Pennsylvania’s Reentry System

Toward Safer Communities

Leo L. Dunn, Esquire, Chairman
March 2016
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.

Legal Authority
Pursuant to the Prisons and Parole Code, the Board can:

- Make parole decisions and supervise offenders with maximum sentence of two years or more
- Accept certain special probation cases by order of court
- Provide all probation services in certain counties
- Revoke parole of technical parole violators (TPVs) and convicted parole violators (CPVs)

Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision

- Board supervision of offenders referred to Pennsylvania from other states

Organization
The Board has:

- 9 Board Members, including Chairman
- 19 Hearing Examiners, including Chief Hearing Examiner
- Institutional, Field and Administrative Staff – 1,259 employees in:
  - 10 District Offices
  - 16 District Sub-offices
  - 26 Institutional Parole Offices
  - Central Office Administration
What is Parole?
Parole is the conditional release of an inmate from incarceration to continue serving the balance of his or her sentence under supervision within the community. Parole is a privilege, not a right; it is not automatic or guaranteed. It may be revoked for violations of the conditions of parole or for new criminal convictions.

Parole is not probation, which is a court sentence of supervision in the community instead of a sentence to prison or jail. An offender that violates probation could be sentenced to prison.

Parole is also different from a pardon or a commutation of sentence. In Pennsylvania, the Board of Pardons handles these situations, which is completely separate from the Board of Probation and Parole.

What is Discretionary Parole?
In Pennsylvania, offenders are given a minimum and maximum sentence. This means there is a minimum amount of time that they must serve in prison before they can be considered for parole – and if they are paroled they will remain on parole until the end of their maximum sentence.

Parole serves a very important role in the criminal justice system. Most offenders who have been sentenced to prison will be released at some point and return to the community. Criminal justice experts agree that it is better for society if most offenders are reintegrated into the community on a gradual basis and under parole supervision rather than being released without it.

Value of Discretionary Parole
Individualizes release decisions based on each offender’s progress, reduced risk and reentry preparation, rather than release occurring as the result of a set date.

Measures offender’s risk by considering the seriousness of the offense and the likelihood to reoffend based on assessment instruments.

Manages the offender’s post-release transitional period by imposing conditions of parole that structure behavior, environment and activities.
Statewide Performance Improvements by the Board

- Recidivism has decreased from 52% to 45%
- 6,811 offenders successfully completed parole
- Parole population grew 41% over a ten-year period – from 29,143 to 41,226
- Board made 21,139 decisions - 12,097 offenders were granted parole or reparole
- Parole interviews held for cases available to be seen increased to 82%
- Approval of home plans has been expedited for offenders granted parole but not released
- 86% of inmates were released within one month of their minimum sentence date
- 66% of inmates were released within one week of their minimum sentence date
- 54% of parolees who were able to work were employed
- 2,585 parolees were placed in parole violator centers as an alternative to prison
- Technical parole violators continue to be less than 1% of the population in state prison
- Convicted parole violators continue to be less than 1% of the population in state prison
- 3.9% of parolees quit reporting (absconders) - continues to be significantly lower than the national average
- The cost of supervising an offender for one year is $3,497* versus $45,762* for a year of incarceration in a state correctional institution *Projected costs in the Governor’s FY14/15 budget request.
- Use a risk-based Parole Decisional Instrument to guide decision making
- Parole agents deliver cognitive behavioral interventions to address criminal thinking – study shows that high-risk offenders recidivated by 23 percent less than a comparison group
- An evidence-based Violation Sanctioning Grid provides swift and certain sanctions
Parole by the Numbers
[Based on the 41,226 cases the Board supervised statewide as of June 30, 2015]

OFFENSE GROUPS
Since many offenders have multiple convictions, offenders are counted in terms of the offense with the longest maximum sentence date. This count does not represent the prevalence of an offense type within the supervised population but the number of offenders in terms of the offense for the longest mandated period of supervision.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offense Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drugs</td>
<td>11,459</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft/RSP/Forgery</td>
<td>4,574</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>4,539</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>3,444</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>2,832</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUI</td>
<td>2,462</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearms</td>
<td>1,990</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Offender</td>
<td>1,947</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>1,460</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6,519</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>41,226</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preparing Offenders for Successful Return to their Families and Community

Reentry Planning Begins at Admission to Prison

Upon admission to a state prison, the PA Department of Corrections (DOC) conducts a battery of assessments to determine the inmates' risk of reoffending; propensity to act violently; levels of criminal attitudes and hostility; problems with substance abuse; and general psychological well-being. Based on the results of these assessments, a correctional plan will be developed to address necessary treatment and programming needs.

