



Chris Christie, Governor

James T. Plousis, Chairman

# NEW JERSEY STATE PAROLE BOARD

Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr., Vice Chairman

## 2011 Annual Report





## **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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CHRIS CHRISTIE  
GOVERNOR

KIM GUADAGNO  
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES T. PLOUSIS  
CHAIRMAN

SAMUEL J. PLUMERI, JR.  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

April 2012

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

I am proud to submit to you the New Jersey State Parole Board's (SPB) FY 2011 Annual Report. With safety of the public at the forefront of our decision making process, we have made significant progress in reshaping the Board's operations and structure to meet the changing needs of the state. The SPB achieved many significant milestones during the past year. From the implementation of the Veteran Offender Reentry Initiative and the Parolee Volunteer Initiative to the Parolee Employment Placement Program, the Board has worked to establish New Jersey as a leader among state paroling authorities.

Our FY 2011 Annual Report reflects the hard work demonstrated by each of the Board's Associate Members, managers, sworn officers and civilian staff, to facilitate these changes, and continue to perform their duties with the highest level of professionalism and dedication.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James T. Plousis".

James T. Plousis, Chairman

***The 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 Marengo

Robert Riccardella

Norman Robertson

Yolette C. Ross

***Alternate Board Members:***

Hope L. Cooper

Oscar Doyle

Laurie Fuchs

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.

## Division of Release

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

### STATE INMATE PAROLE STATISTICS

<b>Initial Hearing</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>
Scheduled	12,637	11,128
Conducted	10,662	9,658
Parole Recommended	571	331
Deferred	153	139
Referred to Panel	9,938	9,188

<b>Two- Member Panels</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>
Scheduled	10,835	10,024
Decided	10,083	9,355
Deferred	43	59
Parole Denied	5,144	5,255
Parole Granted	4,939	4,100

<b>Three-Member Panels</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>
Decided	62	27
Parole Denied	62	27
Parole Granted	0	0

<b>Full Board Panels</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>
Decided	7	7
Parole Denied	4	6
Parole Granted	3	1

<b>Administrative Reviews</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>
Reviewed	524	276
Parole Denied	57	75
Parole Granted	466	197
Other	1	4

	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>
<b>Total State Inmates Paroled</b>	5,408	4,298

## COUNTY INMATE PAROLE STATISTICS

<b>Initial Hearings</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>
Scheduled	36	48
Conducted	36	48
Parole Recommended	35	46
Deferred	0	0
Referred to the Panel	1	2

<b>Panel Hearings</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>
Scheduled	3,680	3,715
Decided	2,593	2,711
Deferred	4	18
Parole Denied	749	998
Parole Granted	1,844	1,695
Not Feasible	1,087	1,004

<b>Administrative Reviews</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>
Reviewed	35	46
Parole Denied	0	0
Parole Granted	35	46

	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>
<b>Total County Inmates Paroled</b>	1,879	1,741

The Division of Release, operating out of Central Office, has offices in each state correctional facility. The primary duty of the Division of Release is to evaluate and assess each of New Jersey's adult incarcerated offenders and determine their eligibility and appropriateness for parole release. The Division of Release prepares each case for parole consideration by the members of the State Parole Board. The staff is responsible for gathering and summarizing professional reports concerning an inmate's criminal history, including the current offense, an inmate's social, physical, educational and psychological progress to date, and an objective social and psychological risk and needs assessment.

### Revocation Unit

The Revocation Unit is responsible for conducting probable cause and final parole revocation hearings to determine if a parolee has violated the terms and conditions of his or her parole. The Revocation Unit hearing officers make formal recommendations to members of the State Parole

Board concerning parole violations. These recommendations include whether or not a parolee's parole status shall be revoked and whether to return the offender to prison or if the terms and conditions of parole should be modified in some fashion.

<b>Revocation Unit Statistics Adults and Young Adults</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>
Revocation Decisions	2,325	2,402
Continued on Parole	493	506
Revoked Term	770	801
Revoked Re-Paroled	3	0
Revoked Serving MAX	953	988
Revoked Serving MSV	106	110
Revoked Other	3	3

### **Appeals Unit**

The SPB's administrative code provides for an appeal process by which an inmate or a parolee may appeal any action of any Board Member, hearing officer, unit, or division of the SPB. The Appeals Unit processes administrative appeals and insures that the appeal submitted by an inmate or parolee is presented to and reviewed by the Board Panel or the appropriate decision-making body. In fiscal Year 2011 the Appeals Unit processed **1,178** full Board appeal cases and processed **395** additional appeal-related matters.

