



**NEW JERSEY STATE PAROLE BOARD
2008 ANNUAL REPORT
PETER J. BARNES JR., CHAIRMAN**

EFFECTIVE REENTRY INITIATIVES

Governor- and Parole-led plan leads to better-informed decisions for technical parole violators. Consistent with recommendations of the Governor’s GEAR Commission, the Residential Assessment Centers (RAC) promised to enhance reentry and public safety, while saving taxpayer dollars. The RAC holds technical parole violators to a 15-30 day lockdown and clinical risks/needs assessment. This is a significant change from the traditional method of simply holding the technical parole violator in county jail to await a parole revocation hearing. The State Parole Board believes the RAC assessment leads to a more effective use of community-based reentry programs. The RAC works in conjunction with the Evidence-Based Parole strategy to divert technical parole violators into intensified supervision and community-based programs, when appropriate.

Evidence-Based Parole in Full Use for 97% of Another Chance Cohort. Evidence-Based Parole (EBP) methods include Case Plan Agreements (CPAs); short-term and long-term reentry goals; parolee accountability; and Motivational Interviewing (MI) by parole officers. CPAs based on the parolee’s LSI-R scored risks and needs are in place for 82 percent of all parolees, including 97 percent of those in the Another Chance Cohort. All NJ parole officers are trained in the use of EBP, and nearly half are trained in MI, representing more than 4,800 hours of officer training.

Parole Secures \$500k Federal Grant to Expand Reentry in Trenton. SPB is the lead agency in a \$533,000 Federal Prison Reentry Initiative (PRI) grant, designed to expand existing resources into a comprehensive reentry initiative in the City of Trenton. The initiative will build on existing successful initiatives of the State Parole Board, City of Trenton, and non-profit Opportunities for All.

Concerted Effort to Develop Job Opportunities for Ex-Offenders. More than 8,300 parolees are actively employed, and 1,125 enrolled in school or training, representing 70 percent of the parolee population defined as employable. To intensify its efforts, SPB has appointed parole officers as the Parole Job Czar and Employment Resource Officers for the Another Chance cities. They are building relationships with employers and union locals. SPB also works closely with LWD, and has trained all parole officers in the Another Chance cities in use of LWD’s One Stop Operating System (OSOS).

Parole Secures Federal Grant to Train Reentry Professionals in “Offender Workforce Development.” SPB led the training of 12 staffers from our agency, as well as DOC, LWD and several non-profit providers, to become “Offender Workforce Development Specialists,” with help

from a \$25,000 National Institute of Corrections (NIC) grant. SPB will serve as the lead agency to coordinate training of 25 additional reentry professionals, targeted for the Another Chance cities.

Fiscal Year 2008 Operations. In Fiscal 2008, the Parole Board Members and Division of Release conducted parole hearings for 12,174 State prison inmates and 3,795 county jail inmates. The agency's Revocation Unit initiated 3,057 revocation hearings, and 479 rescission hearings. The Juvenile Unit conducted quarterly reviews for 2,342 juvenile residents, and initiated 243 juvenile revocation hearings. On the last day of Fiscal Year 2008 there were a total of 15,656 individuals under State Parole Board supervision, including individuals released on discretionary parole, those sentenced to a term of Mandatory Supervision (MSV), sex offenders sentenced to Community Supervision for Life (CSL) or Parole Supervision for Life (PSL), and sex offenders subject to Global Positioning System (GPS) monitoring. The Division of Community Programs provided rehabilitative programs to more than 6,600 individuals under State Parole Board supervision. These programs, including Day Reporting Centers, Halfway Back programs, the Mutual Agreement Program, the Reentry Substance Abuse Program and others, are designed to promote successful and sustainable reentry and ensure public safety.

Parole's ongoing reentry initiatives serve more than 6,600 parolees annually. In Fiscal 2008, the State Parole Board's Community Programs Division provided rehabilitative programs and services to more than 6,600 individuals under State Parole Board supervision. These programs, including Day Reporting Centers, Halfway Back Programs, the Mutual Agreement Program, the Reentry Substance Abuse Program and other specialized programs, are designed to promote successful and sustainable reentry and ensure public safety. Programming is needs driven and based upon an established assessment process. Parolees that are assigned to the programs develop service plans that address needs with goals and objectives that are attainable within realistically determined time frames. Each parolee receives an average of five hours of programming per day. Parolees in residential programs received an estimated 1,554,000 hours of programming (and/or work release/employment components if eligible). Parolees in day Reporting Centers received an estimated 1,458,000 hours of programming. Programming and services include: Drug counseling services and relapse prevention; Life skills development; Stress and anger reduction; Job readiness skills; Employment counseling and placement; Academic assistance; Money management; Family intervention; Parenting skills; Mental health referrals; and Development of housing resources for offenders.

FORGE Focuses Attention on Female Offenders. The nationwide population of female offenders has grown at nearly double the rate of men since 1985, and one in 265 women nationwide are incarcerated. Two-thirds are the mothers of minor children. The Female Offender Reentry Group Effort (FORGE) was developed by SPB and is now a multi-agency partnership in Essex County. It is designed to meet the unique risks and needs faced by female offenders. So far in 2008 it has served 437 female offenders (including 110 parolees as well as max-outs, DOC halfway house inmates and probationers). It has enabled 235 individuals to obtain social security cards and other forms of identification; provided 293 with employment-related services; provided 114 with education-related services; connected 68 with housing, medical and other forms of assistance; and referred 25 for pro-bono legal assistance.

