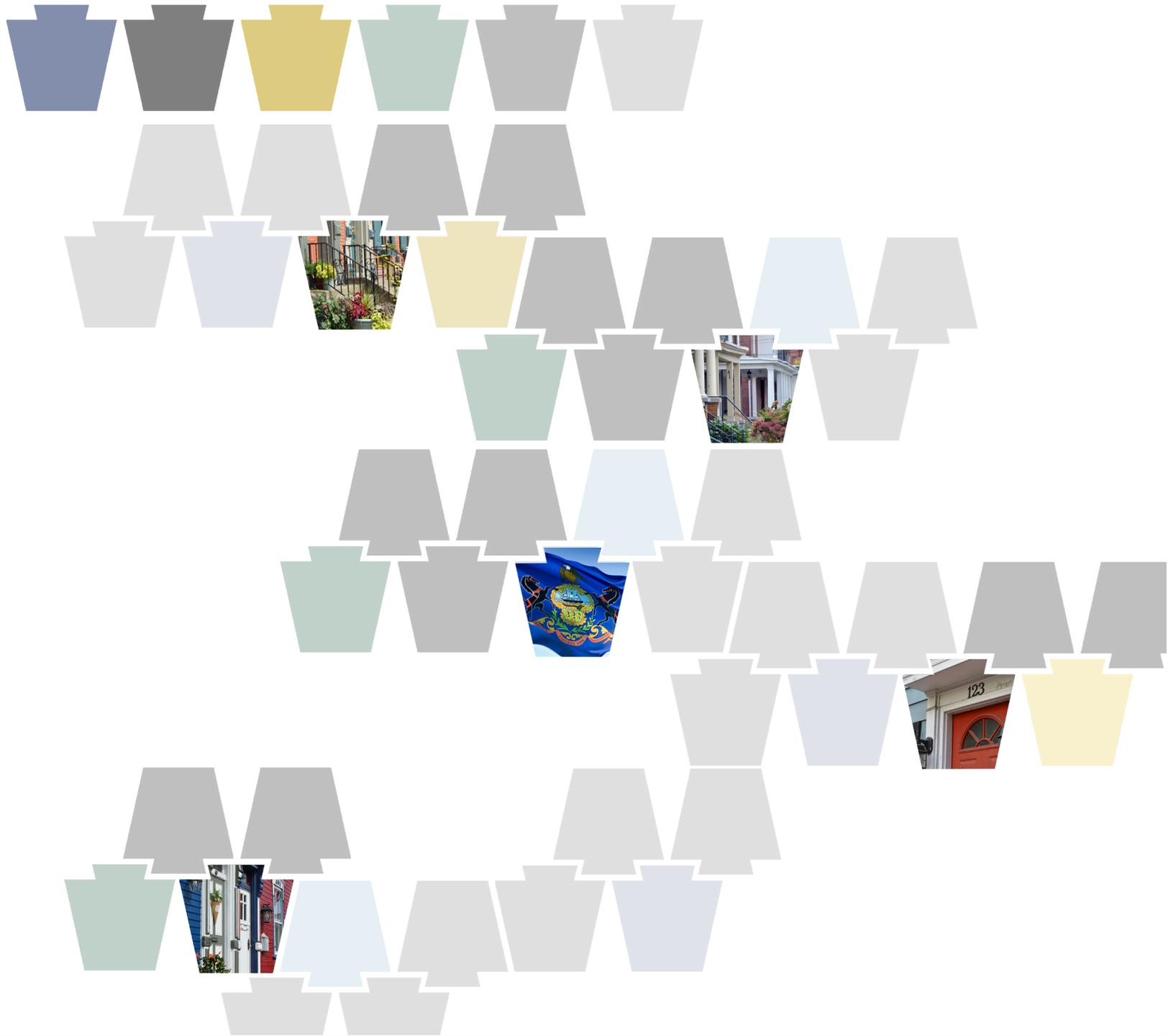


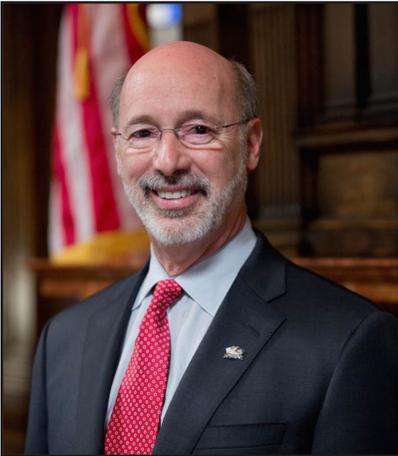
Annual Report 2016



Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole



Letter from the Governor



Dear Fellow Pennsylvanians:

Since taking office in January 2015, it has been my goal to help the Board of Probation and Parole achieve their goals of modernization and to further my administration's promise of bringing government that works to the people of Pennsylvania.

The board has seen great changes over the last two years and has embraced the challenges that have come along with them. Since I took office the board has welcomed five new board members including its current chairman, Leo Dunn. These board members have brought a wide-ranging wealth of experience to the board and have quickly integrated themselves.

Under the leadership of Chairman Dunn, the board has seen tremendous success this year. The OnBase program that is being completed this year as part of the GO-TIME initiative will allow agents to be more efficient and better serve the interests of public safety, all while saving the commonwealth and taxpayers money.

By working collaboratively with other state agencies, the board has ensured that new initiatives and ideas in the field of criminal justice are being looked at and examined for potential benefits. The board has always considered the safety of the public and increasing the efficiency of the relationship between corrections and probation/parole, and their hard work has not gone unnoticed across the commonwealth.

I am sure that in the next year the board will be able to meet any new challenges it faces, and that it will continue to act as an example of government that works.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Wolf". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

TOM WOLF
Governor

Letter from the Chairman



Dear Constituents:

The Board of Probation and Parole has, since I became chair in March 2016, taken enormous strides to advance all aspects of our mission statement. We are ever mindful of our commitment to public safety, and we do not take lightly the duty that we perform for the citizens of this commonwealth.

We have completed our long term goal of integrating OnBase electronic files which allows the board members to more efficiently make paroling decisions, and allows tough cases, such as those involving juvenile lifers, to be evaluated with a minimum of lag. Gone are the days that the board would constantly ship boxes across the state; they have been replaced instead with electronic files that allow for board members to make decisions based on the most up to date information available – and allowing individuals granted parole to begin the process of reentry sooner than ever before.

This year alone we have added over 90 agents to our ranks. This has allowed us to better supervise the individuals that have been paroled. These agents commit their lives monitoring those under supervision, and collaborate with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to investigate and combat crime and work to keep all Pennsylvanian's safe by ensuring that the newly released parolees make successful transitions to productive lives in our communities. Having more agents on the street allows individuals to seek help and treatment when they need it rather than recidivating and risk returning to prison.

The board continues to expand the use of evidence-based approaches to parole supervision, and each month more and more of our staff receives training in the Effective Practices for Community Supervision [EPICS] program. This approach to parole supervision is designed to better incorporate evidence-based practices within the confines of typical individual supervision contact. It will allow our agents to do their jobs better than ever before, and will help to ensure that the Board is fulfilling its mission statement.

We are looking forward to continuing to move the Board of Probation and Parole forward, and to continue to look for new ways to help the citizens of Pennsylvania.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leo L. Dunn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "D".

Leo L. Dunn,
Chairman

Mission Statement

The Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole is committed to promoting public safety, utilizing sound decision making practices that include evidence-based approaches, employing effective methods to aid offenders in reentering society and to reduce recidivism, addressing the needs of crime victims, and improving county adult probation and parole services.

2016 Board Member Retirements



Michael Green
2003 - 2015



Jeffery Imboden
2003 - 2015



John Tuttle
2009 - 2015

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Board Members



Leo L. Dunn
Chairman



Edward Burke
Board Member



Leslie Grey
Board Member



Everett Gillison
Board Member



Theodore Johnson
Board Member



Mark Koch
Board Member



Craig McKay
Board Member

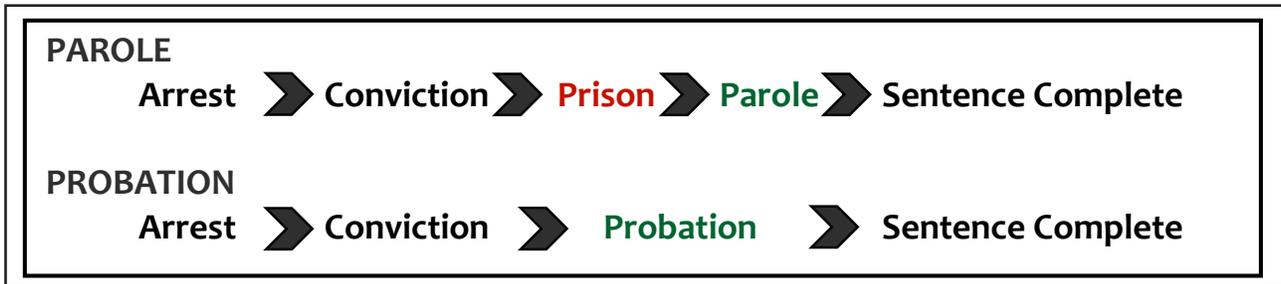


Michael Potteiger
Board Member



Linda Rosenberg
Board Member

Parole 101: How Does Parole Work?



