



# NEWS RELEASE



## STATE OF NEW JERSEY State Parole Board

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**Sheila Y. Oliver, Lt. Governor**  
**Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr., Chairman**

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## For Immediate Release

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2019-010

## NEW JERSEY STATE PAROLE BOARD MEMBER AND PRESIDENT OF NJ CHAPTER OF AMERICAN CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION MODERATES PRISONER REENTRY CONFERENCE

### Spring Forum on Integrated Correctional Reentry Practices Explores Best Practices and Innovative Ideas from the “Inside Out”

**TRENTON, NJ, May 9, 2019** — New Jersey State Parole Board Member and New Jersey Chapter President of the American Correctional Association (NJACA) Robert Riccardella served as the moderator of “Reentry from the Inside Out,” a one-day conference held at Mercer County College that provided attendees with the opportunity to explore the topic of integrated correctional prison reentry.

More than 120 participants involved in the areas of reentry and corrections, including New Jersey State Parole Board and Department of Corrections staff, Administrative Office of the Courts (Probation) representatives, employees from the Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the Juvenile Justice Commission, as well as other community-based service providers, criminal justice professionals, academics, and ex-offenders, shared reentry best practices, discussed medication-assisted treatment, education, and literacy programming, employment readiness training techniques, and discharge planning for offenders about to reenter society.



President Riccardella said, “Corrections has experienced a true transformation over the past several decades. Prisons are no longer considered warehouses with little personal interactions limited to a simple turn of a key. Rehabilitation has become the main focus and the State Parole Board and NJACA are proud of the critical reentry work being done in New Jersey that often goes unnoticed.”

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New Jersey State Parole Board Chairman Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr. was one of several speakers who opened the event that which was aimed at building and strengthening relationships between criminal justice agencies and community-based providers.

“Reentry is not something that can be done in a vacuum— it requires collaboration with a whole host of partners,” said Chairman Plumeri. “Successful reentry involves the families and communities to which the offenders return, faith-based organizations, non-profit organizations, local, county, state, and federal criminal justice agencies, medical professionals, drug counselors and clinicians, and of course the entities that the New Jersey State Parole Board works so very close with, the New Jersey Department of Corrections and the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission.”

President Riccardella further touted New Jersey’s low recidivism rate (31% compared to the national average of 67.8%). He continued, “We must acknowledge the highly-trained, dedicated reentry professionals in this state who work tirelessly to support the offenders who remain within their care and custody. Additionally, we need to recognize the judicious parole release decisions made by the members of the parole board, the dedication on behalf of our professional parole officers and civilian staff, and the innovative practices put into motion by the State Parole Board’s Community Programs Division.”

Other speakers and presenters who attended the conference were Department of Corrections Chief of Staff Suzanne Lawrence, Director of Juvenile Parole and Transitional Services Edwin Lee for the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission, and Mercer County Community College President Dr. Jianpang Wang.

The New Jersey State Parole Board (SPB) is committed to promoting public safety, utilizing effective methods to aid supervised offenders in reentering society, and to reduce the recidivism of offenders while addressing the needs of crime victims. As required by law, appointed parole board members and staff conduct approximately 13,500 hearings per year, solicit input from victims, and decide upon parole matters. Nearly 400 sworn SPB parole officers supervise more than 15,500 offenders and act as New Jersey’s primary law enforcement agency responsible for sex offender supervision. Additionally, SPB officers are also active partners with a variety of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and task forces. Finally, the SPB’s Community Programs Unit partners with government, non-profit, and private agencies to connect former inmates with vocational, mental health, and related services.

**Photo Caption:**

***New Jersey State Parole Board Associate Member and New Jersey Chapter President of the American Correctional Association (NJACA) Robert Riccardella provides opening remarks at the “Reentry from the Inside Out” association conference.***

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