PROMISE Funding Sustained for Mentally Ill Offenders. The Program for Returning Offenders with Mental Illness Safely and Effectively (PROMISE) serves parolees with serious and persistent mental illness. Significantly, it includes post-parole services including permanent supportive housing, after-care, and connections with assistance available in the community. PROMISE served 85 clients in FY 2008, including 23 who entered permanent supportive housing provided to the

nonprofit Volunteers of America by DCA and HMFA; and 12 who participated in aftercare funded by MHS.

Public-Private Reentry Partnerships Focus on Quality Assurance. SPB has enhanced its quality assurance measures for contracted reentry services. The agency's new Contract Compliance and Quality Assurance Unit (CCQAU) will conduct monthly field visits and generate quarterly field reports at every program. New contracts require a "fee-for-service" schedule that will result in significant taxpayer savings. SPB's current contractors have either obtained accreditation or are seeking accreditation from authorities such as the American Correctional Association (ACA) and Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). The agency vigorously relies on research and outcome reports to evaluate and support reentry initiatives.

LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIPS

SPB Remains a Leader in Apprehending Fugitives and Absconders. SPB and its parole officers are an active partner with the US Marshals Service NY/NJ Regional Fugitive Task Force. In 2007 the Task Force successfully apprehended 3,193 fugitives across NJ, including 256 parole absconders. In November, SPB and the US Marshals Service will participate in Fugitive Safe Surrender, a four-day operation in Camden. Fugitive Safe Surrender is an effective and unique reentry initiative. It allows non-violent offenders to surrender peacefully, and reenter society when their cases are adjudicated.

Strong Focus on Street Gang Suppression. SPB's Street Gang Unit works closely with police agencies at all levels, including FBI, ICE, all county sheriff and prosecutor gang task forces, and municipal police. The Unit has participated in at least 12 Gang Reduction Aggressive Supervision Parole (GRASP) law enforcement operations, in partnership with NJSP and DOC, since October 1, 2007. The Unit also provides gang awareness training for professional groups through partnerships with the NJ Hospital Association, Federal Probation and other agencies. Since October 1, 2007 the Unit has also provided training in the Federally sponsored Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) curriculum for 2,000 students, ages 8 through 11, at five schools in Camden, Essex, Morris and Passaic counties.

Invigoration of Police-Parole Partnerships in Key Cities. SPB has engaged in model Police-Parole Partnerships with Irvington and Camden, and has reached out to Newark, Trenton, Jersey City, Union City and New Brunswick to create similar partnerships. These partnerships allow municipal police officers to accompany State parole officers on unannounced visits to parolee residences; ensure that municipal police receive updated information about the city's parolees, their addresses and criminal histories; and allow police and parole officers to serve as fully integrated partners for public safety. Parole officers, municipal police and NJSP in the partner cities engage in regular intelligence and operational briefings, including COMSTAT meetings. This information sharing helps ongoing investigations by municipal police and NJSP; and provides SPB with an additional set of "eyes" on at-risk parolees suspected violating curfews, associating with gang members, or otherwise violating parole conditions.

Enhanced and Intensified Law Enforcement Training. SPB has dramatically revamped the academy training for its sworn parole officers. Training has been expanded from 14 weeks to 24 weeks, and has been moved from a correctional officers academy to the prestigious Somerset County Police Academy, NJ's only regional police academy. For the first time, parole officer recruits are trained alongside municipal police recruits. Training now includes all core law

enforcement training required for police officers across NJ, with additional training specific to offender supervision and parole operations. The six-month academy training is followed by an additional six-month probationary period, during which the new officers are in constant interaction with senior parole officers and sergeants. The change reflects parole officers' expanding responsibilities, including sex offender supervision; street gang suppression; and joint operations and intelligence sharing partnerships with FBI, US Marshals Service, NJSP and municipal police.

FBI Partnerships. SPB made history in September, when one of our parole captains became the first parole officer to graduate from the prestigious FBI National Academy (FBINA) in Quantico, VA. Established in 1935, the FBINA is a professional course of study for US and international law enforcement leaders. Its mission is to enhance law enforcement standards, knowledge and cooperation, and build partnerships across state and national lines. Participation is by invitation only. Additionally, SPB works closely with the FBI on several law enforcement-sensitive intelligence-gathering efforts, including operations related to homeland security and street gang suppression.

Partnerships with NJSP. SPB has assigned a parole officer to serve as full-time liaison to the Regional Operations Intelligence Center (ROIC) in West Trenton, to participate with other law enforcement representatives in the collection, distillation and analysis of security- and operations-specific intelligence. Additionally, SPB has assigned a Sex Offender Management Unit (SOMU) parole officer to the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, housed at the NJSP Hamilton complex.

The New Jersey State Parole Board (SPB) is New Jersey's lead reentry agency, and works to ensure ex-prisoners return to society as law-abiding citizens. As required by law, appointed Parole Board Members and staff conduct more than 20,000 hearings per year, solicit input from victims and decide parole matters. SPB sworn parole officers supervise more than 15,000 offenders statewide. In addition, SPB is New Jersey's primary law enforcement agency responsible for sex offender supervision. SPB officers are also active partners with multiple Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies and task forces. Finally, SPB's Community Programs Unit partners with government, non-profit and private agencies to connect ex-prisoners with vocational, mental health and related services, targeted to break the cycle and risk of crime.