



New Jersey State Parole Board

Mission and Vision

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.

Internship Program

Mission and Vision

MISSION

The Internship Program seeks to provide meaningful work-learning experiences to qualified individuals currently attending area colleges and universities as well as graduates entering the job market that will benefit both the individuals and the State Parole Board (SPB).

VISION

To become a large reservoir of internships that promote career possibilities for individuals with interests in the fields of study that include: Criminal Justice, Social Work, Psychology, Community Corrections, Communications, Law, and Journalism.



New Jersey State Parole Board – Overview

The evolution of the New Jersey State Parole Board (SPB) reflects a system that has gained its strength through change. Charged with promoting public safety while fostering the rehabilitation of offenders, the SPB continues to seek new practices that effectively meet the needs, conditions and demands of the parolees, tax payers and the government authorities of this state. The Board has the continuing responsibility to impose and modify conditions of parole to reduce the risk of failure and to support successful community reintegration.

Members of the Board

All Panel Members of the SPB are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the State Senate. Currently, the SPB is comprised of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, thirteen (13) Associate Members and three (3) Alternate Associate Members. Typically, board members are appointed for a term of six years.

Function of the Board

The functions, duties, powers and responsibilities entrusted to the State Parole Board are carried out and implemented in accordance with state law and in adherence to the administrative rules and regulations promulgated by the Board and enacted as part of the New Jersey Administrative Code N.J.A.C. 10A:71- 1, et. Seq. Under New Jersey law, unless an offender is sentenced to a period of parole ineligibility, he or she becomes eligible for parole consideration after serving one-third of their sentence. Eligibility, however, does not mean an inmate will automatically be granted release to parole supervision. Before a decision is made, the offender must participate in the parole hearing process.

The Division of Release

The parole hearing process begins with an Initial hearing, conducted by a Hearing



Officer from the Division of Release, to determine the inmate's appropriateness for parole. The Hearing Officer considers all professional reports concerning the inmate's criminal history, including the current offense, the social, physical, educational and psychological progress, and an objective social and psychological risk and needs assessment. A summary of the Initial hearing is presented to the designated Board Members with a recommendation for parole or with a referral to the panel. A two-member Board Panel conducts a Panel hearing with the inmate to make the final decision to grant or deny parole.

For cases in which the crime was committed on or after August 19, 1997, the Parole Act requires that an adult inmate shall be paroled unless the Board Panel determines the inmate has failed to cooperate in his or her own rehabilitation, or that there is a reasonable expectation the inmate will violate conditions of parole if released.

For cases in which the crime was committed before August 19, 1997, the Parole Act requires that an adult inmate shall be paroled unless the Board Panel determines that there is a substantial likelihood the inmate will commit a new crime if released.

The Board Panel's decision includes input from the victim, when victims have presented testimony during a confidential hearing or submitted their comments in writing. Victim input is always deemed confidential, and the offenders are not informed as to whether any victim chose to provide written or verbal testimony. The Board Panel also considers all relevant factors and evidence, including evidence and testimony provided by the inmate.

If the Board Panel declines to grant parole, the panel will set a *Future Eligibility Term* (FET). The term establishes the length of time that must be served before the offender may again become eligible for parole consideration and begin the



parole hearing process again. If the Board Panel decides to grant parole, a third step may be included. The Panel may establish additional Special Conditions to which a parolee must comply, over and above the standard conditions required for all parolees. Such Special Conditions may include a requirement that the parolee seek employment, submit to random drug tests, or undergo substance abuse treatment or counseling. The Board Panel may require the parolee complete one of the SPB contracted community programs specific to his or her rehabilitation needs. Once released to parole, the parolee is supervised by the Division of Parole.

The Division of Parole

The Division of Parole is responsible for the supervision of more than 15,000 offenders statewide. These include offenders approved for parole release by the appointed Parole Board Members, as well as offenders released to Mandatory Supervision (MSV) under the No Early Release Act, sex offenders sentenced to Community Supervision for Life (CSL) or Parole Supervision for Life (PSL), and certain sex offenders subject to Global Positioning System (GPS) monitoring.

