



# The PAPPC Journal

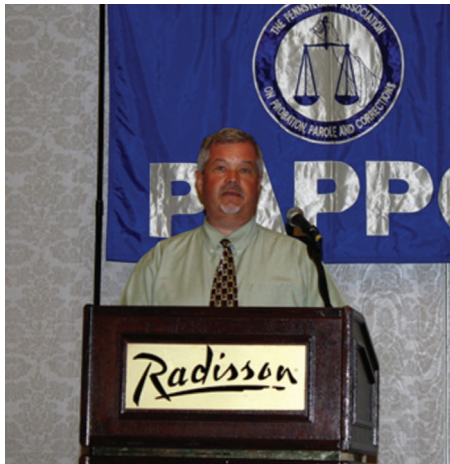
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*A publication of The Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections*

## 94<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL TRAINING INSTITUTE IN REVIEW



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95<sup>th</sup> Annual  
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Bayfront  
Sheraton  
Erie, PA

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## A Message from the President LEO LUTZ, 2015–2016

Dear PAPPC Members:

Thank you for taking the time to look through and read our Winter 2016 issue of "The Journal". Once again, our Editor Chris Rosage has done a great job of compiling a collection of articles about topics relevant to our respective fields. We hope that you will find these articles to be educational and enriching.

I hope you also take a few minutes to browse our web site to check out all that PAPPC has to offer. If you are not already a member I encourage you to join. If you are a member and would like to become more involved, I invite you to join one of our planning committees, and/or attend an Executive Board meeting. The dates and locations of our meetings are posted on our web site. The more members we have actively participating, the stronger PAPPC will become. If you are interested in joining PAPPC please do so on-line through the membership link on our web site.



As president, my hope is to grow the membership of PAPPC, and expand the appeal of PAPPC by building on our reputation for presenting new and exciting topics at our Regional Trainings and our Annual Training Institute. Our next Training Institute, which will be held from May 15-18, 2016 in Erie, Pennsylvania, should provide a wonderful opportunity to advance these goals. Please plan to attend this event in our Great Lakes Region as it promises to be informative, as well as fun.

Again, we are always looking for active members that could give a little of their time to one of the oldest associations of its kind in Pennsylvania. If you are interested, please reach out to one of

our Executive Committee Members, or contact us through [www.PAPPC.org](http://www.PAPPC.org). We welcome fresh input and ideas!

I would like to thank each of you for the opportunity to serve you as president of PAPPC. I look forward to PAPPC becoming an even greater voice in the fields of probation, parole, and corrections within the Commonwealth.

Yours,

Leo J. Lutz  
PAPPC President

## Contribute to *The PAPPC Journal!*

**THE PAPPC JOURNAL** is published by members of the Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections. Articles, announcements and other newsworthy material of relevance to our membership may be submitted for consideration to:

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**2015 – 2016**

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**PAPPC**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

THE MISSION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION ON PROBATION, PAROLE AND CORRECTIONS (PAPPC) SUPPORTS AND PROMOTES BEST PRACTICE METHODS AND PROFESSIONALISM IN THE FIELD OF JUVENILE AND ADULT PROBATION, PAROLE, CORRECTIONS, INSTITUTIONAL CARE AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION.

## 94th Annual Training Institute in Review

Written by: Chris Rosage, Editor/Chair PAPPC Journal

The PAPPC 94th Annual Training Institute was held at The Radisson Hotel Harrisburg, May 17–20, 2015. Our theme was “Collaboration: Finding the Pathway to Success”. Opening remarks were made by John E. Wetzel, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. The keynote presentation, “The Journey Continues: Empowering, Enduring and Energizing” was given by Marcus M. Hodges, Community Corrections Regional Administrator, Virginia Department of Corrections. Presenter, C. Jim Fox, Chief Hearing Officer, Pennsylvania Board Probation & Parole, delivered the Plenary Session on “Career Survival”. The Closing Session was offered by Jerry Balistreri, professional educator, speaker and author, and his topic was “Be a Kam: reading body language and understanding what the ‘tells’ mean.”

