

Discussion Points

STATE PAROLE BOARD

1. The FY 2018 Governor's Budget recommends that the State Parole Board receive \$61.3 million in Direct State Services funding in FY 2018, \$500,000 or 0.8 percent less than the FY 2017 adjusted appropriation of \$61.8 million. According to the budget, this reduction is due to expected operational efficiencies (Page D-61).

- **Question:** Please describe the proposed operational efficiencies and the amount of savings to be realized by each action intended to yield operational efficiencies.

The reduction of \$500,000 to the State Parole Board's FY 18 Direct State Services funding is due to staff attrition.

2. Evaluation Data in the FY 2018 Governor's Budget indicate that the number of sex offenders supervised within all Parole programs is anticipated to total 6,505 in FY 2018, 45 more than the number supervised in FY 2017 (Page D-75). This represents about 41 percent of the 15,717 parolees anticipated to be under Parole Board supervision during FY 2018.

- **Questions:** How does the supervision of sex offender parolees differ from the supervision of other offender parolees? What special training, if any, is required of the parole officers who oversee this population?

Traditional non-sex offender supervision is primarily focused on addiction, mental health, housing and employment issues. In contrast, sex offender supervision involves various issues that are not encountered with the non-sex offender population under supervision such as sex offender counseling, Internet and social networking usage, computer examinations, living with and having contact with minors, housing, polygraph examinations, criminal complaints involving violations of supervision, Megan's Law enforcement and the sex offender tiering process.

All sex offenders under supervision are mandated to participate in some form of sex offender counseling. The therapy involved with the treatment of sex offenders is an elaborate and lengthier process than the counseling required for non-sex offenders. Sex offender counseling also requires frequent interaction between the parole officer and therapist in order to redirect supervision and counseling, thus ensuring a coordinated effort. Additionally, more sex offenders require general mental health counseling treatment than the non-sex offender population. Sex offender supervision also involves the imposition of many supervision conditions that must be monitored and enforced in addition to the general conditions imposed on all offenders. The sex offender supervision conditions include Internet and social networking usage, examinations of computers and Internet accessible devices, living with minors and having contact with minors. Monitoring sex offender compliance with these additional conditions requires the parole officer to devote a significant amount of time that is not otherwise required with the supervision of non-sex offenders. Further, housing issues present unique difficulties for the sex offender population. Restrictions against contact with minors eliminate many housing options for the sex offenders, thereby requiring additional vigilance by the parole officer to ensure stable and appropriate housing.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 30:4-123.88, sex offenders are subject to polygraph examinations, which require documentation of the justification for the polygraph examination referral, preparation

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by the polygraph examiner, the conducting of the polygraph examination, and the completion of all reports. In addition, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C: 43-6.4, sex offenders sentenced to Community Supervision for Life (CSL) who violate the terms of that supervision have committed a crime. The criminal complaint process, which involves interaction with County Prosecutor's offices and the Courts, is more time-consuming for the parole officer than the process of filing an administrative warrant against a non-sex offender for parole violations. Parole officers supervising sex offenders must also monitor and enforce Megan's Law registration as well as assist with the sex offender tiering process. This effort requires coordination between the parole officers and other law enforcement agencies, such as the municipal police departments, County Prosecutor's offices and the Courts. Lastly, it is noted that sex offenders are subject to the imposition of a Global Positioning System (GPS) ankle bracelet condition, which allows for the tracking of a sex offender's movement in the community and, consequently, requires additional efforts by the parole officer.

Parole officers tasked with the supervision of sex offenders receive specialized training in computer crimes, forensic technology investigation and sex offender counseling. This specialized training is conducted on a continuous basis to ensure that all parole officers who are supervising sex offenders are able to identify the most recent computer crime techniques utilized by sex offenders, as well as technological advances used in identifying these crimes and behaviors, and advanced Internet crime identification. Further, the parole officers who are supervising sex offenders need to be able to understand sex offender specific counseling and treatment in order to effectively supervise the sex offender. In addition, the parole officer who conducts the polygraph examinations must complete specialized training to attain and maintain certification to conduct such examinations.