• The DOC and the Board prepare a joint correctional plan.

Preparing for Release from Prison

• Prior to release, institutional parole staff assist the offender to find services to meet these needs, which may include drug and alcohol counseling, medical or mental health services, or domestic violence protocols.

• Parole agents assist inmates with securing all necessary documentation (birth certificates, social security cards, etc.) and locate resources for other needs that have been identified.

• As an offender approaches his/her parole interview, DOC and PBPP institutional staff work diligently to facilitate successful reentry. This includes assisting offenders with developing suitable home plans.

Reentry into the Community

• Field agents investigate potential residences to ensure the home is suitable to successful reentry.

• Trained agents provide aftercare programs in violence prevention, cognitive behavioral programming, employment groups, and anger management.

Parole Decision Making – Has the Offender’s Risk Been Reduced?

Safe Parole Decisions Based on Offender Risk

• The Board uses a valid and reliable risk and needs assessment instrument to assist with parole decisions, as well as other nationally recognized assessments.

• Risk is the likelihood of an offender to commit another crime and the Board tries to determine how much an offender’s risk has been reduced.

Paroling an Offender at the Right Time - Board Principles of Decision Making

➡️ Defer to the sentencing court regarding issue of appropriate punishment

➡️ The sentencing court is the arbiter of just punishment

➡️ Ensure all offenders are accurately and consistently evaluated for their readiness to parole to enhance public safety and use a structured decisional instrument

➡️ Because of the significant stakes involved in violent crimes, the Board evaluates violent offenses at a more stringent standard than non-violent offenses

➡️ The Board supports order and safety within the DOC
Prior to the Parole Interview

Case Preparation
Prior to the parole interview, a case file must be prepared for the decision maker to review. The file contains the following:

Required by law:
- The nature and circumstances of the crime for which the offender was convicted, as well as his/her entire criminal history
- Information regarding the general character and background of the offender
- Notes on the sentencing hearing testimony
- Emotional stability: physical, mental and behavioral condition and history of the offender
- History of family violence
- Recommendation of the sentencing judge and prosecuting attorney
- Input from the victim and the victim’s family
- Recommendation from the warden or superintendent of the facility where the offender is incarcerated

Other Requirements:
- Status of program completion
- Adjustment to prison

Home Plan
It is the responsibility of the offender to find a proposed place to live prior to release from prison. Institutional parole staff can provide guidance with the search for a residence that will be conducive to reentry.

The home plan may consist of a private residence or the Board may parole to a community corrections center.

A home plan to a private residence will be investigated by field agents prior to release from prison. Home plan investigations are done to protect public safety and to build the best foundation for the offender’s successful return to the community.

Pre-interview Case Review
Prior to the parole interview, the decision maker will prepare for the interview by reviewing the case file, including the Parole Decisional Instrument and the offender’s home plan.

The Parole Interview
The parole interview is conducted to:
- Address with the offender both criminal history and institutional conduct, program participation, and consider needs and risks.
- Assess the adequacy of treatment or programming while incarcerated, at the point of reentry and on an ongoing basis in the community.

Human behavior is difficult to predict. A risk assessment is a statistical tool that does not predict which individual will re-offend, but identifies groups likely to re-offend. The risk assessment may place an offender in a high risk group, but specifically which offender in the group will re-offend cannot be identified.

Requirements for Good Parole Decision Making
In addition to the legislatively mandated considerations, research shows that other factors must be considered in the context of how the offender’s risk and treatment needs have been met in order to increase the potential for an offender to succeed, such as:
- Input from stakeholders
- Use risk and needs assessments
- Prior parole and supervision history
- Prior violent behavior
- Early onset of criminal behavior
- Adequacy of home plan
- Use of risk principle in decision-making
- Ensure completion of programs prior to parole for certain categories of offenders
- Establish conditions of parole that reflect the identified high risk needs most likely to contribute to reoffending
**Parole Decisional Instrument**

The Board uses a Parole Decisional Instrument (PBPP 361) to analyze individual cases and guide consistency in decision making. The instrument is a guide to advise the decision maker, does not replace professional discretion and does not bind the Board to grant or deny parole, or create a right, presumption or reasonable expectation that parole will be granted.