Several workshops were offered during the conference with topics including JNET access; influences of bipolar disorder on criminality; production, use and history of methamphetamine; PBPP Street Crimes Unit; understanding trauma and improving response by criminal justice agencies; Swift/Certain/Fair approach to offender management; Cybercrime: digital footprint of an offender; young adult offenders: negative turning

points of future criminality; Evidence-Based Practices and the importance of drug testing; youth gang involvement; supervising juvenile offenders and the four core skills required to facilitate behavior change and reduce recidivism; and re-entry services and transitional housing. Also available to attendees, tours of the State Correctional Institution @ Camp Hill in recognition of their upcoming 75th Anniversary in March 2016.



A Silent Auction was held to benefit the Penn State Children’s Hospital [www.pennstatehershey.org](http://www.pennstatehershey.org) and Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals <http://give.childrensmiraclenetworkhospitals.org>. There was an Awards Luncheon sponsored by Community Education Centers, [www.cecintl.com](http://www.cecintl.com). Our three 2015 award recipients were: Adult Corrections Professional, Sue Fazzini, SCI Greene; Juvenile Corrections Professional, Shawn Guyer, Loysville Youth Development Center; and Juvenile Justice Professional, Susan Christner, Lebanon County Juvenile Probation.

In all, the 2015 Conference was a success! The 95th Annual Training Institute is planned for May 15–18, 2016 at the Bayfront Sheraton, Erie, PA. Please, save the date and plan to attend!



**Support your Association...** Encourage a colleague to join PAPPC. Invite an industry expert to present at our Annual Institute or at a regional training. Ask a vendor to exhibit or provide a sponsorship at the Annual Institute. Strengthening connections and building awareness about PAPPC makes us stronger and benefits our membership.

THANK YOU TO OUR VENDORS FOR YOUR CONTINUED PARTICIPATION



ELECTRONIC MONITORING SOLUTIONS DIVISION  
Enabling Safer Communities



The PAPPC Executive Committee would like to show our appreciation to the vendors for their participation at the 94th Annual PAPPC Training Institute @ The Radisson Hotel, Harrisburg. The exhibits you offered and expertise you provided were outstanding; you were a valuable asset to our conference.

**THANK YOU**





*In July 2010, PAPPC lost a dear friend and devoted colleague. Mr. Robert “Bob” Kelsey was a respected probation administrator not only within the Bucks County Adult Probation Department but throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.*

*Bob voluntarily gave countless hours in various roles within the PAPPC for two decades and served as President in 2008–2009.*

*Bob guided PAPPC with his gentle wisdom and experience to drive the Association to the highest standards of professionalism.*

*On a personal level, he valued his family most and enjoyed spending time with them. Bob initiated many of the current activities PAPPC supports, and the mark he left continues to be appreciated by members and leaders of PAPPC.*

## The Robert E. Kelsey Annual Scholarship Award

### ELIGIBILITY:

- Applicant must be a current PAPPC member or immediate family member of a current PAPPC member (i.e. spouse, child, step-child, adopted child, or self).
- Applicant must be currently enrolled or accepted into a two (2) year or four (4) year accredited program of higher education with a concentration of studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences. The maximum scholarship amount is \$1500 annually with a maximum of two scholarships per year being given by PAPPC.
- Applicant must be in good academic standing. Incoming freshman must demonstrate academic success by holding at least a 2.75 GPA or equivalent at the time of application. Students presently enrolled in a college or university must demonstrate academic success by holding a current overall college GPA of 2.75 or better at the time of application. Please note changes to the eligibility criteria could change without notice. Check our web site for updates.

### APPLICATION PROCEDURE/APPLICATION CHECKLIST:

- Applicant must submit three letters of recommendation at the time of application.
- Applicant must submit a personal statement explaining why they chose their field of study and how that field applies to their future aspirations. Statements are not to exceed 500 words and must be typed and double-spaced.
- Applicants must submit a copy of their most current transcripts. In addition, applicant must submit the following information. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
  - full name
  - social security number
  - address
  - phone number
  - email address
  - high school or college grade point average
  - name of college or university applicant plans to attend or is currently attending, and major
  - PAPPC member name and relationship

The application must be signed and dated by the applicant. Signature indicates applicant understands and agrees to abide by the terms of scholarship program and confirms that information provided is accurate. One scholarship per PAPPC MEMBER or PAPPC FAMILY MEMBER every two (2) years. Award winners are not permitted to reapply consecutively. Should an Executive Board member or family member apply for the scholarship, the Executive Board member will be excluded from the voting process for selection.