In Pennsylvania, individuals are given a minimum and maximum sentence. This sentence comes from the original conviction of the individual. It is from this original sentence the board paroles the inmate and the parolee serves the remaining time in the community unless recommitted by the board.

An inmate in state prison must serve the entire minimum sentence prior to becoming eligible for parole. The minimum date is NOT an inmate's parole date. Parole is the release of an inmate from prison prior to his or her sentence's maximum date, but after the minimum sentence date, to continue serving the balance of the sentence under supervision in the community. Parole is a conditional release that requires parolees to abide by rules that do not apply to other members of society. In Pennsylvania, parole is a privilege, not a right; it is not automatic or guaranteed.

Pennsylvania has both state and county level parole systems. Which system an individual is in depends on the length of the sentence given when the individual was convicted. If the minimum sentence was 24 months or longer, it is a state sentence. The board makes the decision whether to grant parole and determines the conditions of parole. If the sentence is less than 24 months, it is a county sentence and the sentencing judge makes the decision.



Parole is the release to supervision after a period of incarceration. Probation is a sentence that does not include a period of incarceration; it is served in the community rather than jail. The sentencing judge always makes the decision regarding an individual's probation conditions and violations. However, a judge may request the board supervise certain county individuals with the judge retaining decision making power. These cases are known as "special probation" cases.

Parole is also different from a pardon or a commutation. The governor may grant a pardon or commutation if the Board of Pardons, which is separate from the Board of Probation and Parole, recommends that one be granted.

PBPP IS WORKING FOR YOU

Tell your constituents!

PBPP agents actively supervise citizens on parole every day. Parole supervision is much more than working one-on-one with the parolee. It encompasses coordination and consultation with a parolee’s employer, counselors, and family members. Their job requires them to be: job counselor, behavioral counselor, social worker, and enforcement officer ~ often at the same time. PBPP agents have one of the toughest jobs in criminal justice and one of the most rewarding.

The goal of the PBPP is to bring the agency into compliance with the national guideline of 1 agent per 50 parolees. Taking the initial step toward this goal, the state Civil Service Commission test for parole agent is opening later in 2017. Due to upcoming vacancies, the board is looking to hire 50 new agents in the next 12 months.



The board is reviewing every facet of the agency to increase its productivity and efficiency. One high priority initiative is to increase the number of agents hired on a statewide basis. With the increased hiring, the board is also examining the training program for its agents as well.

The board’s agent training program ~ or Basic Training Academy (BTA) ~ is built around the multiple jobs performed by its agents on a daily basis. Currently BTA is an intensive, eight-week, multi-faceted curriculum. The wide range of instruction topics runs the gamut from recognizing gang symbols and conducting a urinalysis screening to motivational interviewing skills and use of various computer applications.

The board is in the process of overhauling the BTA structure by extending the duration of training. In addition to the increasing the amount of training, the changes would also encompass cross training between the institutional and field agents, plus, the 24 weeks would be divided between class instruction and on-the-job training.



Improving Parole Agent to Parolee ratio from 1:80 in August 2016 to 1:50 by July 2017

In 2016, PBPP hired 153 new parole agents. These new agents will help PBPP achieve its goal of a parole agent to mid-high risk level parolee to 1:50.

Sample of BTA Courses:

- Probation and Parole Code
- PA Sentencing
- Ethics
- Policies and Procedures
- Addiction and Recovery
- Sex Offenders/ Megan’s Law
- Effective Supervision
- EPICS Supervision Skills
- Gangs/Security Threat Groups
- Child Abuse
- Drug Subculture and Opioid Awareness
- Criminal Thinking
- Infectious Diseases
- Domestic Violence
- Defensive Driving
- Defensive Tactics
- Required Board Forms
- Managing a Case
- Evidence Collection
- Children of Incarcerated Parents
- Motivational Interviewing
- Substance Abuse Testing
- Urinalysis Processing
- Electronic Monitoring
- Firearms – Live Fire, Tactical and Night Fire
- Hearing Process
- Interstate Compact
- Radio Operation Training
- Computer Applications

PBPP By the Numbers:

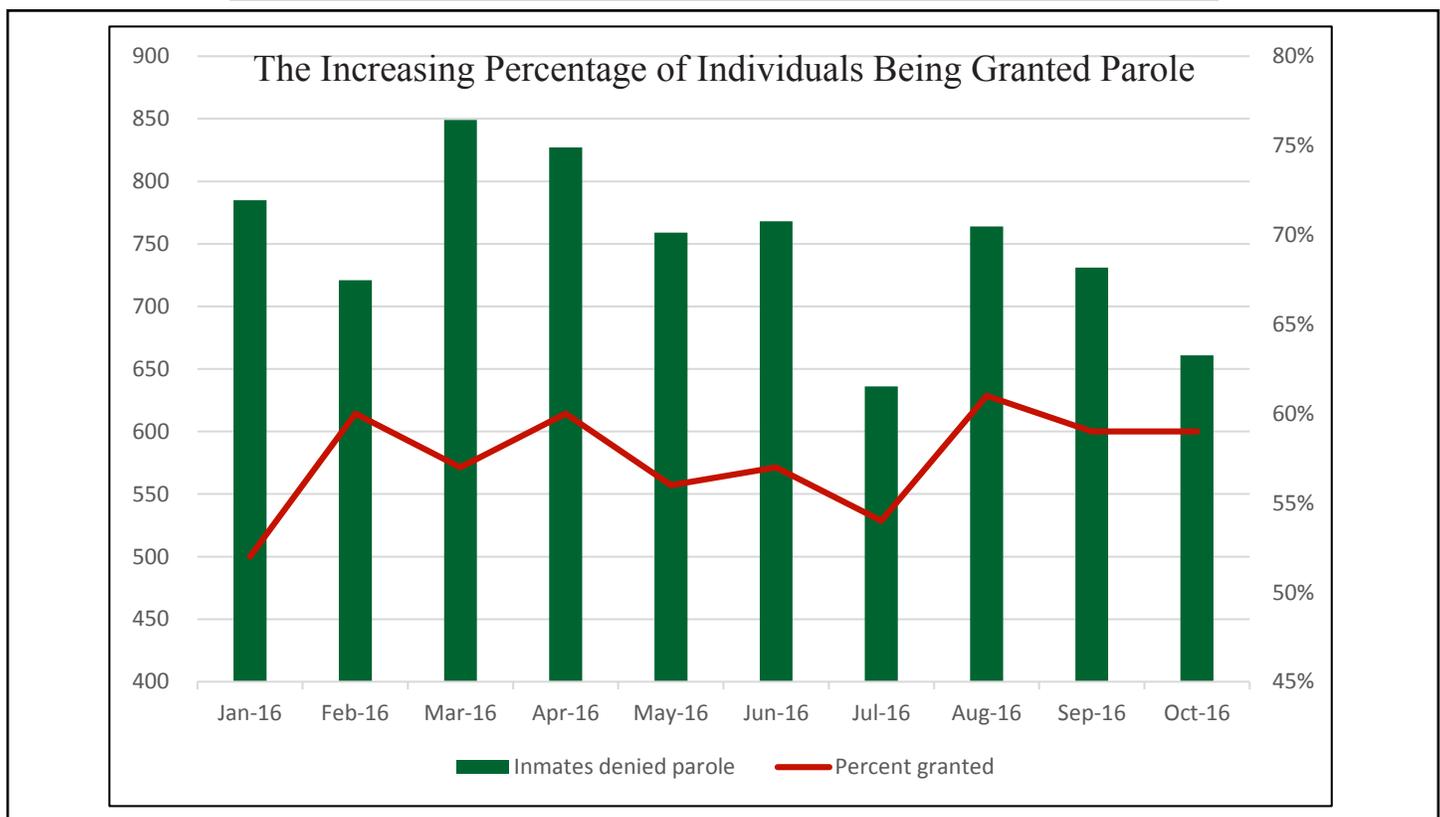
Government that Works

Inherent in the Board of Probation and Parole's mission to protect public safety is its work to reduce the likelihood that an individual will commit another crime. Research has demonstrated that recidivism rates can be reduced by applying evidence-based practices to parole. PBPP defines recidivism as a measure of the percentage of cases that are recommitted to prison by the parole board in a given amount of time after release to supervision. It is typically expressed as a one-year or three-year recidivism rate. Pennsylvania courts impose a sentence. It is the board's responsibility to decide when, between the minimum sentence date and the maximum sentence date, under what circumstances and under what conditions of parole, an individual should be released.

