

Discussion Points

PAROLE

1. The Governor's Task Force on Recidivism Reduction was established under Executive Order number 83 on November 28, 2011.

- **Question: What is the status of the task force's activities and deliberations?**

The task force brought together representatives from several different departments and agencies including the Department of Corrections, the State Parole Board, the Juvenile Justice Commission, the Department of Labor, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs as well as several others in an effort to review the correctional system and identify areas for improvement. As a result of the interaction with the various agencies, the task force members were able to recommend system changes within task force member agencies. To date, several initiatives have been implemented. In addition, the Department of Corrections, State Police, Office of Information Technology and State Parole Board are developing data mart benchmarking.

2. The State Parole Board, in conjunction with the Department of Corrections and other law enforcement agencies in the State have embarked upon a new program, the Released Veteran Offenders Project. Under the program, participating agencies would identify all veteran offenders within the criminal justice system in the State; verify their discharge status, and provide these veterans with access to community based services and benefits to which veterans are entitled.

- **Question: What is the status of the Parole Board's Veterans' Initiative? What agencies have participated with the Parole Board in this project? What are the results of this program to date?**

The SPB Veterans Initiative, begun in May of 2011, continues to serve veterans who come into contact with the criminal justice system. The Veterans Initiative has focused on veteran service areas such as employment (Hiring our Heroes), housing (Housing our Heroes), and health services. The Veterans Initiative also coordinated veteran offender specific training for law enforcement agencies in the northern and southern regions of the state.

The participating agencies, in partnership with the Criminal Justice Veterans Initiative, include:

The United States Attorneys Office
The American Legion

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Chiefs of Police Association
Sheriffs Association
Wardens Association
New Jersey Office of the Attorney General
Department of Corrections
Department of Labor
Federal Correctional Center–Fairton
Federal Correctional Center-Fort Dix
NJ Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve
University of Medicine/University Behavioral Health Care
US Veterans Administration
Catholic Charities
Community Hope
We Soldier On, Inc.
Jewish Family Services
Discovery House
Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services
VetWorks, Ocean County
Veterans Haven (North)
Veterans Haven (South)
Home for the Brave

More than 150 veteran offenders have been served by the Veterans Initiative by way of the Veteran Offender Reentry Hotline for any veteran involved in the criminal justice system. Veteran offenders were also assisted by direct Veterans Initiative referrals from State Parole Board Panel members and Parole Officers presently supervising veterans under parole supervision.

The veteran offender requests for Veterans Initiative assistance have centered primarily on emergency and transitional housing, employment, mental health services, veterans administration service connection, legal assistance, and information on resource availability for veteran services.

As a result of the Veterans Initiative, there are now veteran offenders residing in federally funded veterans housing programs that would have previously utilized existing state housing resources. The estimate for federal funds brought into NJ for federal funded veterans housing, as of March 31, 2013, is \$30,000. The estimate does not include the savings in NJ tax dollars from the utilization of the federal resources in NJ.

3. Budget language would allow for the transfer of up to \$3 million from the Community Resource Center Program account to the Department of Labor and Workforce

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

Development, Employment and Training Services Program for parolee employment services from contracted providers (Budget Page D-77). The FY 2014 recommendation for this account totals \$11.581 million, the same amount as the FY 2013 adjusted appropriation.

- **Question: What is the status of this program? What impact has this program had on the re-entry efforts of parolees? How will this transfer affect the operation of the community resource centers?**

The Parolee Employment Placement Program (PEPP) has been successful. The three PEPP grantees represent the three New Jersey regions: Northern - Blessed Ministries, Inc.; Central - Shiloh Community Development Corporation; and Southern - Mid-Atlantic States Career Education Center.

The field implementation, represented by the performance measures described below, is on target. Two of the grantees have exceeded their benchmarks and have received approval from the State Parole Board to extend the end date and increase the budget on their contracts in order to serve additional parolees. One of the grantees is close to reaching the targets in all categories and has received approval to extend the end date on its contract.

The most recent reports from the grantees were submitted on March 15, 2013 and cover activities up to February 28, 2013.

Performance measures/benchmarks for PEPP grantees through 2/28/2013

Grantee	Benchmark 1	Benchmark 2	Benchmark 3	Benchmark 4	Benchmark 5	Expended to date
	Assessment/job coaching/case management (minimum 60)	Placement and 30-day retention (minimum 36)	60-day retention (minimum 29)	90-day retention (minimum 20)	No new arrests within 6 months (54 participants)	
Blessed Ministries, Inc.	60	60	60	54	56	\$242,800 (97%)
Shiloh CDC	59	26	24	23	50	\$137,700 (50%)
Mid-Atlantic SCEC	264	88	67	58	71	\$238,528 (95%)

4. Proposed budget language would allow for the transfer of up to \$3 million from the Parole Board's Grants-in-Aid accounts to other State departments or agencies as directed by

Discussion Points (Cont'd)

the Chairman of the State Parole Board to provide services to parolees as requested by the Governor's Task Force on Recidivism Reduction (Budget Page D-77). The FY 2014 recommendation for these accounts totals \$36.082 million, the same amount as the FY 2013 adjusted appropriation.

- **Question: What is the status of this program? What services have been provided to parolees in accordance with these recommendations during FY 2013? What services does the Parole Board anticipate will be provided during FY 2014? How will this transfer affect the programs from which this funding has originated?**

In FY 13, the budget language has been utilized to facilitate a transfer from the State Parole Board (SPB) to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) in the amount of \$450,000 in support of parolee housing. DCA is able to contract for housing at a rate of \$28 per day, significantly less than the \$50 per day SPB was paying for similar housing resources.

In FY 14, SPB plans to transfer \$450,000 to DCA for the same purpose. In addition to the DCA transfer, SPB is currently working with the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services within the Department of Human Services to develop a mental health initiative for parolees that is expected to be parallel in structure to the Mutual Agreement Program (MAP).

There is minimal impact to the programs from which this funding was originated.