs, the State Parole Board partnered with the Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office and the Gloucester County Police Chiefs Association resulting in a pilot project to assist veterans arrested by Gloucester County law enforcement. The goal of the pilot project is to intervene with veteran offenders after initial arrest by providing veteran services and support, thereby reducing the recidivism of the veteran offender population.

The State Parole Board also partnered with the American Legion, the US Chamber of Commerce, and the NBC television network, in national "Hiring our Heroes" employment and workshop fair events. These workshops were held at American Legion Post # 129 in Toms River, Ocean County and Legion Post # 12 in Somerville, Somerset County. The Toms River, Ocean County event assisted veterans who were impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Participants received information about available services in their area, and local employers were in attendance to provide information regarding available storm-related jobs.

Additional "Hiring our Heroes" events were held with Legion Post # 524 in Ocean City, Rider University in Lawrenceville, Susquehanna Bank Center in Camden, Sun Bank Arena in Trenton, and Met-Life Stadium in Secaucus. Additional veteran job fairs were co-sponsored by the State Parole Board and the GI GO Fund at Rutgers University in Newark and Richard Stockton College in Pomona, and with the New Jersey Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve at the Bordentown Armory.

During Fiscal Year 2013 the State Parole Board Veterans Reentry Initiative focused on making more veteran housing opportunities available to New Jersey veterans. Two "Housing our Heroes" forums were held with the support of



(From left) State Legion Commander Gene O'Grady, National Legion Commander Mark Walker, State Parole Board Chairman James T. Plousis, and Legion Post # 471 (Iselin, New Jersey) Commander Ron Davie.

Legion Post #194 in Burlington County and Legion Post #471 in Middlesex County. The goal of the forums was to bring together veteran housing service providers, whether federal, state, county, or non-profit, and the agencies that utilize those same providers.

The State Parole Board also participated in "Stand Down" events in Cherry Hill and Morristown. These events assist homeless veterans with medical, legal, employment, and housing services. In 2013 an estimated \$79,000 in federal veteran services funding was used to assist veterans under New Jersey parole supervision with veteran transitional housing programs.

The Veterans Reentry Initiative continues to operate a statewide veteran offender hotline (609-777-0181) offering referral and assistance to any veteran involved in the criminal justice system. Over 150 probationers, pretrial offenders, county, state, and federal inmates have received service referrals through the hotline.

An identified area for Veterans Initiative efforts in Fiscal Year 2014 will include assisting veteran offenders who have mental health, substance abuse, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI).

Efforts will involve utilizing veteran services with the Lyons USVA PTSD Treatment Unit, the East Orange Hospital Substance Abuse Treatment Program, Bancroft Hospital TBI program, Voorhees Rehabilitation Center, and the USVA Readjustment Centers for battlefield trauma.

FEDERAL GRANT INITIATIVES

The State Parole Board was one of eight recipients throughout the country that received the “Second Chance Act Adult Offender Reentry Program for Planning and Demonstration Projects” grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance within fiscal year 2013. This grant was awarded in September 2012. It was intended to support building capacity for a reentry program that provides appropriate evidence-based service targeting medium to high risk offenders returning to a particular region of the receiving state.

The State Parole Board worked closely with Union County Reentry Task Force, a multi-discipline collaborative structure to assess as well as to assist building the capacity of the stakeholders to develop a comprehensive reentry implementation plan. The county Department of Human Services was closely engaged to assess the service delivery system and help leverage the continuum of care in the county for the reentry population specifically in providing housing, mental health and substance abuse as well as employment and education needs of clients.

A second award that would fund the implementation of the Demonstration Program was applied for in June of 2013 as a result of the successful completion of the planning grant. This award would build on the momentum of the planning grant, and would fund the implementation of a reentry program specifically for offenders returning to Union County. It was designed to target medium to high risk offenders by ensuring that offenders receive proper case management pre

through post-release services available through direct contracts with providers as well as by leveraging services by multiple stakeholders including charity groups, non-profits, government agencies and volunteers. The State Parole Board is working closely with the Union County Reentry Task Force, the county of Union, Department of Human Services and the Urban League of Union County.

Also instrumental to the program is research support that is being provided by the School of Criminal Justice, Rutgers University, Newark for tracking outcomes and performance as well as the overall evaluation of the program.

LOOKING FORWARD

Looking forward to FY 2014, the State Parole Board will continue to promote public safety and improve the quality of all programs and services that help foster positive changes and aid in the reintegration of offenders back into the community as law-abiding citizens.

The State Parole Board is committed to updating the agency's strategic plan; seeking federal grant opportunities; collaborating with partnering agencies; and maximizing technologies to implement evidence-based and emerging best practices in the field of community supervision.

FUGITIVE SAFE SURRENDER 2013 - JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY



FUGITIVE SAFE SURRENDER 2013 - JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY





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