To fulfill this responsibility, the board follows evidence-based decision making practices by using standard criteria and actuarial tools to enhance the board's ability to protect the public. The science of the field of parole has advanced significantly in the past 25 years, which has allowed parole systems to be more effective and to target resources appropriately. The board uses objective, reliable and valid empirical knowledge along with professional judgment to develop policies and practices to make parole decisions, use public resources more efficiently and, ultimately, reduce future crime.

This section details the statistics behind the parole process in Pennsylvania. Overall:

- The percentage of individuals approved for parole at or near their minimum sentence date has increased, thus saving taxpayer dollars
- The one-year recidivism rate is down 25% between 2005 and 2015
- The three-year recidivism rate is down 12.5% from 2005 to 2013
- The technical parole violator (TPV) recommitment rate is down 40% from May to September 2016
- The employment rate of the parole population has increased over the past three years
- Annual parole grant rate from 2015-2016 has remained stable at 58%



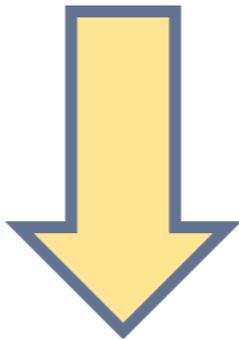
Justice Reinvestment Initiative Phase I

Recognizing Pennsylvania's Board of Probation and Parole's Success

The PBPP is looking at ways to continue its success through implementing a number of Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) Phase I recommendations, including increasing the number of agents in the field, as well as digitizing all of the board's records. Justice reinvestment is a data-driven policy approach to improve public safety, reduce corrections spending and reduce recidivism.

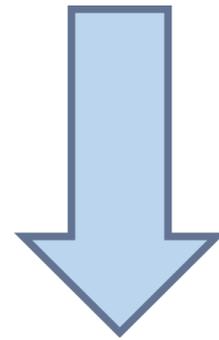
More Parole Supervision = More Savings for the Commonwealth

Parole costs \$3,500 per inmate per year
Prison costs \$41,515 per inmate per year



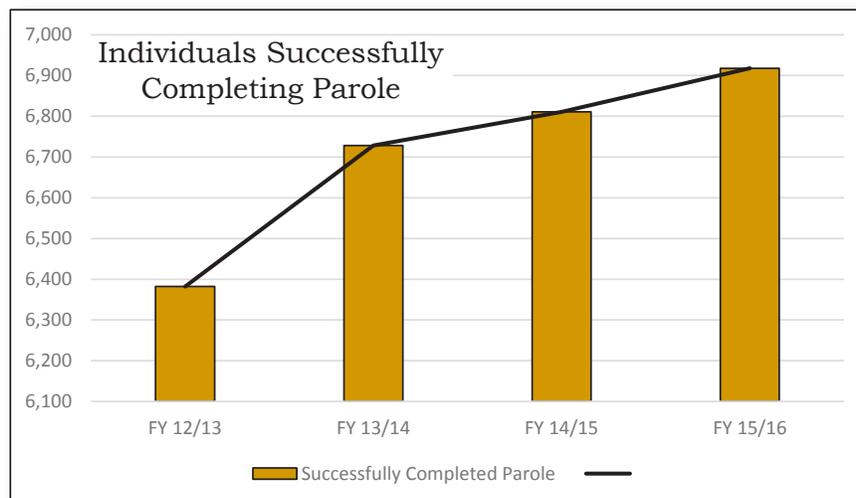
**Three-Year Recidivism Rate
Down 13% 2013 vs. 2005**

**Recidivism is decreasing
while the parole
population is increasing!**



**One-Year Recidivism Rate
Down 25% 2015 vs. 2005**

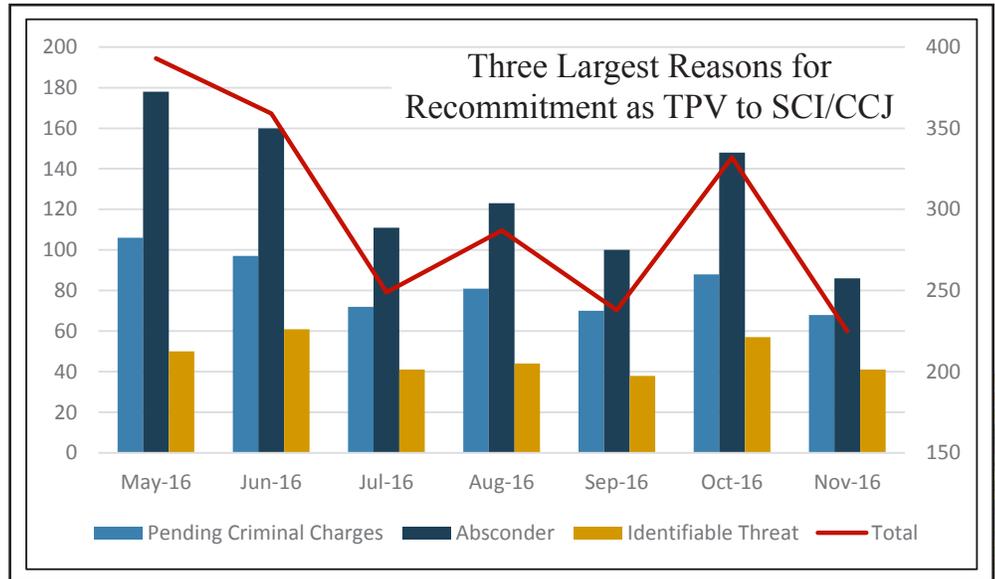
As recommended by JRI, PBPP is supervising greater numbers of individuals thereby providing enhanced rehabilitation, reentry, and reintegration programs. The lower cost of parole supervision is saving the commonwealth millions of dollars and helping to fund essential services throughout the rest of Pennsylvania.