## Co-Occurrence Disorder and Criminality: Creating Opportunity for Success

**“The first step toward success is taken when you refuse to be a captive of the environment in which you first find yourself.”** Mark Caine PhD, Scientist & Professor, Columbia University

Written by: Chris Rosage, Editor/Chair PAPPC Journal

People who abuse alcohol or drugs and experience mental health disorders, such as depression or bipolar disorder, are diagnosed as having co-occurring disorders, sometimes referred to as dual diagnosis. The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) estimates that up to 60 percent of people with substance abuse problems have co-occurring disorders. There are several contributing factors, such as, heredity, brain development, stress, trauma, or other neurological factors. Crime and substance abuse are almost inevitably linked. “Studies have shown, almost three-quarters of jail inmates with mental disorders have a co-occurring substance abuse disorder. Justice-involved individuals with co-occurring disorders often have complex social and behavioral health needs.” ([media.samhsa.gov/co-occurring/topics/criminal-justice/index.aspx](http://media.samhsa.gov/co-occurring/topics/criminal-justice/index.aspx))

A person who has a co-occurring disorder has two separate illnesses; therefore, each illness needs its own treatment plan.

In a drug court system, offenders are obligated to verify their compliance with mandated stipulations. More specifically, they are required to demonstrate they are attending counseling and submitting negative urinalysis. Participants might also be required to demonstrate they are enhancing their education; diligently searching for employment; living in safe, drug-free environments and volunteering in the community. “Close supervision is a key to success, as 70 percent of participants drop out of treatment early if they’re not forced to remain.” (“Drug Courts Work”, n.d., National Association of Drug Court Professionals)

Commitments to prison treatment programs, such as, Therapeutic Communities, provide a significant level of supervision; inmates are a captive audience. While

confined they might be motivated to participate if they know that their cooperation will enhance their chance to be released on parole. “A study of programs like this found that participants were less likely to use drugs and get arrested in the six months immediately following their release from prison, which suggests that these programs are at least marginally effective in helping people to leave drugs behind.” (Pelissier, B., n.d., “Federal Prison Residential Drug Treatment Reduces Substance Use and Arrests After Release”)

Once released from prison or the drug court system, successful programs should also provide offenders with the opportunity to participate in aftercare programs. For instance, living in sober communities; attending NA/AA, Smart Recovery or Double Trouble Recovery; and meeting with a counselor

periodically are helpful, but even when they’ve been sober for a month or so, a long-term plan will more than likely allow people to sustain sobriety, even when it’s chronic in nature. Furthermore, it is imperative that offenders diagnosed with co-occurrence disorders participate in comprehensive psychiatric evaluations and have their medication monitored. Also, supervision staff should be observant of any difficulties with daily tasks, as well as, relationships and social functioning. According to Dr. Kenneth Minkoff, a clinical assistant professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and expert in dual diagnosis and public sector managed care, “Treatment success is enhanced by maintaining integrated treatment relationships providing disease management interventions for both disorders continuously across multiple treatment episodes, balancing case management support with detachment and expectation at each point in time.”

**“Kentucky has also enacted a number of reforms, and this state proves the cost-savings idea quite nicely. According to officials there, reformations that emphasize treatment over incarceration will result in a long-term savings of more than \$40 million.” (Lyons, D., March 2010, “Crime and Treatment”, National Conference of State Legislatures)**

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## SPOTLIGHT

### Co-Occurrence Disorder (continued)

Offenders diagnosed with co-occurrence disorders must be held accountable for their actions. The severity of their crime and the level of their competency will determine how to manage their recovery while they serve their sanction. Utilizing evidence-based practices will increase accountability, improve our chances of reducing crime and maximize the likelihood of offender's success.

*"Nobody's a natural. You work hard to get good and then work to get better. It's hard to stay on top."*

—Paul Coffey, former NHL star

"Texas is one state that's revolutionized its approach to drug use. Reforms that began in 2007 include a number of innovations, such as, electronic monitoring of earlier release parolees; tailored treatment for nonviolent drug offenders; risk-assessments that provide reasonable release data and probation programs for low-level offenders." (Ward, M., 8/11/12, "Texas Prison Population Shrinks as Rehabilitation Reforms Take Root")

## The Misleading Math of 'Recidivism' Even the Supreme Court gets it wrong.

By DANA GOLDSTEIN

<https://www.themarshallproject.org>

New York's Department of Corrections last week released a report that generated triumphant headlines in some of the upstate communities that house prisons: "Recidivism rates for ex-inmates reach 28-year low," "Fewer Offenders Going Back to Prison," and "New York Sees Less Crime by Ex-Offenders."