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**1 Actuarial Information**

Actuarial information can be statistically calculated by assigning a weight, i.e. a point value. For validity and fairness, the items that are weighted must be factors that are common to all offenders.

Four primary factors are calculated and are directly related to a reduced risk of re-offending:

- **Violence Indicator by Offender Violence Risk Typology (OVRT) Category**
  The Board holds Category 3 offenders to a more stringent standard.

- **Risk/Needs**
  The risk level relates to the likelihood of reoffending.

- **Institutional Programming**
  Participation in or completion of programming designed to reduce the risk level.

- **Institutional Behavior**
  Reflects demonstrated behavioral change.

The calculation of these factors determines a threshold score that “Suggests Parole” or “Suggests Parole Refusal.”

**4 Core weighted factors:**

- Violence Indicator*
- Risk Assessment LSI-R/Static 99
- Risk Reduction Programming
- Institutional conduct demonstrating behavioral change

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**How do cases breakout?**

- **Suggests Parole:** Score 1-6
- **Suggests Parole Refusal:** Score 7+

Fiscal Year 14/15

- 86% suggest parole
- 14% suggest parole refusal
- 67% Board concurred

*Violence Indicator: Instant offense, prior criminal history/violence, age of criminal onset, use of weapons and other static risks

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**2 Non-Weighted Countervailing Factors**

Countervailing factors are factors that will not pertain to all offenders, therefore they are not weighted. They are identified through evaluation of the information in the case file and the parole interview.

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**3 Professional Judgment**

During the interview, the decision maker contemplates how the interview findings link to certain factors to determine if the offender’s likelihood of re-offending has been reduced:
After the Parole Interview

After the interview the decision to grant or refuse parole is recorded on the Parole Decisional Instrument.

The Board Action is the public record that documents the decision of the Board to grant or deny parole. It is commonly called the “green sheet.” The Board Action will contain the decision to:

- Parole and the reasons for granting parole and the conditions of supervision
- Refuse parole with specific requirements to be fulfilled by the time of the next parole review (usually 6 months to 1 year) and the reasons for denying parole

**The Voting Process**

**Panel**
- 2 decision makers to parole

**Non-violent Offenses**
- Hearing Examiner
- Board Member

**Violent Offenses**
- 2 Board Members*

**Sex Offenses**
- 2nd and 3rd Degree Murder
- Special Cases at Board Request

*Violent offenders in SCIs with the exception of inmates in punishment status. Hearing examiners may interview.

**Release from Prison**

Conditions that **must** be satisfied prior to release of the offender from prison, even if granted parole:
- Consideration of a home plan
- Negative drug screening
- Payment of fees for victims
- DNA sample
- Registration of sex offenders (Megan’s Law)
- Victim Impact Education Program
Conditions of Parole

Board regulations require “general conditions” of parole:

- Report to agent upon release from prison and don’t leave district without permission
- Live at approved residence
- Report as instructed by parole agent while on supervision
- Comply with all laws
- No unlawful substances, no firearms/weapons, no assaultive behavior
- Pay fines, costs, and restitution

The Board has developed “special conditions of parole” which are individualized to address special offense and offender issues, and may include:

- Electronic monitoring, referral to a Community Corrections Center, drug and alcohol treatment, sexual offender treatment, no contact with the victim

Special Conditions may be:
- **Imposed** - Special conditions parole agents may modify
- **Mandatory** - Special conditions only Board Members may modify

Solid Reentry Supervision Supports Public Safety

When supervising offenders, the Board balances its enforcement functions with problem-solving case management in order to reduce recidivism. The Bureau of Offender Reentry has trained and retrained agents in risk reduction strategies, the principles of effective intervention, and motivational interviewing.

The Board has special agents (Assessment, Sanctioning and Community Resource Agents - ASCRA) that have received training through the National Curriculum Training Institute to deliver cognitive behavioral curriculums, which address the offender’s criminal thinking patterns.

ASCRA agents are the expert on local community resources available to meet the needs of the offender.

Prior to release, then once on parole, the Board prepares parolees for life in the community by assisting parolees with job training and employment skills, referrals for treatment for mental and/or physical illnesses, drug and alcohol programs, life skills classes and other needs.