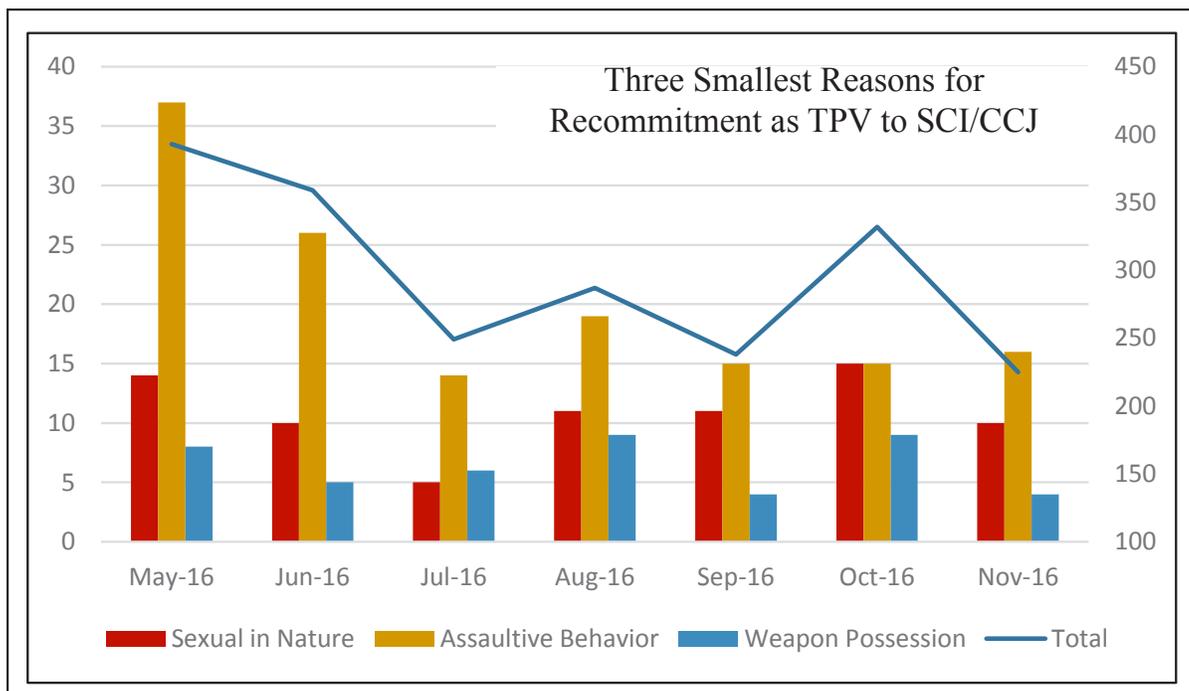
PBPP Continues to Reduce TPVs

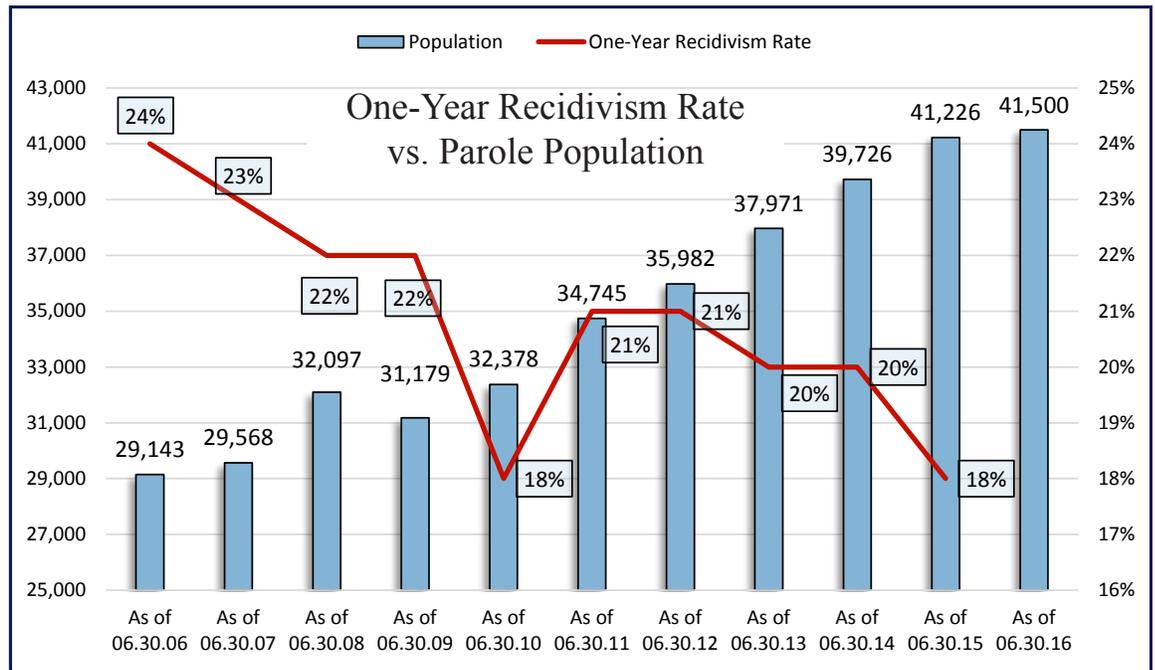
PBPP has invested in data-driven methods and processes that have improved supervision and yielded significant savings for Pennsylvania. Technical parole violators are individuals who violate their terms or conditions of parole but those violations are not misdemeanors or felony crimes. TPVs oftentimes lead to greater rates of recommitments of these violators and thereby, increase the costs of incarceration for the state. One such savings strategy is managing eligible parolees using predictive analytics and state-of-the-art technology. Savings are then targeted to efforts on the front end of the criminal justice system.

**TPV Recidivism is
Down 40%**
From May 2016 to
September 2016

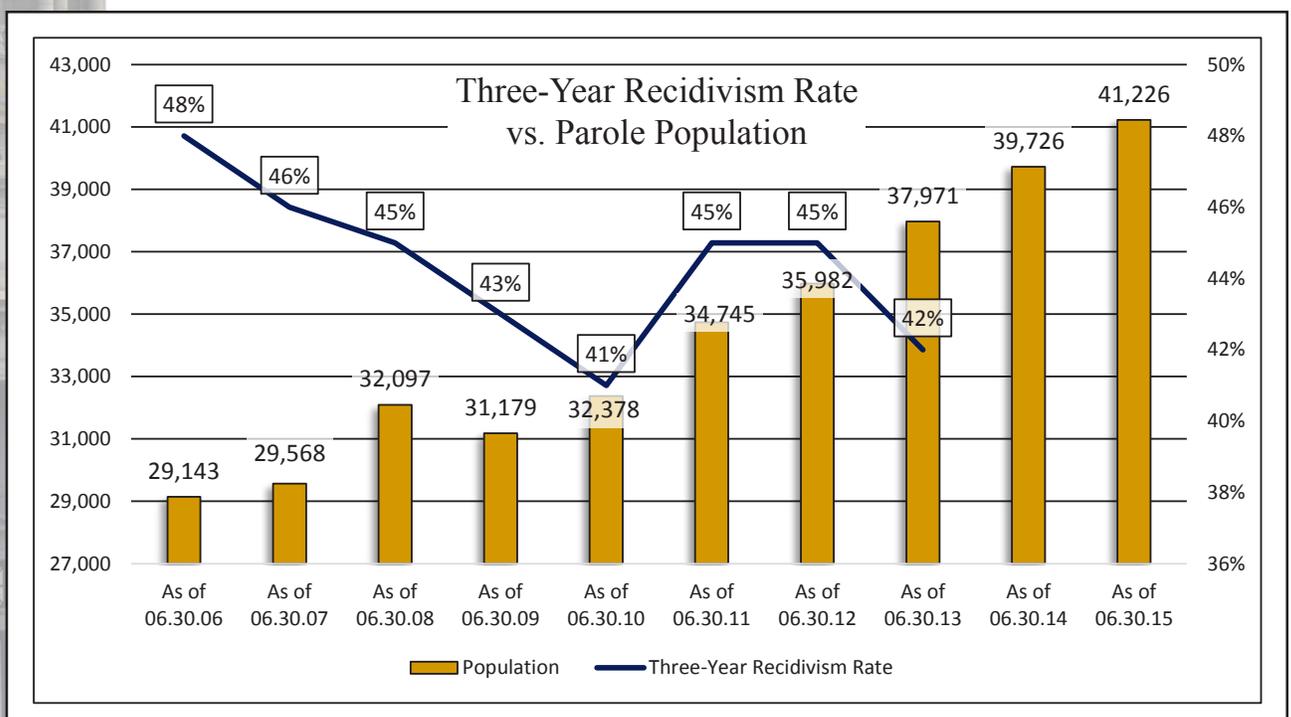


Since the beginning of 2016, PBPP has seen reductions in the five categories for possible technical parole violations (TPVs). For example, the number of TPVs due to acts of a sexual nature have been reduced by more than 50%. Similarly, the number of assaults have been reduced by over 25%.





PBPP's Definition of Recidivism: *a measure of the percentage of cases that are recommitted to prison by the parole board in a given amount of time after release to supervision. Typically expressed as a one-year or three-year recidivism rate.*



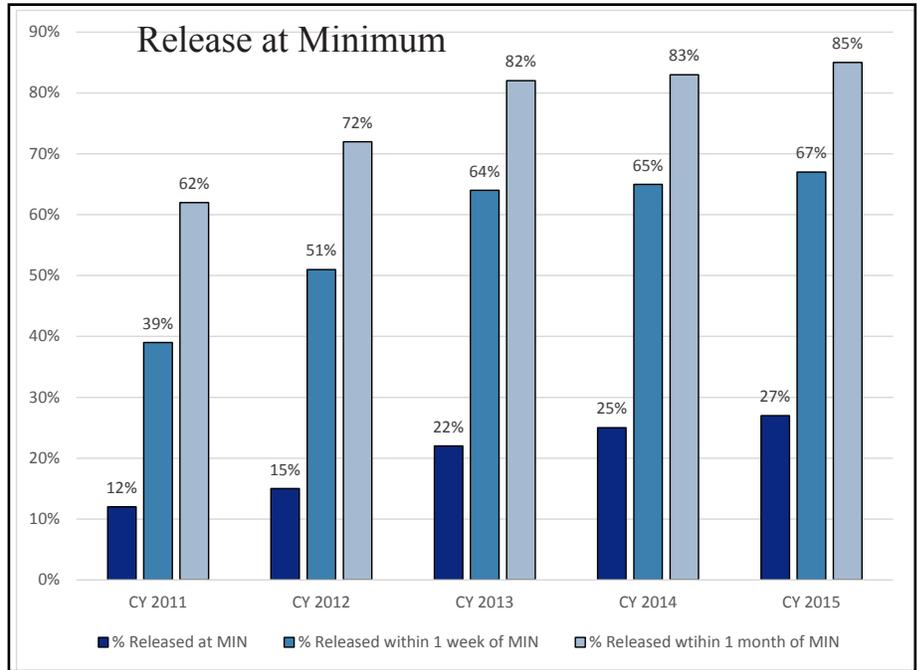
PBPP Continues to Help Reduce the Prison Population

Efficiencies in Processing

Saving taxpayer dollars

The PBPP has significantly increased the percentage of individuals approved for parole at their minimum sentence date (excluding short minimum and late interview cases) who are released at minimum date, within one week and within one month of their minimum date since 2014.