The Division of Parole is one of New Jersey's largest police agencies with more than 350 sworn Parole Officers staffing 17 operational units statewide, eleven of which are District Parole Offices (DPO's). The Electronic Monitoring Unit (EMU), the Office of Interstate Services (OIS), the Special Operations Group (SOG), the Training Unit and the Sex Offender Management Unit-South (SOMU) are located at the SPB Central Office Headquarters (COHQ) in Trenton.

The Division of Parole is managed by a Director, four Captains/Supervising Parole Officers (SPO's), and 17 Lieutenants/District Parole Supervisors (DPS's). In addition to their supervision duties, a number of the Parole Officers serve as members of the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, the U.S. Marshals Service New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force, and all officers partner with local and state



investigations as needed.

A list of the SPB offices and their locations can be accessed from a [LINK](#) on the SPB-IP Home Page.

Community Programs Division

The Community Programs Division (CPD) is dedicated to developing, coordinating and managing the provision of quality treatment and services to individuals under parole supervision. This is done through community-based programs, community partnerships, grant initiatives and special projects designed to support the re-entry and effective supervision of offenders, to promote pro-social behavior and to improve the quality of lives in our communities. The CPD, managed by a Director and an Assistant Director, oversees a dedicated staff responsible for:

- Contract administration, monitoring, and quality assurance activities, as it relates to the delivery of programs and services by contracted community-based providers. (Use the Link on the Home Page to access a list and map of the contracted programs and community services providers throughout the state that assist parolees during reentry and community stabilization);
- Tracking parolees during their participation in community-based programs;
- Referral and placement - ensuring that all parolees, including parolees with special needs, are identified and referred to appropriate treatment programs and services during reentry and community stabilization;
- Seeking to improve relationships and strengthen partnerships with other service providing agencies throughout the state;
- Developing and implementing applicable policies and procedures; and
- Providing routine maintenance of essential records and data.

CPD currently administers contracts for the operation of:

- Community Resource Centers (CRC) that offer non-residential programs to



both male and female offenders, including "step down" services for parolees transitioning from residential program facilities. The CRC's operate seven (7) days per week, providing appropriate levels of service that ensure successful community adjustment;

- Reentry Substance Abuse Programs (RESAP) provide comprehensive, community-based residential programming to both male and female parolees; and
- Stages to Enhance Parolee Success (STEPS) provide a network of comprehensive, community-based residential programs and specialized supportive reentry services that address a myriad of needs of both male and female parolees.

CPD also partners with other state agencies such as:

- The Department of Human Services, Division of Addiction Services for Mutual Agreement Programs (MAP) that offer private, not-for-profit, licensed residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment programming throughout the State;
- The Division of Mental Health Services and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey operate the Program for Returning Offenders with Mental Illness Safely and Effectively (PROMISE), a specialized residential program offering individuals that have been diagnosed with a mental health disorder, who are returning to the community under parole supervision, access to treatment and housing assistance, to decrease the likelihood that they will return to prison; and
- CPD also oversees the Specialized Reentry Program for Women (SRPW) in Newark that provides a stable and supportive housing environment and offers reentry services to address the multi-dimensional problems and unique needs of females under the supervision of the SPB. The SRPW is a unique program



offering both transitional beds for residential placements as well as non-residential programming for women needing just day support services. Services may be integrated and include: intake, orientation, assessments, treatment planning, client supervision, educational services, vocational and employment services, substance abuse, education and treatment, parenting, financial management, independent living skills, family counseling, mental health referrals, nutrition/meals, transportation, supportive and permanent housing and discharge planning.

Although the major portion of the rehabilitative services are contracted with private and non-profit organizations that are both qualified and experienced in providing services to the offender populations, CPD works closely with the Parole Officers supervising the parolees assigned to these contracted programs as a condition of their release.

It is through contracted programs, community partnerships, grant initiatives and special projects designed to support re-entry and effective supervision of parolees that SPB is able to promote pro-social behavior and improve the quality of life for parolees and their communities.

The Juvenile Unit

New Jersey State Parole Board is responsible for supervising and monitoring the state's juvenile parolees (offenders between the ages of 10 and 18) and for determining the eligibility and appropriateness for parole release of juvenile offenders currently housed in the state's juvenile detention facilities.