Parole Jurisdiction

**Supervised Populations by Jurisdiction and District - As of June 30, 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region and District Office</th>
<th>PA Parole State Sentence</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Other States</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>State Prisons</strong></td>
<td><strong>Boot Camp</strong></td>
<td><strong>County Prisons</strong></td>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Region</td>
<td>11,251</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>11,875</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Region</td>
<td>10,524</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>977</td>
<td>11,856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Region</td>
<td>6,737</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>7,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>28,512</td>
<td>924</td>
<td>1,848</td>
<td>31,284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Total</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Pennsylvania State

**Preparation of Case File**
- Begin documentation gathering for parole interview. Required by law to consider facts of crime; criminal history; sentencing hearing notes; general character; physical, mental and medical health; history of family violence; adjustment to prison; victim, judge and prosecuting attorney input; recommendation of warden or superintendent.

**Institutional Parole Agent**
- Institutional Parole Agent reviews the file and gathers additional documents.
- Institutional Parole Agent works with offender on a home plan – where the offender plans to live -- and to apply for jobs or seek educational or vocational training.

**Pre-Interview Case Review**
- Decision maker reviews all of the information in the offender file and the proposed home plan - where the offender wants to live - to prepare for the interview.
- Decision maker reviews compliance with the correctional plan:
  - Programming: educational, vocational, employment, life skills, literacy, etc.
  - Treatment: sex offender, drug and alcohol, mental health. Reviews assessment scores from various risk and needs assessments and evaluations.

**The Parole Interview**
- After a review of the file, the decision maker conducts the interview with the offender and considers **ALL** of the information in the file.
- A Parole Decisional Instrument assists the Board in the exercise of its discretion and to provide for proper consideration of all factors.
- Vote occurs in person and video conference (additional file rotation votes if required).
- Home plan investigation occurs for offenders granted parole. The Board must approve the proposed residence to ensure it is conducive to successful reentry.
- Conditions of parole explained to offender.

**Post Parole Interview**
- If parole is denied, offender is advised of reasons for denial and issued a review date for next parole interview.

**8 Months Prior to Minimum Date**
- Judge and District Attorney letters mailed to request recommendation.
- OVA notifies registered victims of parole eligibility and right to provide input.

**5 Months Prior to Minimum Date**

**4 Months Prior to Minimum Date**

**3 Months Prior to Minimum Date**

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Parole Reentry System

**Prior to Release**
- Several items must be checked prior to release: drug screen; payment of victim fees; DNA sample for certain offenders; Megan's Law registration, if required; victim impact education class.

**Supervision**
- Offender reports to parole supervision staff within 24 hours.
- Parole agent reviews conditions of parole with offender.
- Parole agent and offender jointly develop a supervision plan. The agent uses problem solving strategies to assist the offender.
- Special agents assist offenders at risk of parole failure through interventions in the community.

**Parole Violators**
- **Convicted Parole Violator (CPV)** – Commits another crime while on parole supervision and is convicted.
  - Under Act 122 of 2012, parole violators charged with a crime are sent to an SCI or county jail for the recommitment process.
- **Technical Parole Violator (TPV)**
  - Violates a condition of parole.
  - There are two tracks for technical parole violators:
    - Secure Technical Parole Violator Centers (PVC)
    - Contracted county jails (CCJ) and certain state correctional institutions (SCI).

**Technical Parole Violator (TPV)**
- TPVs who do not meet one of the five criteria for SCI or CCJ will be placed in a PVC.
  - Three programming tracks are available that will immediately address the violation behavior. Length of stay is 60-120 days.

**Convicted Parole Violator (CPV)**
- Offender signs release orders and conditions of parole.


**Prior to Release**
- The average time from minimum date to release for offenders interviewed prior to minimum date is 27 days.
**Supervision Levels and Risk Assessment**
A risk and needs assessment is completed prior to release from prison. Supervision levels are based on the risk level and are reviewed at least every six months. The Board assigns parolees to one of five levels of supervision: administrative, minimum, medium, maximum, or enhanced with enhanced being for those offenders with the highest risk. The higher the supervision level, the more contact and time the supervising agents must spend with the offender.

This ensures that the offender is supervised at the appropriate level: increased supervision in response to higher risk or identified needs and reduced supervision in recognition of successful adjustment and reduced risks to the community.

**Reentry in First 90 Days is Critical**
Continuity of treatment, medical needs, and stability in life in relation to housing and employment are critical to a parolee’s ability to successfully reintegrate into society. Parole plans are developed by the institutional agent and offender prior to release from prison and provide continuity by connecting offenders with community services and programming needs while they are still in prison.