This improvement in release dates has helped reduce recidivism and the cost of incarceration for the state. Digitization and collaboration with other government agencies has helped the board to reach our goal.

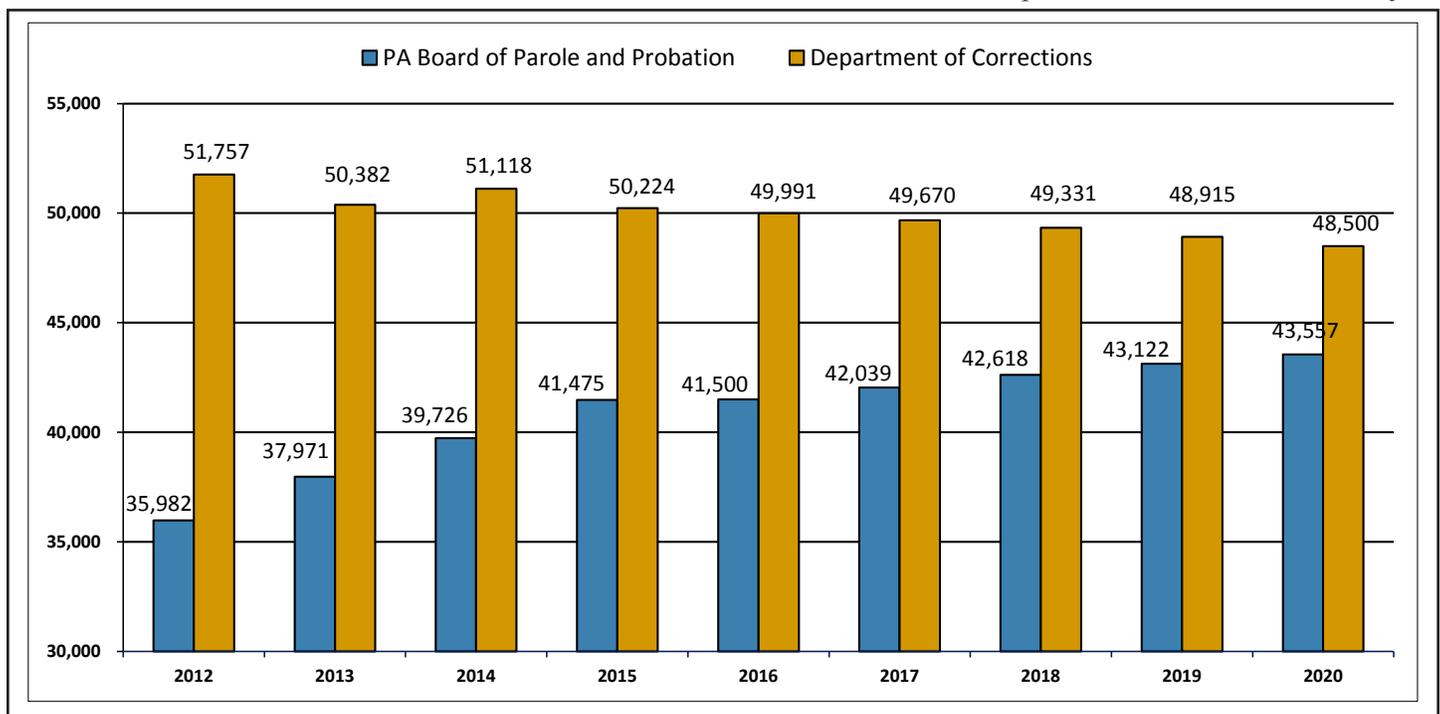


PBPP and DOC Projected Populations

Reducing the prison population

Current projections predict the parole population will increase by 2,057 individuals between June 30, 2016 and June 30, 2020. The increase in parole releases has been a major factor allowing the DOC population to decrease by 1,766 (3.4%) from 51,757 in June 2012 to 49,991 in June 2016. That is a savings of \$73,315,490 that is available for reinvestment for new jobs and development throughout the commonwealth. PBPP success in 2016 has already led to DOC surpassing its FY 2016-17's population reduction target. As of December 2016, DOC's population is down to 48,767 and PBPP's population has reached 41,916. That's a reduction for DOC of over 640 individuals.

*Populations as of June 30 of each year



Success from the Field

CANONSBURG – Joe Cafeo is a success story because of the excellent parole agents that worked hard to help him reintegrate back into the community. This successful former parolee is a proud and responsible father, who has cared for his daughter full-time since she was 2. He provides for all of her needs, as well as her haircare, including her haircuts and styling. It took some time for him to adjust to serving as a single parent. The 34-year-old Canonsburg resident, who works as a drug and alcohol counselor, recently introduced “Daddy Daughter Hair Factory” to pass along styles he’s learned to other fathers who want to give their daughters a hairstyle that will make them proud.

He initially was on state parole for robbery and burglary. He was paroled on 8/13/2009 and he maxed out his state sentence on 01/23/2012 and started his state supervised probation that will end on 01/23/2029. From what his agent and supervisor both say, he is well adjusted on parole since his release in 2009.

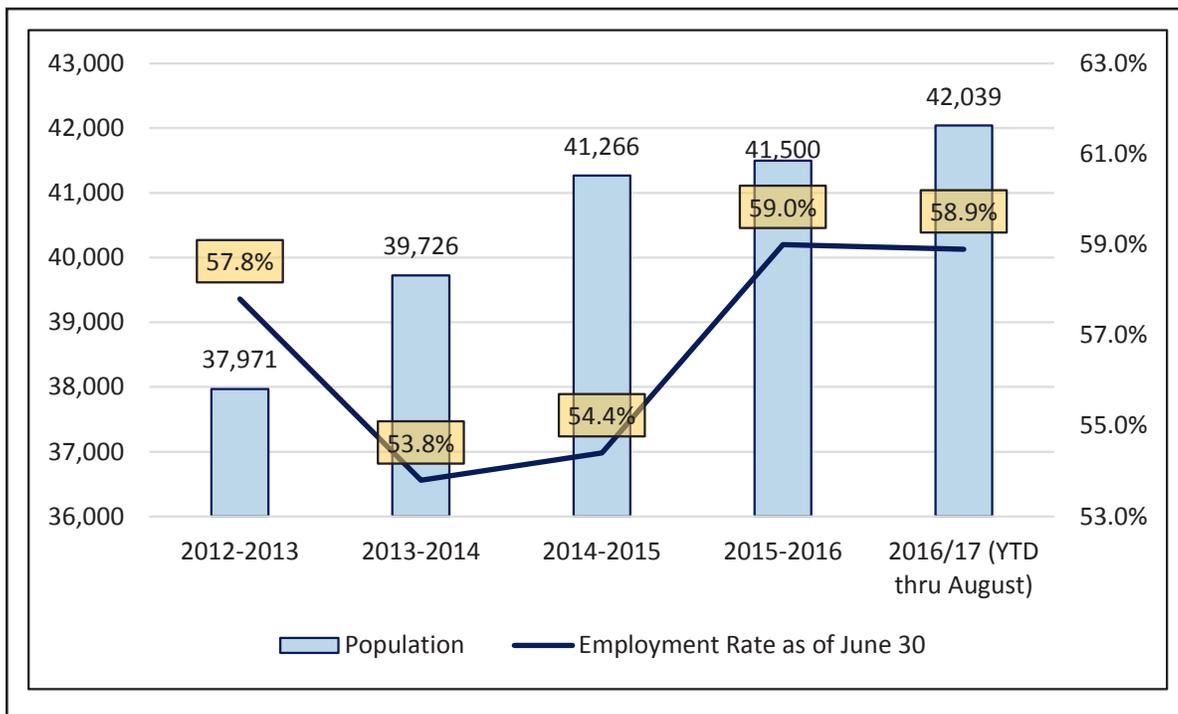
“I’d try to cut my daughter’s bangs, but they’d be crooked,” said the man in explaining his quest to become a dad with a sense of hairstyles. In his search for a way to provide better hair care for Gigi, Cafeo talked with a friend in Florida who had started the original “Daddy Daughter Hair Factory,” then connected with several other dads of daughters he knows, each of whom eventually opened their own shops in different parts of the country, he said.