Recidivism, the rate at which former inmates run afoul of the law again, is one of the most commonly accepted measures of success in criminal justice. Nationally, the numbers are discouraging. About three-quarters of inmates released from state prisons are rearrested within five years of their release, and 55 percent are incarcerated again (see figure 1).

At first glance, the upbeat coverage seemed unjustified. New York state's overall recidivism numbers have not changed much since the mid-1990s. The state report showed recidivism actually remained stable for prisoners released between 1996 and 2010, with about 40 percent of former inmates returning to prison within three years of release. Between 2008 and 2010, the recidivism rate even inched slightly upward.

Recidivism of prisoners released in 30 states in 2005, by time from release to first arrest that led to recidivating event  
Percent who recidivated

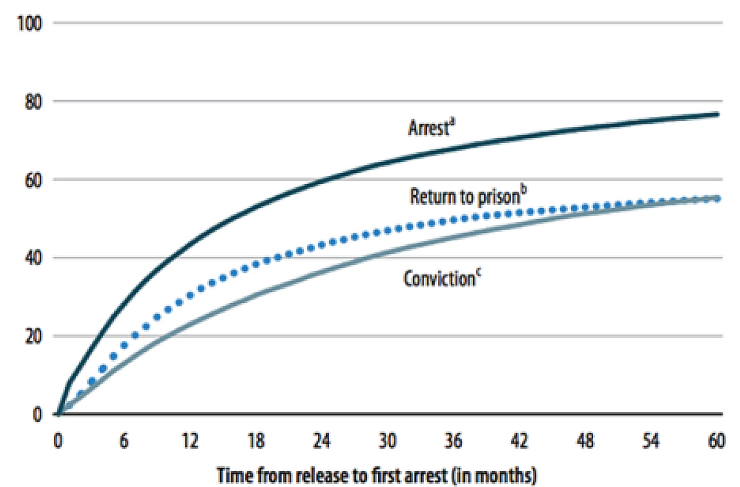


Figure 1. Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics

The Department of Corrections, however, called attention to the data within the data: although overall recidivism rates were stable, between 1985 and 2010 there was a 10 percent decrease in the number of former inmates returning to prison because of new felony convictions. (That drop in new felonies took place during an era of unprecedented declines in crime nationwide, but that's another story.)

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Most of the returns to prison in New York — 78 percent — were triggered not by fresh offenses but by parole violations, such as failing drug tests or skipped meetings with parole officers. In other words, the numbers showed a decline in danger to the public.

The way New York corrections officials extracted good news from not-so-good news illustrates the fact that recidivism, though constantly discussed, can be widely interpreted — and misinterpreted. Below, a few reasons why.

### What *is* recidivism, anyway?

In some studies, violating parole, breaking the law, getting arrested, being convicted of a crime, and returning to prison are all considered examples of recidivism. Other studies count just one or two of these events as recidivism, such as convictions or re-incarceration.

When the federal government calculates a state's recidivism rate, it uses sample prisoner populations to tally three separate categories: rearrests, reconvictions, and returns to prison, all over a one-to-five year period from the date of release. In contrast, a widely cited 2011 survey from the Pew Center on the States relied on states' own reporting of just one of those measures: the total number of individuals who returned to prison within three years.

Both the federal and Pew statistics leave out an entire group of former prisoners: those who break the law but don't get caught. That's why some recidivism research, like this UCLA study on the relationship between meth use and re-offending, relies on subjects' self-reports of illegal activity.

Another inconsistency across recidivism studies is the period of time they cover. Though three to five years is considered the gold standard, many studies examine a much smaller time frame. One recent study claimed that a parenting program for prisoners in Oregon reduced recidivism by 59 percent for women and 27 percent for men. But the study tracked program participants for only a single year after they left prison. The likelihood of reoffending does decrease after one year. But according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, an additional 13 percent of people will be rearrested four years after their release.

### Who recidivates? (Yes, that's the verb they use.)

Here's another surprising fact: The most violent prisoners are actually *the least likely* to end up back in jail. And they're very unlikely to commit the same crime again (see figure 2).

