STATE OF CONNECTICUT

PSYCHIATRIC SECURITY REVIEW BOARD

Memorandum:

To: Members of the Appropriations Committee

From: PSRB Executive Director Ellen Lachance

Date: February 15, 2013

Subject: Committee's Support of Governor Malloy's Recommended Budget.

This memo asks for your support of the Governor's proposed budget for the Psychiatric Security Review Board (PSRB).

The Board has jurisdiction over all persons who have been found not guilty of a crime by reason of mental disease or defect and committed to the jurisdiction of the Board by Superior Court. The Board orders the confinement of those individuals to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services or to the Department of Developmental Services.

The Board is composed of six members, appointed by the Governor for their expertise. The Chairperson is an attorney and the remaining members include a psychiatrist, psychologist, probation expert, an individual with experience in victim advocacy and a member of the general public. The Board has a significant role in safeguarding Connecticut's citizens while at the same time, ensuring appropriate treatment services for those under its jurisdiction.

The statutory mandate of the Board is the protection of society and that goal is accomplished through Board ordered treatment and placement of individuals committed to the Board. At the close of 2012, there were 146 individuals under the Board's jurisdiction. Approximately 75% of those individuals were confined to a hospital and 25% were residing in the community. The Board continues to maintain a zero percent criminal recidivism rate for individuals living in the community while continuing to be monitored through Board-ordered supervision.

Following the retirement of the agency's Executive Secretary in 2011, the Board successfully downsized the administrative staff from four full-time employees to three full-time staff members. The Governor's recommended budget provides the agency with the resources necessary to carry out its public safety mandate. The Appropriations Committee's favorable action on the recommended budget will ensure the Board can continue to effectively monitor insanity acquittees.

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