Thanks to the steadfast and supportive reentry programs that PBPP provides, Mr. Cafeo is now once again a productive and upstanding member of society.

--Michael Bradwell, Washington Observer-Reporter May 7, 2016



PBPP is improving the parolee employment rate as the number of individuals it supervises



Specialized Training and Advanced Programming

“If you always do what you’ve always done, you’ll always get what you’ve always got.”

— Henry Ford

The Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole has taken this concept and made it its own. The board took it upon itself to look at every facet of the parole process from start to finish. Processes have been streamlined. New technology has been incorporated. Supervision methods have been refined. Agency complement has been restructured. Many integral changes have been implemented that not only improve the entire parole process, but at the same time, strives to save tax payer dollars with the applied changes.

The board has a new electronic case management system. The board has become more efficient with case processing. The board has increased its public outreach. The board is moving to a mobile office work environment. And each of these improvements and changes have kept one constant in mind: public safety.

The secrets to the board’s success is a dedicated, innovative and creative staff motivated to rethink what was done in the past and generate positive, forward-thinking improvements for the agency in general and the commonwealth as a whole.

EPICS: Effective Practices In Community Supervision

The purpose of the EPICS model is to teach probation officers, parole officers, and case managers how to apply the principles of effective intervention and core correctional practices to community supervision practices. The core correctional practices (or competencies) are organized into an overall framework to assist with the application of specific skills within the context of face-to-face contact sessions. This overall framework assists with the development and implementation of supervision plans to target the criminogenic needs of higher risk individuals. With the EPICS model, staff follow a structured approach to their interactions with their parolees. Specifically, each contact session includes four components:

- Check-In: the agent determines if the parolee has any crises or acute needs, builds rapport and discusses compliance issues.
- Review: focuses on the skills discussed in the prior session, the application of those skills, and troubleshooting continued problems in the use of those skills.
- Intervention: the agent identifies continued areas of need, trends in problems the parolee’s experiences, teaches relevant skills, and targets problematic thinking.
- Homework and Rehearsal: the parolee is given an opportunity to practice the new skill with a homework assignment and is given instructions to follow before the next visit.

The EPICS model is designed to use a combination of monitoring, referrals, and face-to-face interactions to provide the parolees with a sufficient “dosage” of treatment interventions, and make the best possible use of time to develop a collaborative working relationship. The EPICS model helps translate the risk, needs and responsivity principles into practice. Community supervision officers or case managers are taught to increase dosage to higher risk parolees, stay focused on criminogenic needs, especially the thought-behavior link, and to use a social learning, cognitive behavioral approach to their interactions. The EPICS model is not intended to replace other programming and services, but rather is an attempt to more fully utilize staff as agents of change. The training consists of three days of skill based training with up to 30 community supervision officers or case managers and supervisors.



EPICS is a product of University of Cincinnati

EMPOWER *Enhancing Mobile Parole Office Workspace Efficiency and Responsibility*

The EMPOWER initiative contains several interrelated parts: space efficiency and the reduction of the board's real estate footprint; telecommunications; innovative technology; and, staff mobility and case process changes through the expansion of EPICS (Effective Practices in Community Supervision) as the model for field supervision staff.

The board operates 26 field offices statewide. The traditional field office encompasses square footage for individual work stations, supply storage, meeting rooms, plus, each office also maintains a very large dedicated storage area for the individual paper case files on every individual under its jurisdiction. The board supervises over 40,000 individuals on parole. Put simply: under the prior paper-driven process, case files may range from half an inch thick to several inches. In the past, as the supervised caseload would continue to grow, so would the amount of paper used and the need to store it. The new document imaging system in place, thus reduces the board's annual real estate costs.

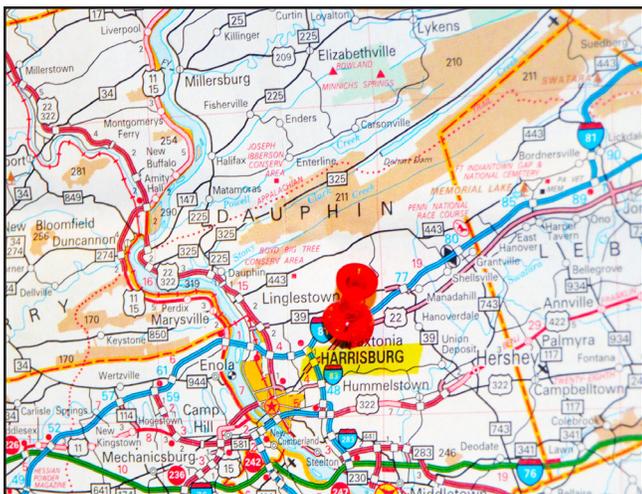
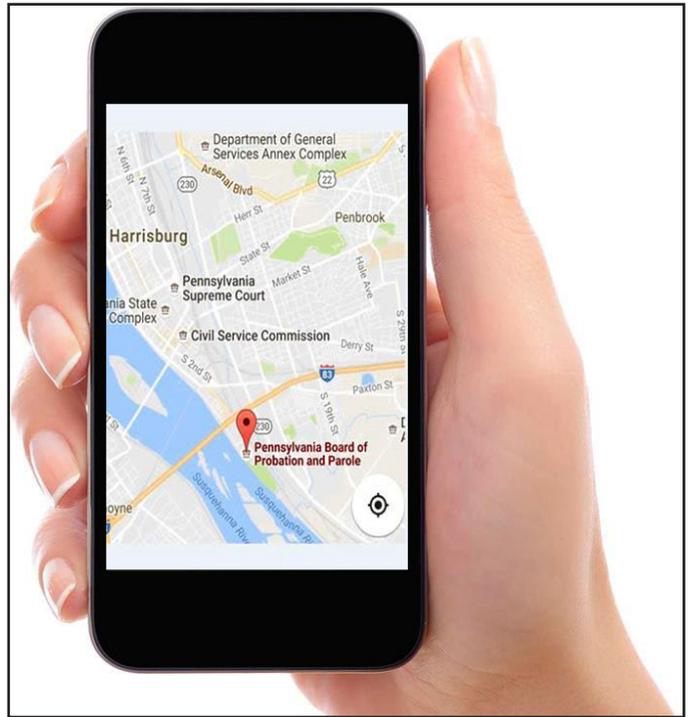
Through EMPOWER, the board is using technology to not only eliminate paper usage/storage, but to allow parole agents greater access to the daily information they need to perform their supervision of parolees at a more efficient level.

Parole agents will be using iPads with a virtual desktop access for every aspect of their supervision needs. This enables the board's parole agents to have their "desk" in their car, input/access all data needed at the time of contact with their parolee caseload, all while remaining in the field instead of being tethered to an office desk.

Several opportunities present themselves to integrate existing and soon to be deployed applications into one common location. One such instance is the impending release of the new case notes application. When integrated, the parole agent may simultaneously record contacts with a parolee or other pertinent information while storing new documentation that is relative to the interaction or could reference historical documentation that is needed to perform his/her job more effectively. This creates an environment where the parole agent may spend their valuable time performing tasks and performing them well instead of navigating between applications to search and compare available information.

The vision for the physical field parole offices will be smaller in actual square footage ~ because of the decreased need for paper file storage and shared workspace areas for the agents ~ thus saving hundreds of thousands of dollars in lease expenditures in the coming years.

EMPOWER's goal is to streamline parole supervision in Pennsylvania. The current process is being scrutinized for any additional modifications to improve the overall process. EMPOWER is one of the primary focus areas for FY16/17.