One percent of released killers ever murder a second time, while over 70 percent of robbers and burglars commit the same crimes over and over. According to criminologist Robert Weisberg of Stanford Law School, robbers and burglars tend to be career criminals for two reasons. First, their offenses are likely to be crimes of skill, not crimes of passion. And second, their jail and prison sentences are shorter, so they are younger, healthier, and more able to commit subsequent crimes upon their release. People convicted of murder, on the other hand, are often elderly and in poor health by the time they have complete their sentences.

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**Recidivism of prisoners released in 30 states in 2005, by most serious commitment offense and time from release to first arrest**

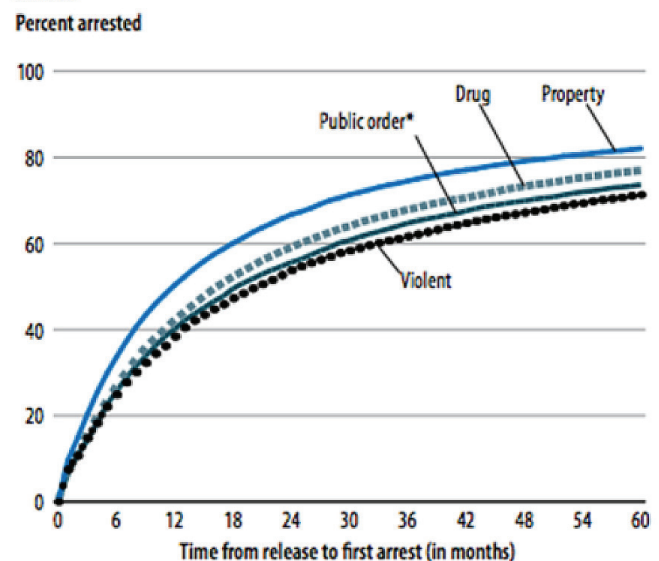


Figure 2. Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics

## What about selection bias?

That parenting study in Oregon cited earlier may have been flawed, but at least it used a control group. Other research into the impacts of various social programs on recidivism is plagued by the problem of selection bias.

The Bard Prison Initiative offers liberal arts college classes to inmates in six New York facilities, and has been celebrated by Gov. Andrew Cuomo for its 5 percent recidivism rate, a figure generated by the program’s internal research, which did not study a control group. But Max Kenner, the founder of the Bard initiative, says he does not consider low recidivism the best marker of his program’s success. “If our recidivism rates stay so low, I start to worry that we’re not taking suitable risks,” he says; the program might just be cherry-picking the inmates most likely to succeed after prison. “When we do admission, we take risks on people... how far can we push the envelope? That should be our business — getting people who are bright and interested involved in various ways. If we’re not failing at all, we’re not risking enough.”

## Did the Supreme Court misinterpret the data?

In its 2011 *Brown v. Plata* decision, the U.S. Supreme Court cited California’s stratospherically high recidivism rates (according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, close

to 70 percent of former inmates in the state return to jail or prison within three years of release) as evidence that California prisons do not rehabilitate, but instead “produce additional criminal behavior.” The justices blamed recidivism on overcrowding and the lack of adequate medical services behind bars, and ruled those conditions unconstitutional. The ruling required California to decrease its prison population.

But what if the court’s take on the causes of California’s high recidivism rate is wrong? What if it isn’t primarily prison overcrowding that causes reoffending, but an overly punitive parole system — the same trend that drives the majority of recidivism in New York?

That’s what the data shows. Parolees in California are actually less likely than parolees in New York or Illinois to commit a new crime. Yet they are exponentially more likely to be arrested and sent back behind bars for violating the conditions of their parole, according to an analysis of BJS data from researcher Ryan G. Fischer. California law punishes technical parole violations with a few days to four months in a county jail or state prison.

As the chart below demonstrates, using federal recidivism data for inmates who left state prisons in 1994, parole violations accounted for the entirety of the gap between California’s recidivism rate and the recidivism rates of other large states. In other words: Because of the differences in how states and localities enforce parole, recidivism rates tell us little about the reoccurrence of the types of crimes with which the public is most concerned: crimes that have a victim.