### **Legal Support Unit**

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

<b>FY 2011 Legal Support Unit</b>	
<b>Types of Cases Processed</b>	<b>Number Processed</b>
Community Supervision for Life	252
Electronic Monitoring	224
Curfews	117

## **Division of Parole**

The community supervision of parolees is the responsibility of the SPB law enforcement staff reporting to the Division of Parole. This Division of Parole is one of New Jersey's largest police agencies with 363 sworn parole officers staffing 18 operational units statewide; of which (10) are District Parole Offices (DPO). The Electronic Monitoring Unit (EMU), the Office of Interstate Services (OIS), the Fugitive Unit, the Special Operations Unit, the Training Unit, the Investigative Management Office (IMO), 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, 4 Captains (Supervising Parole Officers-SPO), 11 Lieutenants (District Parole Supervisors-DPS) and 36 Sergeants (Assistant District Parole Supervisors –ADPS). 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. In FY 2011, the Division of Parole was assigned 4,272 parolees bringing the total to 15,685 parolees under supervision this year. These parolees included:

- Individuals released at the discretion of the State Parole Board Panel;
- Violent offenders released to a period of mandatory supervision under the No Early Release Act;
- Sex offenders sentenced to lifetime supervision under Megan's Law;
- Court ordered conditional discharge cases from Specialized Treatment Unit; and
- Tier III sex offenders subject to GPS monitoring.

The Investigative Management Office (IMO), a newly created function within the Division of Parole, is responsible for processing all new criminal charges filed by the agency's law enforcement

staff. The processing includes maintaining and forwarding as discovery, the official investigation reports of the SPB in both an electronic file as well as a hard copy (paper) file.

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 and transmittal devices. Lastly, IMO staff act as the coordinator of all SPB fingerprint live scan machines.

<b>Division of Parole Supervision Reports</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>
SOMU and CSL	4,272	5,067
GPS Tracking	225	301
General Supervision	10,975	10,081
Electronic Monitoring	400	236
<b>Total Number Supervised</b>	<b>15,872</b>	<b>15,685</b>

### **Community Programs Division**

The Division of Community Programs provides oversight to the SPB’s contracted community partners who, under existing contract agreements provide residential and non-residential transitional rehabilitative programs to more than 6,100 of the individuals under parole supervision. These programs, including Stages to Enhance Parolee Success (STEPS), Reentry Substance Abuse Program (RESAP), Community Resource Centers (CRC), the Mutual Agreement Program (MAP) and a number of programs for specialized populations designed to: promote public safety, ensure successful and sustainable reintegration of parolees, and reduce recidivism.

<b>FY 2011- Offenders Released to Programs</b>		
<b>Contracted Community Program</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>
Mutual Agreement Programs (MAP)	82	153
Stages to Enhance Parolee Success (STEPS)	2,026	1,700
Reentry Substance Abuse Programs (RESAP)	903	889
Regional Assessment Centers (RAC)	537	561
Community Resource Centers (CRC)	3,485	2,797
<b>Total Residential Placements</b>	<b>3,548</b>	<b>3,303</b>

## **Juvenile Unit**

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 a time goal, and informs the juvenile that the Juvenile Panel will monitor and assess the juvenile's overall progress and community suitability during routine follow-up review sessions. Based on these reviews, the 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 MAX, or grant the juvenile a release to parole supervision or Post Incarceration supervision. The Juvenile Unit is also responsible for processing all revocation and rescission hearings for the juvenile offenders.

<b>Juvenile Unit Statistics</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>
Time Goals	535	507
Quarterly Reviews	1,807	1,739
Annual Reviews	219	206
Continued Confinement	1,677	1,702
MAX	283	212
Deferred	31	31
PDS	281	267
Referred to Adult Panel	4	0
Parole Approved	256	265

### **FY 2011 Programs and Initiatives**

The SPB, over the past few years, has invested a considerable amount of man power hours and other resources to support and improve its reentry processes. A large amount of time has been directed at developing and maintaining community relationships. The SPB has formed strong and lasting partnerships with local government agencies, foundations, corporations, labor unions, non-profit organizations, faith-based entities, community groups and individual volunteers and mentors. During FY 2011, the SPB developed and implemented a number of new partnerships with both state

and federal agencies and organizations to enhance New Jersey's offender reentry effort. These partnerships have proven effective in helping ex-offenders succeed during the transition from prison to the community.