OnBase and Go-Time

Fully-Deployed September and October 2016

In September 2016, PBPP implemented a document imaging system that will allow current paper files to be migrated to a totally electronic environment. This initiative, known as OnBase, is part of the Governor's Office of Transformation, Innovation, Modernization and Efficiency (GO-TIME), and will save the commonwealth \$1 million in the next four years.

As part of Governor Wolf's goal of creating a government that works in Pennsylvania, the board is working to create a total mobile work environment for employees to improve efficiency, increase productivity, and enhance public safety. All parole cases are now electronic for decision-making purposes. This provides direct access

to every form and document for each case file at any given time ~ without the physical need to mail the case file from one side of the state to the other for the board's decision makers. Additionally, this allows parole officers to remain in the field while accessing electronic documents about their parolees.

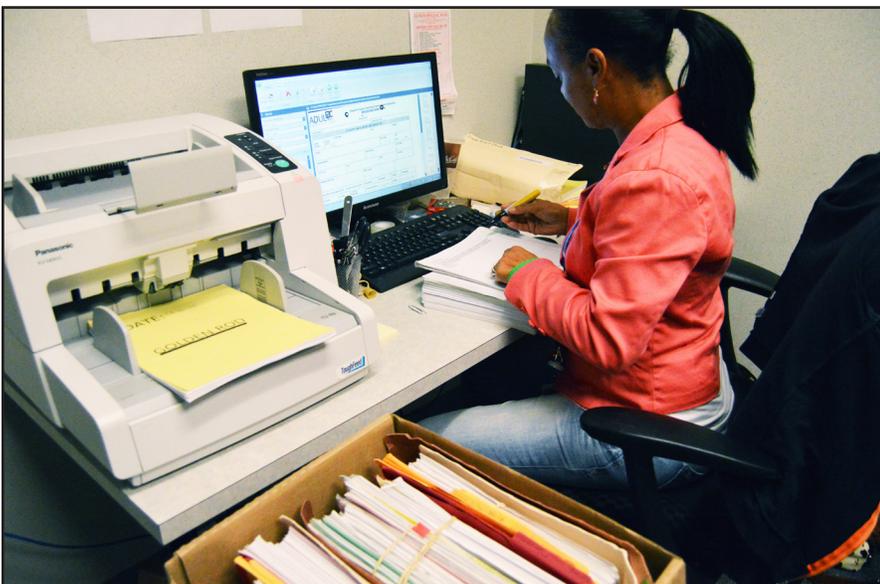
The conversion to digital files provides many benefits, which include:

- Eliminating a majority of the agency's annual mailing costs;
- Eliminating approximately 85 percent of the agency's paper needs;
- Eliminating the need to increase physical office space, both at headquarters and the statewide offices;
- Allowing all records associated with an individual to be connected to each other electronically (.pdfs of documents, digital hearing recordings, victim input testimony and videos, etc.).

In addition, streamlining the parole board decision-making process by decreasing the number of days from a parole interview to a board decision will result in a significant cost-savings due to the electronic processing. The original paper file will no longer be shipped between board

members across the state in order to generate the required number of votes to decide a case. Reforming the voting and record keeping processes is expected to decrease the need for parole staff to manage the file room, box and mail files, move files between offices statewide and input board decisions to allow the decision to be easily printed.

The board is digitizing approximately 80,000 plus active paper client files that will save the commonwealth over \$1 million in the next four years. The remaining 300,000 plus archived paper files will be digitalized if they are returned to active status.



2016 Awards and Commendations



Emerging Leader Program

Program Analyst Jesse Zortman (center) graduated from the commonwealth's Office of Administration's (OA) 10-month Emerging Leader program. The program is designed to tap into the talents of state employees who exhibit leadership potential. Also pictured is former OA Deputy Secretary for Human Resources and Management James Honchar and the board's Research and Evaluation Manager Michele Hiester.

Humane Society Award

Acting on observations from a routine parolee contact that suggested participation in dog fighting, Agent McMonagle and the Pennsylvania State Police assisted the Chester County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Humane Enforcement Officers with a search of an parolee's home last October. Significant evidence of dog fighting training was found, such as large dog treadmills, anabolic steroid injectable liquids, syringes and dogfighting propaganda. In addition, ammunition and a 1KG package of cocaine was seized. The parolee was charged under a new law passed in September that makes it illegal to possess animal fighting paraphernalia. In fact, this was the first known instance of its use in the state. Five adult pit bull terriers and seven puppies were rescued and sent to the Chester County SPCA.



APPA Leadership Institute

Division Director of Community Outreach Melissa Repsher graduated from the APPA Leadership Institute in August 2016. The institute is a 12-month program of organizational changes for community corrections professionals. The program is a collaboration of the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA), the National Association of Probation Executives, the Correctional Management Institute of Texas at Sam Houston State University, the National Institute of Corrections and The Williams Institute. Pictured left to right are Bureau Director of Offender Reentry Rich Podguski, Director of Field Probation and Parole Services Christian Stephens, Division Director Repsher, Director of Reentry and Quality Assurance Luis Rosa and Executive Assistant Kimberly McGriff.



Leadership Development Institute

Bureau of Standards and Accreditation Director Ryan Smith graduated from the commonwealth's Leadership Development Institute (LDI) on Friday, November 4. The LDI program provides professional developmental opportunities for employees who demonstrate leadership potential and the ability to succeed in positions of greater responsibility within Pennsylvania government. Each LDI class participates in monthly sessions. Director Smith was one of 64 attendees representing 33 agencies across the commonwealth. Also pictured are Chairman Leo Dunn (left) and Director of the Office of Reentry and Quality Assurance Luis Rosa.

2016 Awards and Commendations

BTA Class #123 - November 6, 2015

The Basic Training Academy (BTA) Class #123 graduated 26 new parole agents who are now assigned to the Board of Probation and Parole's offices across the state. Another first for BTA Class #123 was the top two award spots for the class – the Marksmanship Award and the Class Valedictorian, were awarded to females.

The Marksmanship Award was awarded to Agent Jolene Diethorn who is assigned to the Pittsburgh District Office. The Class Valedictorian was Agent Christina Zborovian, who is assigned to the Harrisburg District Office. Agent Zborovian averaged a 98.429 percent on her test scores. BTA Class #123 was the first class to be trained in EPICS, Effective Practices in Community Supervision.



BTA Director C. Lou Perez (left) and former Director Cynthia Daub (right) with Marksmanship Award Agent Diethorn.



BTA Director C. Lou Perez (left) and former Director Cynthia Daub (right) with Class Valedictorian Agent Zborovian.

BTA Class #124 - March 4, 2016

The Basic Training Academy (BTA) Class #124 graduated 34 new parole agents. The Marksmanship Award was awarded to Agent Vincent Sima who is assigned to a Community Corrections Center in the Philadelphia District Office. The Class Valedictorian was Agent John Godfrey, who is assigned to the Harrisburg District Office. Agent Godfrey averaged a 98.571 percent on his test scores.



BTA Director C. Lou Perez (right) presents the Class Marksmanship Award to Agent Sima



BTA Director C. Lou Perez (right) presents the Class Valedictorian Award to Agent Godfrey

2016 Awards and Commendations

BTA Class #125 - June 24, 2016

The Basic Training Academy (BTA) Class #125 graduated 34 agents



Parole Agent Tracy Long holds the Marksmanship Award. Pictured left to right are: BTA Training Director C. Lou Perez, Director of Training Greg Young, Director of the Office of Field Probation and Parole Supervision, Christian Stephens, and Director of the Office of Reentry and Quality Assurance Luis Rosa.



Parole Agents Robert Sheridan and Deborah Patton were presented as co-valedictorians for achieving the score of 97.9 percent ~ the first time in BTA history that there were two valedictorians in the same class. Pictured left to right are: BTA Training Director C. Lou Perez, Director Greg Young, Director Stephens, and Director Rosa.



Altoona District Office Parole Supervisor Christopher Cook and Parole Agent Jillian Hummer of the Reading Sub Office in the Allentown District Office were recognized for their combined emergency first aid action taken on June 2, 2016 during a team-building softball game against the Department of Correction cadets. After a DOC cadet broke his leg, their immediate actions in this trauma situation as a certified EMS displayed their knowledge, skills and compassion for other individuals above and beyond the mission of the Board of Probation and Parole.

2016 Awards and Commendations

BTA Class #126 - November 18, 2016



The Basic Training Academy (BTA) Class #126 graduated 11 new agents. Agent Neal Kokatay of the Philadelphia West Sub office was class valedictorian with a score of 98.2 percent. Agent Jung Yim of the Chester District Office was the top marksman for the class.