State	Rearrested	Reconvicted	Returned to Jail or Prison			Returned to Prison		
			New Crime	Technical Violation	Total	New Crime	Technical Violation	Total
California	70	49	37	32	69	27	39	66
Florida	79	45	32	8	40	27	26	53
Illinois	77	46	40	4	44	32	6	38
New York	67	57	49	14	63	27	29	56
North Carolina	61	47	45	8	53	34	14	48
Texas	58	32	31	7	38	15	11	26

Figure 3. Source: Ryan G. Fischer, UC Irvine Center for Evidence-Based Corrections

# The Volokh Conspiracy

## Facts about mental illness and crime

Reprinted from: Washington Post

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/volokh-conspiracy/wp/2015/02/20/facts-about-mental-illness-and-crime/>

By David Kopel

Research Director, Independence Institute, Denver; Associate Policy Analyst, Cato Institute, D.C. and Adjunct professor, Denver University, Sturm College of Law.

This year's [Howard Law Journal](#) symposium challenged participants to search for ideas that can reduce criminal gun violence, and do so while respecting Second Amendment rights. My contribution is an article on mental illness and crime. The co-authors are historian Clayton Cramer, who is the author of the book [My Brother Ron: A Personal and Social History of the Deinstitutionalization of the Mentally Ill](#), and Dr. Carolyn Dobbins, a psychotherapist who is author of the book [What a Life Can Be: One Therapist's Take on Schizo-Affective Disorder](#). The draft article is available [here](#). Some of our key findings:

- Mentally ill people are disproportionately victimized by violent crime. The largest crime-reducing benefit of helping persons with mental illness would be in reducing crimes against the mentally ill.
- Some types of severe mental illness increase the risk that a person will perpetrate a violent crime. Risk varies based on many other factors, such as substance abuse, or unemployment. Many of the risks are from secondary effects of the mental illness; for example, cognitive difficulties make employment difficult or impossible.
- Many mental illnesses have a genetic component, although the genetic effects are far from fully understood.
- Untreated severe mental illness is particularly significant in homicide—the extreme end of the criminal spectrum. Such illness is even more significant for mass murders of strangers.
- Treatment of severe mental illness—best accomplished by a combination of therapy and drugs—can greatly reduce violence by and against the mentally ill.
- Many mental ill persons who seek treatment do not receive it. Mental hospital beds per capita in the U.S. are lower than they have been since 1850.

- Over the last half-century, mental hospital capacity has dwindled, while prison and jail capacity has vastly expanded. Mentally ill prisoners comprise a large fraction of the jail and prison population.
- Compared to imprisonment, treating a mentally ill person in a mental hospital is at least four times as expensive, on month-by-month basis.
- Nevertheless, expanded availability of treatment in mental hospitals could be cost-effective in the long run. Ninety days in a mental hospital might avoid the need for 10 years in prison. Considering the costs suffered by victims of violent crime, greater availability of mental health treatment would provide major savings to society and to crime victims. Besides that, mentally ill persons who receive appropriate aid can be more constructively productive, and helpful to others.
- Because many untreated mental illnesses (such as schizophrenia) are degenerative, early treatment is especially helpful. Preventing a first episode of psychosis (loss of contact with reality) can have major lifetime benefits.
- In situations where a severely mentally ill person presents a grave danger to other persons, involuntary commitment may be necessary. Due process should be scrupulously protected—such as the right to neutral decision-maker. Involuntary commitment should not require that the danger to others be “imminent.”
- Instead of commitment to a mental hospital, “involuntary outpatient commitment” is a less-restrictive alternative for many persons. After hearing the evidence, a judge may order a person to attend therapy and/or to take medication, as a condition of not being committed to a hospital. Such programs have been successful, and should be expanded.
- Some notorious mass murders could have been prevented if persons who knew about a very dangerous individual had informed the appropriate authorities. For example, officials at Pima Community College in Tucson, and at the University of Colorado's Aurora medical campus, might well have prevented the mass attacks perpetrated by ex-students, if they had informed law enforcement about the known danger. The laws of Arizona and Colorado were more than sufficient for the individuals to have been committed for observation, with longer commitment possible after the observation.

Helping people who have severe mental illness is compassionate, expensive, and one of the best long-term investments that our society can make.



**The Pennsylvania Association  
on Probation, Parole and Corrections**

P.O. Box 5553, Harrisburg, PA 17110

[www.pappc.org](http://www.pappc.org)

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**95th Annual  
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