- Parole Plans Integrate Evidence-Based Practices and the Principles of Effective Intervention:
- Target crime-producing needs
- Conduct thorough risk and needs assessments and target interventions to high-risk offenders
- Programs designed and implemented on a proven theoretical model
- Use a cognitive behavioral approach
- Disrupt the delinquency network
- Provide intensive services
- Responsivity – match the right program to the offender for best response
- Relapse prevention component
- Integrate with community-based services
- Reinforce integrity of services

**Parole to Community Corrections Centers**
Some offenders are paroled directly to community corrections centers (CCCs), an intermediate step between incarceration in a prison and full release to the community. These facilities are managed by either the DOC or through contracts with the DOC.

**Specialized Caseloads**
The Board recognizes that offenders are individuals and have different needs and challenges. By creating specialized caseloads, the Board recognizes that some offenders need agents trained to detect deceit and manipulation in order to be safely supervised in the community while others need more of an agent’s guidance. Others simply need to be arrested after refusing to report to their agents.

To respond to these differences, the Board has created several types of specialized agent caseloads.

Specialized training is provided for agents who:
- Supervise sex offenders
- Supervise offenders with mental health issues, including full mental health certification by some agents
- Focus on apprehending absconders (FAST Unit)
- Assist with parolees who are having difficulty adjusting to life outside of prison (Assessment, Sanctioning and Community Resource Agents)

**Victimizations are Reduced When Offenders Succeed on Parole**
The Board’s vision is to return offenders to their communities as law abiding citizens. This vision is reached by helping offenders re-adjust to community life and pressures while at the same time being ready to punish offenders for transgressions.
Who are Parole Violators?
Parole violators are classified as either convicted parole violators (CPVs) or technical parole violators (TPVs). A CPV is an offender who has committed a new crime while on parole. A TPV is an offender who breaks the terms and conditions of his or her parole. Breaking curfew, moving without permission or unauthorized contact with a victim are examples of technical parole violations.

CPVs Go Directly to Prison
Offenders who are arrested for committing a new crime while on parole are given no grace period. They are detained in prison under a Board warrant until their new charges have been settled – even if they post bail. If convicted, the Board can recommit to serve the balance of the sentence with no credit for time on parole.

Act 122 of 2012 gives the Board discretion in determining whether to award street time to some convicted parole violators whose violations were non-violent. The Board may either award all street time served or none.
State Sentenced Parole Violators Returned to Prison

Technical Parole Violator Management

Parolees who are returned to prison for technical violations are more likely to fail if re-paroled later compared to parolees who are able to maintain activities within their community. Most offenders can be safely and effectively managed in the community where they are connected with family resources.

The Board’s problem-solving case management practices help the offender achieve success and improve public safety. These practices include the use of intermediate sanctions and community-based programs, focusing on crime prevention. The programs use risk and needs assessments to address the root causes of crime-producing behavior, provide behavioral treatment, and use cognitive behavioral approaches to change criminal thinking.

An important tool in the supervision of parolees is the violation sanctioning grid (VSG), which incorporated factors such as the risk level, stability of the offender in the community, family support and employment. The VSG provides a graduated system of parole sanctions depending on the severity and number of infractions an offender has committed.

Sanctions range from a written warning to placement in a substance abuse program. It is important to understand that although these violations are “technical,” they can lead to criminal behavior if not addressed. When this occurs, parolees are returned to prison as technical or criminal parole violators depending on the type of violation.
Safely Managing TPVs on the Street

- Violations of parole are met with a swift and certain response.
- Violation Sanctioning Grid: Violations are assessed with respect to the severity of the violation, risk level of the parolee, and imminent risk of violence or harm.
- Sanctions are tailored to:
  - Individual risk and needs
  - Offender responsibility
  - Timeliness
  - Effectiveness
  - Fairness
  - Consistency

Placement of Technical Parole Violators

Act 122 of 2012 (Justice Reinvestment Initiative) changes the place of confinement for TPVs.

If the technical violation was: sexual in nature, involved assaultive behavior, involved possession of a weapon, posed an identifiable threat to public safety or the parole violator is an absconder who cannot be safely managed in a community corrections center, the parole violator will be returned to a contracted county jail or prison.

Technical parole violators returned to jail or prison will serve up to six months for the first violation, nine months for the second violation and one year for the third and subsequent violations before being automatically reparoled. However, if the offender has: committed disciplinary infractions involving assaultive behavior, sexual assault, possession of a weapon or controlled substance, spent more than 90 days in segregated housing due to one or more disciplinary actions or refused to participate in programming or to work, the technical parole violator is not eligible for this automatic re-parole.