Chairman Leo L. Dunn with BTA Class 126 Marksmanship Agent Jung Yim.



Chairman Leo L. Dunn with BTA Class 126 Valedictorian Agent Neal Kokatay.

2016 Awards and Commendations

BTA Class #127 - November 18, 2016

The Basic Training Academy (BTA) Class #127 graduated 50 new parole agents – the largest graduating BTA class ever in the board’s history.

Chairman Leo L. Dunn (left) with BTA Class 127 Marksmanship Agent Nathan Lee of the Harrisburg District Office and Director of the Office of Reentry and Quality Assurance Luis Rosa and Director of the Office of Field Probation and Parole Supervision Christian Stephens.



Chairman Dunn (left) with BTA Class 127 Valedictorian, Agent Brent Smiley of the Chambersburg Suboffice and Director Rosa and Director Stephens. Agent Smiley’s score was a 97.6 percent.

Juvenile Lifer Update

Pennsylvania has the largest number of individuals ~ approximately 514 persons as of October 2016 ~ who were juveniles at the time they committed their crimes and were later sentenced to life without parole.

As of December 1, 2016:

- 7 juvenile lifers have been paroled
- 1 juvenile lifer has been denied parole
- 1 juvenile lifer has been released to the street
- 3 juvenile lifers are currently awaiting parole decisions
- 1 juvenile lifer on docket
- 22 juvenile lifers are waiting for resentencing



Board Initiatives

- A new SharePoint site was created, opened for both DOC/PBPP staff to view the status of each case for general information, original sentence and re-sentencing information, etc.
- A new document called, *Resentencing "Juvenile Lifers": How does this affect victims and the parole process?* was created

* Personal visits by the chairman, board members and senior staff have/are being conducted in the SCIs with the entire juvenile lifer population in each facility:

* 08.03.16: SCIs Graterford and Chester (Dunn, Gillison, Rosenberg, and Director Stephens participated)

* 08.10.16: SCIs Coal Township, Mahanoy and Frackville (Dunn, Gillison, Rosenberg, and Director Stephens participated)

* 09.01.16: SCIs Dallas and Retreat (Dunn, Gillison, Koch, and Directors Stephens & Rosa participated)

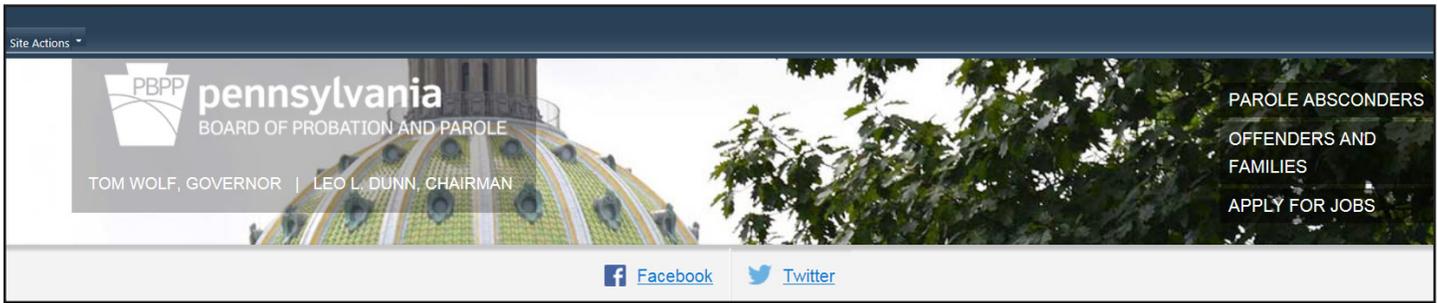
*The juvenile lifer presentation at SCI Dallas was videotaped. Copies of the DVD have been made and are currently with the Department of Corrections and institutional parole staff to review and distribute for SCI future use/reference.

* 10.31.16: SCIs Fayette, Greene, Somerset, and Laurel Highlands (Dunn, Johnson, McKay participated)

* Participate in monthly meetings with DOC on the status of the entire group of juvenile lifers in Pennsylvania



Improved Outreach to the Public



During the past year, the board made significant strides toward increased transparency and public awareness of its process and programs.

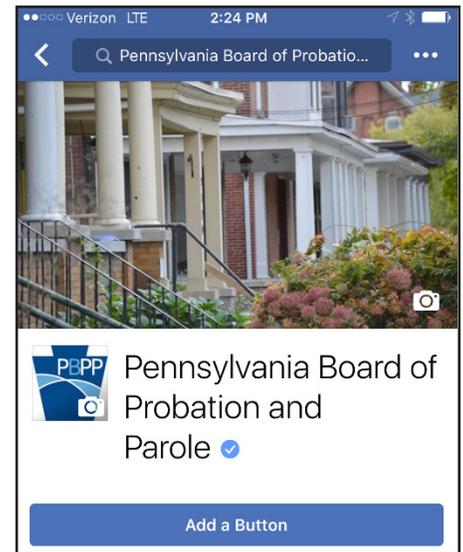
Social Media

The term social media is commonly understood to comprise a group of internet-based applications that allow the creation and exchange of user-generated content. Social media uses mobile and web-based technologies to create platforms for individuals, communities, and organizations to share, create, and discuss user-generated content.

On May 31, 2016, the board launched its Facebook page and Twitter account. The board joined social media to enhance traditional outreach of the website and educational materials. Both of these platforms allow for faster and current information to be disseminated and provides the ability to interact with citizens through comments, “likes,” “shares,” and “views” to increase the board’s visibility in a positive manner.

An example of the reach of social media, the board used both Facebook and Twitter to announce the testing period for the state parole agent test from September 28 through November 30. To date, this is the most popular post with 119 likes, 122 comments, 607 shares and 107,549 people reached. On Twitter, 4,944 people saw the Tweet and 72 people interacted with it.

As of January, 839 people have “liked” the board’s Facebook page and has 84 “followers” to the board’s Twitter account.



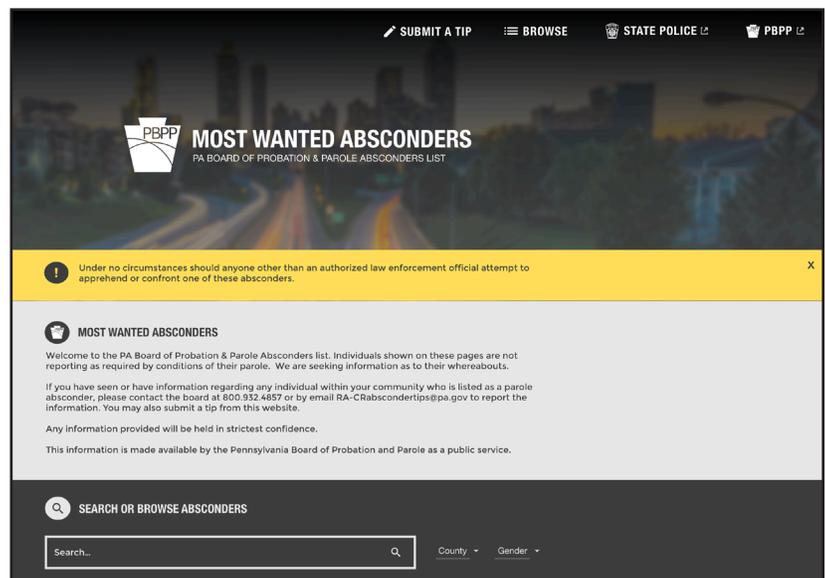
Absconder Website Updates

An absconder is a person on parole in the community, but who has stopped reporting to the parole board as required. The board encourages the receipt of information from the public on the location of any of its absconders. The original absconder website was developed in the early 2000s and has only had minor enhancements. The current system is not mobile friendly and lacks a robust search functionality. There currently is no way to submit a tip online through the website; all tips received are through telephone contact.

The new absconder web application will continue to leverage the board’s absconder-related processes and databases. The new application will be driven by improved navigation, increased search functionality to include aliases the individual absconders, will provide end users with the ability to submit an absconder tip online and will be mobile friendly through responsive technology. The targeted deployment date for the new absconder website is January 27, 2017.

External Communications

The board administers five websites under its domain. In addition to navigation and increased content updates to improve the board’s transparency regarding its day-to-day operations, all public procedures have been posted on the board’s website.



Parole (*French*): To give one's word or *promise*.

Thus, a **parolee** in good standing is a *promise keeper*.

Parole agent: One who shows the way to becoming a promise keeper; *a guide*.



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