

Parole Board's Summary of Its Presentation to the
Special Commission to Reduce Sex Offender Recidivism

- It has long been realized by community supervision professionals that sex offenders require different supervision and management standards than do non-sexual offenders
- In February of 1996, the Massachusetts Parole Board initiated the Intensive Parole for Sex Offenders (IPSO) unit. This was a pilot program, located in the Framingham Regional Parole Office, staffed by two parole officers with numerous years of experience in the supervision of adult offenders.
- The officers were assigned a special caseload of paroled sex offenders living in the Framingham area. The Unit developed and implemented stricter standards of supervision for these offenders.
- The IPSO team views its work as a collaborative approach to the management of sex offenders in the community.
- Their approach, known as the Containment Model, includes specially trained parole officers, a sex offender treatment provider, a polygraph examiner, and a victim advocate.
- The team's unifying goal is the safety of the general public.
- All members of the team have great respect for one another and trust that information is shared on a weekly basis. The flow of information works across the board from the time the offender is released on parole until he/she completes supervision.
- In August 2006, IPSO expanded to the Worcester, Lawrence and Springfield Regional Field Offices. With that expansion came further specialized

training in computer forensics, treatment centered training, GPS training, digital camera and image training.

- The caseload of each IPSO officer is not to exceed 20 parolees, less than half the number carried by a non-IPSO officer.
- The IPSO teams uses the following enforcement techniques and supervision methods: sex offender registration, weekly, unannounced visits to the parolees home, work, counseling and community, mandatory sex offender counseling, electronic monitoring, curfews, polygraph testing, random substance abuse testing for drug and alcohol use, travel, motor vehicle and driving restrictions, maintenance of mandatory daily diaries and interagency cooperation and collaboration.
- Common goals: #1 Public safety, ensuring that the offender is not engaged in risk activities, rapid recognition of warning signs (deviant cycle), enhancing offender's compliance and offender's disclosure in treatment.
- While there have been the expected technical violations, most frequently for drug or alcohol usage, to date not one IPSO-managed offender has been convicted of another sex offense while on parole.
- The loss of housing and employment opportunities has impacted offender stability and can adversely affect supervision but with continued collaboration transition back into the community is a possibility.
- SJC decision June 11, 2014 Lifetime Community Parole Supervision unconstitutional.
- Mandatory post supervision.