Parole Violator Centers

Parole Violator Centers (PVC) are designed to help an offender with their adjustment to life in the community under parole supervision. These centers focus on providing immediate treatment and programming that is specific to individual circumstances.
What is an Absconder?
When a parolee is not available for supervision – fails to report as instructed or moves without permission to an unknown residence – the parolee is declared an “absconder.”

Warrants for Absconder Increase Public Safety
The Board immediately posts a wanted notice for all absconders with the Pennsylvania State Police and in federal criminal databases.

A high percentage of parolees have substance abuse problems. Typically, these offenders abscond from supervision so they can continue their drug habit or they have left a community corrections center.

By increasing the use of alternative sanctioning, drug treatment and half-way-back programs, Pennsylvania’s absconder rate is less than the national average. However, once a parolee fails to report to their agent and cannot be located they are considered to be a threat to public safety.

What is the PVC Program?
The parole violator center program is operated as a secure community correction center (CCC). In a secure parole violator center, offenders are never permitted to leave the center without an official escort. Offenders are only escorted outside the facility in emergency situations that cannot be handled within the center (i.e.: medical emergencies).

How does this program benefit the offender?
The offender will be placed in the parole violator center instead of remaining at a state correctional institution, which will keep the offender close to community support systems.

The offender will immediately receive programming at the parole violator center. If they waive the right, an offender does not need to go through the Board’s violation hearing process.

FAST Response to Absconders

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The percentage of absconders has increased from 3.3% (1,034) in FY09/10 to 3.9% (1,561) in FY14/15.

24/7 Operations Center
The Board’s Operation’s Monitoring Center (“24/7 Unit”) receives alerts regarding parolees who:
- are on electronic monitoring
- have been arrested
- are absconders in police custody

The 24/7 Unit immediately notifies the appropriate field agent to prevent the absconder from being released from police custody.

The Board web page contains photographs and demographic information on absconders. The web page can be accessed at www.pbpp.pa.gov.

Citizens who have information about an absconder are encouraged to call the appropriate district office between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm. After normal business hours, contact the 24/7 Unit at 800.932.4857 or send an email to ra-pbppopc@pa.gov.
Reentry services within each parole region seek to balance the law enforcement functions of surveillance and monitoring with problem solving case management. The Board has many law enforcement partnerships in its districts throughout the state to implement effective strategies that enhance public safety and make our communities safer places to live and work. These partnerships include:

- Information sharing
- Participate in committees and workgroups
- Enforcement of warrants and partnered patrols
- Participate in police roll calls
- Provide intelligence information
- Conduct bar sweeps and curfew compliance checks
- Participate in joint task force operations
- Attend crime prevention meetings

### Federal Law Enforcement Partnerships
State parole agents work with the U.S. Marshal’s Service, detectives, investigators, police officers and deputies as part of Operation FALCON, a national fugitive apprehension operation that focuses on violent criminals on the run. In these instances parole agents, as well as other law enforcement personnel, are deputized by federal authorities to provide the authority to arrest and detain individuals not under their supervision.

### Project Safe Neighborhood Call-In Program
The Board is partnering with the Philadelphia U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania to pilot an Offender Call-In Program, which targets high risk, violent offenders involved with drugs and weapons in Philadelphia. Forums are developed for offenders and their family to encourage the offenders to make positive choices in their lives.

At the forum, parolees will hear from ex-offenders and be informed of reentry services that are available for the entire family. They are also informed by the police and district attorney’s office that they will receive additional scrutiny because of their criminal history and they will be informed of the consequences of continuing to commit crimes.
Police and Parole Agents Partner in Street Crimes Unit

The Board is partnering with city police departments to target high risk offenders with a history of drugs, guns and violence in high crime areas within cities. These are often offenders well known to police and parole. In Harrisburg and Reading, parole agents are riding with police officers approximately three days a week to make contacts with offenders, and agents can provide assistance to police if requested. The partnership seeks to improve law enforcement relationships in the community by police getting to know offenders and their families, change offender behavior through referrals to programming, and increase public safety.

Parole agents can provide valuable information to law enforcement about individuals on parole in their community, notification of wanted parolees and conditions of parole such as curfews. The Board plans to expand the program to other cities across the commonwealth.