



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

PSYCHIATRIC SECURITY REVIEW BOARD

**Testimony of Mark J. Kirschner, Ph.D., ABPP
Psychiatric Security Review Board
Before the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee
April 28, 2015**

Good morning, Senator Duff, Representative Janowski and distinguished members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee. I am Mark J. Kirschner, Ph.D., ABPP and I am honored to appear before you today as Governor Malloy's re-appointment to the Psychiatric Security Review Board as the Psychologist member.

I am currently the Chief Administrative Officer, General Partner and Clinical Psychologist at Behavioral Health Consultants, LLC, a private group mental health practice. As a psychologist, I have worked with a broad range of psychiatric patients providing evaluation, assessment and treatment services. I also work with over 50 police and fire departments in Connecticut, providing a broad range of services including Pre-employment and Fitness for Duty Evaluations, Critical Incident Stress Debriefings, Employee Assistance Programs and training and management consultation services. As an example of this work, I worked closely with members of the Newtown Police Department over the past 4 years, providing critical incident intervention, consultation and training. I previously worked with the seriously mentally ill during my tenure at a community mental health center. In addition to my clinical work, I am currently an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at Quinnipiac University.

My professional credentials include membership in American Psychological Association (APA), the Connecticut Psychological Association, The Society of Police and Criminal Psychology and Psychologists in Public Service Division of the APA. I am a Fellow of the American College of Forensic Examiners and a Diplomate of the American Board of Psychological Specialties, a division of the College of Forensic Examiners. I am proud to be the only psychologist in Connecticut who is a member of the Police Psychological Services Section of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. I am also Board Certified in Police and Public Safety Psychology, a distinction currently held by only 67 psychologists in the country. My status in these organizations represents demonstrated experience and ongoing training in the field of forensic psychology.

I have a strong commitment to public and community service, as evidenced by my many years of volunteer, charitable and coaching activities. This public service includes having served as a member of the PSRB for the past 4 years. During my tenure on the PSRB, I believe that I have made a valuable contribution to not only protecting the interests of the citizen's of CT but also to improving the overall mental health of the acqutees that the PSRB oversees. In addition to what I contributed to the PSRB, the experience continues to be a learning experience as well as one wherein I believe that I have grown personally and professionally. I am honored to be considered for this re-appointment and I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have at this time concerning my nomination to the Psychiatric Security Review Board.

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