

BI CASE STUDY: New Jersey State Parole Board

Four New Jersey Locations:
Atlantic City, Elizabeth, Perth Amboy, Neptune City

“We place a strong emphasis on stabilizing parolees who are enrolled in our CRC programs and helping them develop skills to succeed in the community.”

- Linda Williams,
BI Elizabeth CRC
Program Manager

New Jersey Parole Board Uses Community Resource Centers & Electronic Supervision Program to Manage Parolees



HIGHLIGHTS:

- BI maintains two separate contracts with the New Jersey Parole Board, including one to operate four Community Resource Centers and one for offender-monitoring technologies.
- The four BI CRCs in New Jersey supervise almost 300 high-risk offenders daily
- The BI CRC programs have served more than 6,500 high-risk parolees since the first CRC was opened in 1998.
- Using a mix of BI offender-monitoring technologies, supervising parole officers are better able to monitor approximately 600 offenders daily.
- BI has worked with New Jersey officials for more than a decade.

THE COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTERS

Parolees who face revocation and re-incarceration cause major challenges today. They consume valuable resources needlessly and pose a threat to public safety. Most violation issues stem from entrenched attitudinal, motivational and behavioral issues as well as substance abuse, educational and employment problems. The New Jersey State Parole Board targets some of these high-risk parolees with a very structured approach for supervision, treatment and training at four Community Resource Centers (CRC) that BI operates in Atlantic City, Elizabeth, Perth Amboy and Neptune City. The first center, in Elizabeth, was opened in 1998. Since the Elizabeth CRC was opened, more than 6,500 clients have been enrolled in one of the four CRCs statewide. In Elizabeth alone, more than 4,000 clients have been enrolled in the CRC.

The CRCs support the State Parole Board's mission to protect public safety and enhance parole outcomes by providing careful monitoring, support and problem solving with parolees. The CRCs are located in close proximity to the parole offices—in Elizabeth the office is in the same building—allowing for close collaboration and coordination of services.

New Jersey officials established the CRCs to help parole officers to monitor high-risk parolees who were likely to fail conditions of parole and return to prison at high expense to Garden State taxpayers. Each of the four New Jersey BI CRCs provides supervision, treatment and training programs for adults and juveniles. The community-based CRCs have been successful in stabilizing parolees released to community supervision, helping them deal with addictions and obtaining and maintaining employment. Today, almost 300 individuals go to a BI-operated CRC in New Jersey daily.

Clients participate in the CRC programs from several months up to a year,

with progress performance-based. The CRCs are based on What Works in Corrections, including proven components such as community-based treatment, cognitive behavioral therapy, multi-component programming and educational and vocational elements. Each BI CRC is open six days a week and includes frequent check-ins, ongoing drug testing, intensive case management and group classes. Based on a person's risks and needs, they will be assigned to some or all of these group classes:

- Substance abuse education
- Adult basic education and GED preparation
- Life Skills classes
- Moral Reconciliation Therapy®
- Domestic Violence
- Gang Awareness and Gang Prevention
- Parenting and family classes
- Anger management
- Employment skills building and career development counseling
- Woman's group

BI's CRCs follow evidence-based practices to target client risks and needs. For example, MRT targets observable characteristics related to criminal offending and aims to alter how offenders think, how they make judgments and decisions about right and wrong, and promote pro-social behaviors. Many of the graduates of the CRC remark this cognitive skills training has had a strong impact on their lives.

The goals of the CRCs include:

- Reducing recidivism
- Altering the parolees' attitudes and behavior through treatment and training
- Generating significant savings for taxpayers through lower incarceration costs
- Targeting employment or school enrollment upon program completion

Each CRC partners with local organizations to support community

integration for parolees. For example, the Elizabeth CRC forged partnerships with the Union County Vocational Technical School, the First Oppositional, local community colleges, and the Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce around employment matters. At the Atlantic City CRC, a program has been forged with Rutgers University to deliver nutritional classes for clients, with the goal of teaching healthy lifestyles. To help these offenders re-connect to the community, volunteer community service is encouraged and coordinated through the CRCs.

THE STATE'S ELECTRONIC SUPERVISION PROGRAM

BI also supports the New Jersey Parole Board for electronic supervision technologies and related monitoring services. The BI supervision technologies include:

- BI ExacuTrack® AT, a location monitoring system that includes active Global Positioning System technology. Typically, this system is reserved for higher risk offenders as it provides near real-time data on an individual as he or she travels within a community.
- BI HomeGuard® 200 and BI 9000® Series electronic monitoring systems monitor the absence or presence of an individual at home, which in turn allows supervising officers to know if court- or agency-ordered curfews and schedules are being followed.
- BI Cellular®, a wireless electronic monitoring system for individuals who do not have a landline phone system.

The contract with the Parole Board for technology allows the agency to monitor approximately 600 individuals each day. Approximately 225 offenders are on GPS tracking (ExacuTrack AT) each day while about 375 are monitored with the radio-frequency and wireless systems daily. New Jersey officials also use BI GuardCenter®, the most advanced call center for 24/7 offender-monitoring services nationwide.



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THE RESULTS

These two programs have enhanced the ability of the New Jersey Parole Board to manage parolees released to community supervision in a cost-effective manner. The CRCs have enhanced successful reintegration into the community for high-risk parolees and reduced substance abuse and other criminogenic risks. As a result, the CRCs help the state tackle costly recidivism. The Electronic Supervision Program supports busy supervising officers who are managing high caseloads to know if individuals are complying with conditions of release and allows officials to divert certain individuals to community supervision versus costly incarceration. Specific highlights include:

- BI has supported the New Jersey Parole Board for more than a decade.
- The Elizabeth CRC celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2008; the center has served more than 4,000 parolees.
- The four CRCs supervise almost 300 New Jersey parolees each day and more than 6,500 high-risk parolees since inception.
- Only a small percentage of the thousands of drug tests administered were positive for drug use, demonstrating

that the CRC intensive supervision approach significantly reduces illegal drug use among parolees.

- BI has received positive audit reviews from the State Parole Board in both financial and programmatic areas.
- Many of the CRC participants—many of whom have never had meaningful employment—are employed while in the program and upon completion.
- LSI-R assessment scores demonstrate parolees who attend a CRC have a measurably lower risk assessment score upon program exit.
- The contract for technology with the New Jersey Parole Board supports the agency to monitor approximately 600 offenders daily.

TECHNOLOGY:

- BI ExacuTrack® AT
- BI HomeGuard® 200
- BI 9000® Series
- BI Cellular®



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