



State of New Jersey
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**Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr., Acting Chairman
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The New Jersey State Parole Board is committed to promoting public safety and fostering the successful rehabilitation of offenders by implementing policies that result in effective parole case management for the 15,535 offenders, including 6,800 sex offenders, under supervision. Utilizing responsible parole release decisions and effective field supervision techniques, the New Jersey State Parole Board has been nationally recognized for producing successful and sustainable reintegration of offenders into society and helping to reduce the prison population. Through the utilization of evidence-based practices and proactive leadership, the State Parole Board continues to seek improvement in the lives of our offenders, their families, and their communities. These accomplishments would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of the men and women of this agency who perform their duties and responsibilities efficiently and effectively. In addition to the personnel of the State Parole Board, partnerships continue with numerous local, state and federal law enforcement, as well as other government agencies and community and faith-based organizations.

For several years, New Jersey has been recognized by The Sentencing Project, Pew Research Center, Brennan Center for Justice and the Justice Center of the Council of State Governments as a nationwide leader in the consistent reduction of our state prison population, significant reductions in parole revocations that would have resulted in re-incarceration, all while uniform crime rates continued to decline. In fact, using calendar year 2000 as a baseline, a reduction of 28,210 parole revocations has been achieved. These efforts have resulted in safer communities and productive, law-abiding and tax-paying ex-offenders that have contributed to the communities to which they have returned.

The State Parole Board firmly believes that we best achieve our public safety mission through effecting change in the lives of those being supervised rather than through the revocation of parole. This vision is reflected in the revocation statistics previously mentioned as well as through the successes of numerous individuals under supervision. For example, five individuals under supervision have been admitted to the Honors Living Learning College at Rutgers Newark. This includes a full academic and residential scholarship.

In May of 2013 the State Parole Board Division of Parole received its initial accreditation as a law enforcement agency through the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police. The agency achieved its first reaccreditation in March of 2017. This law enforcement accreditation

recognizes compliance with 105 “best practice” standards and results in greater accountability within the agency, reduced risk and liability exposure, stronger defense against civil lawsuits, increased community advocacy, and more confidence in the agency’s ability to operate efficiently and respond to community needs.

The State Parole Board’s Division of Parole and OIT continue to provide real-time parole supervision case management data through the Supervised Release File to the FBI’s National Crime Information Center. This dynamic response system provides intelligence sharing between the Division of Parole and all partnering law enforcement agencies throughout the nation. This collaboration has received several national awards and enhances officer safety. The Division of Parole is a full-time partner in multiple federal and state joint law enforcement projects such as: the Office of the Attorney General Violence Reduction Initiatives (VRI), Violent Enterprise Source Targeting (VEST), Regional Operations Intelligence Center (ROIC), USMS Fugitive Task Force, USMS Gang Task Force, FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC), TOP GUN, FBI National Academy, and other endeavors.

The State Parole Board’s Veteran Offender Reentry Initiative has increased the level of collaboration with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA) to assist veteran offenders who have served our country with dignity but have had difficulty in adjusting to civilian life resulting in an encounter with the criminal justice system. We work closely with DMAVA, the United States Veterans Administration and various program providers throughout the State to assist veteran offenders access housing, programs and services to which they are entitled. We continue to refer veteran offenders to DMAVA’s Veterans Haven North and Veterans Haven South programs in addition to other housing resources for veteran offenders. Pursuant to legislation enacted in 2017, we have provided ongoing support to the Office of the Attorney General in identifying statewide resources for veterans during the administration of Veterans Diversion Programs in all 21 county prosecutor’s offices. We have continued our long-standing partnership with the Gloucester County Prosecutor’s Office to assist with the administration of their Veterans Diversion Program, which assists eligible, recently arrested veterans with access to the appropriate services and treatment programs in a concerted effort to divert them from the criminal justice system and prevent future recidivism.

On September 21, 2017, the State Parole Board was awarded a grant in the amount of \$600,000.00 under the auspices of the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance Swift, Certain and Fair (SCF) Supervision Program. The State Parole Board’s SCF Supervision Program shall provide up to 75 opioid-involved supervised offenders living in Ocean County with appropriate targeted services to divert them from a return to prison. This will be accomplished by managing their underlying addictions with a combination of behavioral therapy, substance abuse treatment, Certified Peer Recovery Specialists and medication assisted treatment. The State Parole Board will work closely with a Program Coordinator employed by the NJ Reentry Corporation to support the successful community reintegration of supervised offenders enrolled in the grant program during their recovery process.

The State Parole Board is working on the third year of a three-year federal grant. The State Parole Board received a grant for \$932,805 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to fund a Second Chance Act (SCA) Demonstration and Implementation program in Union County. The grant award supports the implementation of the Parole Reentry Program in Union County designed to serve medium to high risk parolees returning to the county by providing services to support their reentry. The State Parole Board partnered with Union County Department of Human Services to provide case management and to contract with housing and mental health providers. The State Parole Board's contracted community program provider GEO is working with participants in the program to conduct assessments for placement into vocational and education programs, as well as providing employment services to participants working closely with employers and One Stop Services for employment opportunities. The State Parole Board applied for and received approval for a 6-month extension. The program will end April 1, 2019.

In closing, the State Parole Board will continue to collaborate with partnering law enforcement and state agencies, as well as to maximize technologies in its implementation of evidence-based best practices in the field of community supervision. These innovative efforts further promote public safety and seek to improve the quality of community-based programs to provide every available opportunity for successful offender reintegration.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I welcome any questions at this time.