pennsylvania
BOARD OF PROBATION AND PAROLE

GOVERNMENT THAT WORKS

Board Accomplishments

- The Board's **three-year year recidivism rate has dropped** from 52 percent for releases in FY 2004/05 to 44 percent for releases in FY 2010/11. The current one-year recidivism rate is 20 percent, a decrease from 22 percent five years ago.

- The **proportion of parole interviews held has increased** (9.5 percent increase over two years) by prioritizing for placement on the interview schedule inmates who had all programming completed, a positive Department of Corrections (DOC) recommendation and appropriate institutional adjustment.

- The **approval process for home plans has been expedited** for inmates granted parole but not released (from a six-month average of 2,669 offenders awaiting release to an average of 1,392).

- The number of days from the inmate's **minimum sentence date to release from prison is reduced** (from 34 days to 11 days) - a 67.4 percent reduction resulting in cost avoidance of approximately $12.4 million. The median number of days for offenders with no obstacles to release is zero – they get released at their minimum date.

- As a result of our agency improvements, the Board has **helped the DOC to realize a decrease of 882 inmates** over the past three years.

- The number of offenders who **successfully completed parole was 6,788** in 2014.

- The percentage of **absconders** (parolees who stop reporting to their agent) **has declined** from 6.2 percent in FY 2004/05 to 3.4 percent in FY 2013/14.

- Working with the DOC as part of Justice Reinvestment, we have established **new performance-based contracts for reentry services** in the community to address gaps in services for offenders while on parole.

- **Use of a risk-based Parole Decisional Instrument** to guide decision making that is validated on the Pennsylvania population and is a model for other states to emulate.

- To fill a gap in community services, parole agents have received professional training, endorsed by the American Probation and Parole Association, in delivering cognitive behavioral interventions specifically designed to address criminal thinking. A recent evaluation showed that high-risk **offenders receiving this intervention recidivated by 23 percent less** than a comparison group.

- Shorter sanction periods as required by the Justice Reinvestment legislation caused **an estimated 1,006 fewer technical parole violators (TPV) to occupy state prison beds** (December 2013-September 2014).

- Employed reentry parole agent positions in the Transitional Housing Units to **deliver one-on-one cognitive behavioral interventions.**

- **Developed an evidence-based Violation Sanctioning Grid** in concert with national parole experts to provide swift and certain sanctions to offenders who violate technical conditions of parole.