3. Evaluation Data in the FY 2018 Governor's Budget indicate that the number of parolees placed in the Mutual Agreement Program (MAP) is anticipated to increase from 3,200 in FY 2017 to 3,400 in FY 2018, an increase of 200 (Page D-75). Grants-in-Aid funding for the program is recommended to remain at the FY 2017 level of \$4.6 million. In addition, the FY 2018 budget recommendation includes the discontinuation of the DOC's MAP appropriation in FY 2018 (Page D-73). The DOC's MAP is funded at \$1.2 million in FY 2017.

The MAP places substance abusing inmates and parolees in licensed, residential, community-based substance use disorder treatment programs. For State Parole Board parolees, the funding supports a network which offers the full continuum of care including long term and short term residential care, halfway house, partial care, detoxification, intensive outpatient, and outpatient treatment.

- **Questions: How does the Parole Board intend to accommodate the increased Mutual Agreement Program population without an increase in funding? If applicable, how will the elimination of DOC funding for this program affect the Parole Board's operation of the Mutual Agreement Program?**

The elimination of DOC funding for MAP will have no impact upon the State Parole Board's operations.

Effective July 1, 2016, the Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DHS-DMHAS), required all contracted treatment providers to begin the process of billing federal Medicaid for the provision of outpatient substance abuse treatment services to Medicaid-enrolled individuals. This process was fully implemented as of

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November 2016, resulting in a gradual reduction in the utilization of State Parole Board Grant-in-Aid funding for outpatient treatment services provided to offenders under supervision by the State Parole Board – Division of Parole.

4. On March 16, 2017, the President of the United States released the “America First” preliminary budget proposal for federal FY 2018. The proposal includes many substantial changes to funding levels of federal agencies and programs. If enacted, many of the changes could affect the finances of and programs operated by the State of New Jersey. The Governor’s FY 2018 Budget Recommendation includes a total appropriation of approximately \$97.7 million to the State Parole Board. Of that amount, some \$500,000 (or 0.5 percent) represents the authorization to use funds anticipated to be received from the federal government.

- **Questions:** Please identify each source of federal funding included in the Governor’s FY 2018 Budget Recommendation for the State Parole Board that the board concludes would be reduced or increased by ten percent or more if the President of the United States’ preliminary budget proposal for federal FY 2018 were to be enacted, and the estimated amount of each increase or decrease.
- Please evaluate the impacts the changes identified in Question a. would have on programs operated by the board absent funding adjustments from other sources. How would the clients served by these programs be affected? To what extent would the board’s monitoring, regulatory, and administrative activities, including as measured by performance metrics, be affected? What would be the impact on the board’s workforce?

The impact of federal funding changes cannot be calculated until a federal budget is enacted.

5. Among its total capital assets, the State has considerable land holdings, valued by the FY 2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report at about \$5.22 billion (Land and Easements, Page 26). Land and easements may be held for future use, restricted as to future uses, or not needed for public purposes and available for sale, lease or other disposition. Knowledge about the extent, location, condition and intended use of these properties and property rights does not appear to be readily available. There could be potentially beneficial uses of some properties, other than those intended by the state agency in control of the properties, depending on the size, location and condition of those properties.

- **Questions:** Please list each property under ownership or control of the State Parole Board comprising unimproved or vacant land one acre or more in size, excluding land comprising all or part of a State park, recreation or wildlife management area, identifying each property by county and municipal location, street address, tax map block and lot number and, if available, Global Positioning System coordinates. Please provide the size of the property, its current use, intended future use within the next five years, and any known or suspected environmental contamination that would impede its future use. Please also describe any deed restrictions affecting current and future use.

There is no property under ownership or control by the State Parole Board comprising unimproved or vacant land of one acre or more in size.

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- **What are the State Parole Board's policies and procedures for determining future uses of its land holdings that further the board's mission, and for allowing beneficial uses of its land in ways that are outside the board's traditional mission?**

If property under ownership or control of the State Parole Board becomes vacant, an assessment is done to determine if the property can be used for other agency purposes. If the property is no longer necessary to the agency in meeting its mission, the Department of Treasury is notified. Current law establishes the procedure for its disposition.