### **Parolee Employment Placement Program**

In early May the SPB and the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJLWD) partnered to identify resources to maximize the potential of parolees and support a successful transition to the work force. The partnership introduced the Parolee Employment Placement Program (PEPP) in an effort to reduce recidivism and improve the level of employment services to parolees. Based upon the recent successes with similar models utilized throughout the country, it is expected that this pilot project will both reduce recidivism and increase an offender's likelihood of obtaining and retaining employment. Through a competitive Notice of Grant Opportunity within the NJLWD, three organizations were awarded performance-based grants to implement the initiative. The organizations are: Blessed Ministries, serving the Northern Region, Shiloh Community Development Center serving the Central Region and Mid-Atlantic States Career and Education Center serving parolees returning to the Southern Region.

### **Parolee Volunteer Initiative**

In FY 2011, SPB Chairman James Plousis created the Parolee Volunteer Initiative (PVI) in an effort to provide parolees an opportunity to give back to the community in which they resided while at the same time improving their skills in order to obtain gainful employment. Returning parolees are able to volunteer at non-profit service organizations serving the communities in which they reside. Upon confirmation of volunteer activities, parolees are presented with certificates detailing the volunteer activities and location(s), which serves to document their record of volunteer service and may assist them to obtain gainful employment.

### **Veteran Offender Reentry Initiative**

In recognition of the growing segment of the inmate/parolee population that have served in the U.S. Military Services prior to their entry into the criminal justice system, Chairman Plousis, very proudly launched the Veterans Offender Reentry Initiative (VORI), as an innovative practice in

offender reentry. Acknowledging that veterans who serve our country are often eligible for services and entitlements once they are discharged, the SPB partnered with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the local Veteran Services Offices, and the American Legion of NJ, in order to develop the most effective means for assisting veteran offenders to apply for services from their local federally funded programs; thereby reducing the cost that the state would otherwise absorb. The SPB organized and facilitated a number of community meetings, followed by training sessions throughout the state. These efforts brought both civilian and law enforcement staff from partnering agencies and organizations together to implement the initiative. The intent of the training was to ensure that veteran offenders will be referred to and provided services through the federally funded programs and no longer consumes services funded by the tax payers of New Jersey.

To ensure the success of the initiative, the SPB created a pilot project in Ocean County in partnership with the local American Legion. The project was designed to encourage members from the local American Legion to act as mentors to the veteran offenders under parole supervision.

The SPB has also hosted two regional law enforcement conferences, presented the Veteran Offender Reentry Initiative at two national conferences and published related articles in several periodicals/journals.

### **NJSPB Student Internship Program**

In FY 2011, the SPB renewed its relationships with colleges and universities throughout the State by introducing the newly revised Student Internship Program (SIP). The SIP is designed to offer skills building through practical “on-the-job” experience. Internships with the SPB allow students to apply academic theory into workplace practice, have an outcome-based experience that prepares them for jobs in the criminal justice system and related fields as well as offers them a platform for networking and building professional relationships. The interns are supervised by experienced staff and observe or assist in daily operation activities.

The SPB benefits from the interns as they add to the workforce, assist in the completion of work tasks, and thereby increase the agency's productivity. The students bring new technology and ideas from the classroom; provide staff the opportunity to train potential employees; add diversity in the agency's workforce; are cost-effective; and provide the agency with the opportunity to assist them in developing a “tool box” of skills that will benefit them in the future if they seek careers in the criminal justice system.

The internship program has proven to be a valuable resource for both the students and the agency. A description of the SIP can be found on the NJSPB Website located <http://www.state.nj.us/parole/recruitment.html> along with the application packet, that can be downloaded and scanned to the SIP Coordinator. In FY 2011, over **40** students from the state colleges and universities applied for internships and more than **30** underwent criminal background investigations, fingerprinting and the review process. The SPB approved **25** student interns and made assignments to the district offices, secure institutions, community programs, and central office.

### **Looking Forward**

Looking forward to FY 2012, the SPB remains committed to promoting public safety and improving the quality of programs and services that help foster change and aid in the rehabilitation of offenders. The SPB seeks to implement evidence-based and emerging practices and strategies to advance sex offender management by supporting leadership training, organizational changes, strategic planning, and collaboration with partnering agencies that offer key programming and service in the community.

The SPB will seek to identify effective programs and strategies to address the special needs populations including: veteran offenders, female offenders, offenders with co-existing disorders, and juvenile offenders. To ensure that sufficient resources are available to support effective programming and meet the needs of even the most difficult individuals and manage high risk parolees, the agency will focus on developing a more effective grant writing team to improve its ability to respond to grant solicitations and competitively compete for federal funding.

# NOTES

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