



National Parole Resource Center

There are approximately 200 individuals nationwide who serve as members of state paroling authorities, with the responsibility of making judgments about the timing and setting conditions of release for approximately 125,000 offenders annually. These decision makers also set conditions of release for another approximately 300,000 offenders released on mandatory parole; oversee compliance with conditions and make decisions when conditions are violated on post-release supervision; and are responsible for the return of several hundred thousand offenders to prison as a result of parole revocations. Until recently, there has been no resource specifically focused on the unique responsibilities and perspectives of state paroling authorities on which they could draw to access information, guidance, and support on best practices or evidence emerging from the research that would strengthen and make their work more effective.

About the National Parole Resource Center

[The National Parole Resource Center \(NPRC\)](#), supported by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and administered by the Center for Effective Public Policy (CEPP) and the Association of Paroling Authorities International (APAI), addresses this gap by serving as a technical assistance, training, and information resource for this key group of criminal justice decision-makers. The NPRC was created in 2010 and enjoys the collaboration of an active advisory group, including BJA, the National Institute of Corrections (NIC), the National Reentry Resource Center (NRRC), the Pew Public Safety Project, the Urban Institute, and the Vera Institute of Justice.

Mission

NPRC maintains links with a growing network of organizations that provide information and guidance on substantive topics and related resources. The mission of the NPRC is to serve as a:

- Source of information, training, and technical assistance for paroling authorities and the supervision agencies that they oversee and with whom they collaborate.
- Forum and source of support that will enable parole leadership to continue to define the evolving role of parole in a criminal justice system seeking to carry out its statutory mandates including community protection and the wise use of public resources.

- Portal to other resources for parole, beyond those directly provided by NPRC, by establishing collaborative partnerships with other public and private entities seeking to assist paroling authorities and agencies.

To date, the project has completed the following activities:

- Created and maintained a [web site](#) that provides a unique portal for information, resources, literature, events, and links to other sites of interest to parole leaders;
- Completed intensive technical assistance work with (and documented in a subsequent publication) four competitively-selected National Parole Learning Sites to support the implementation of sound, evidence-based practices for parole;
- Provided short-term, on-site, jurisdiction-specific technical assistance to a number of state parole boards;
- Developed and delivered in two states a “continuity curriculum” designed to respond to the challenges facing paroling authorities who are working to assimilate new members and to provide those members with the information and resources necessary to do their jobs most effectively, and the entire board with an opportunity to revisit their role as a policymaking team;
- Developed and delivered in two states a curriculum specifically on collaboration between paroling authorities and their partners who are responsible for correctional institutions and parole supervision;
- Developed and delivered a training session on strategic planning in an era of evidence-based practice that involved members from sixteen paroling authorities;
- Convened conference-based training sessions at every annual meeting since the NPRC’s inception of the Association of Paroling Authorities International on a variety of issues related to parole decisionmaking for parole boards and staff;
- Completed and used as training materials (with funding from project partner NIC) a library of five documents entitled “***Parole Essentials: Practical Guides for Parole Leaders***”;
- Completed a technical assistance self-assessment toolkit for paroling authorities designed to help paroling authorities conduct a gaps analysis of their current policies and practices and determine their priority training and technical assistance needs; and
- Developed a webcast that will address the ways in which the parole interview can be used as an effective tool and as an opportunity to enhance the motivation of offenders.

The NPRC has received supplemental FY13 funding to continue the project’s web site and other seminal activities; additional work that will be completed under this phase of NPRC will include providing strategic planning technical assistance to parole boards, developing specialized information resources on sex offenders, women offenders, and individuals with mental health challenges.

Contact Information

For more information about the work of the NPRC please contact the following:

NPRC Contact:

Peggy Burke, Project Director, Principal
National Parole Resource Center
Center for Effective Public Policy
8403 Colesville Road, Suite 720
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
Phone: (301) 589-9383
Email: pburke@cepp.com

BJA Contacts:

Gary L. Dennis, Ph.D.
Senior Policy Advisor for Corrections
Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
810 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20531
Phone: (202) 305-9059
E-mail: Gary.Dennis@usdoj.gov

Thurston Bryant
Policy Advisor for Corrections
Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
810 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20531
Phone: (202) 514-8082
E-mail: Thurston.Bryant@usdoj.gov

