



Association of Paroling Authorities International (APAI) Professional Collaboration: A Success Story for Discretionary Parole

Ashley Koonce, APAI, Executive Director

Jonathan Ogletree, Chair, Kansas Prisoner Review Board

Sylvie Blanchet, Executive Vice Chairperson, Parole Board of
Canada

Jennifer P. Shaffer, Executive Officer, California Board of Parole
Hearings

Introductions

Ashley Koonce, APAI Executive Director

Jonathan Ogletree, APAI President
Chair, Kansas Prisoner Review Board

Sylvie Blanchet, APAI International Vice President
Executive Vice Chairperson, Parole Board of
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Jennifer P. Shaffer, APAI United States Regional
Vice President
Executive Officer, California Board of Parole
Hearings



Mission

The Association of Paroling Authorities International is a global association dedicated to the accomplishment of public safety and successful reentry through training, education, standards of evidence-based research and best practices, providing peer-based technical assistance and support in collaboration with strategic partners.



Vision

We believe that the parole process is essential to a fair and just criminal justice system that enhances public safety.

We are dedicated to professional development of those involved in the parole process.

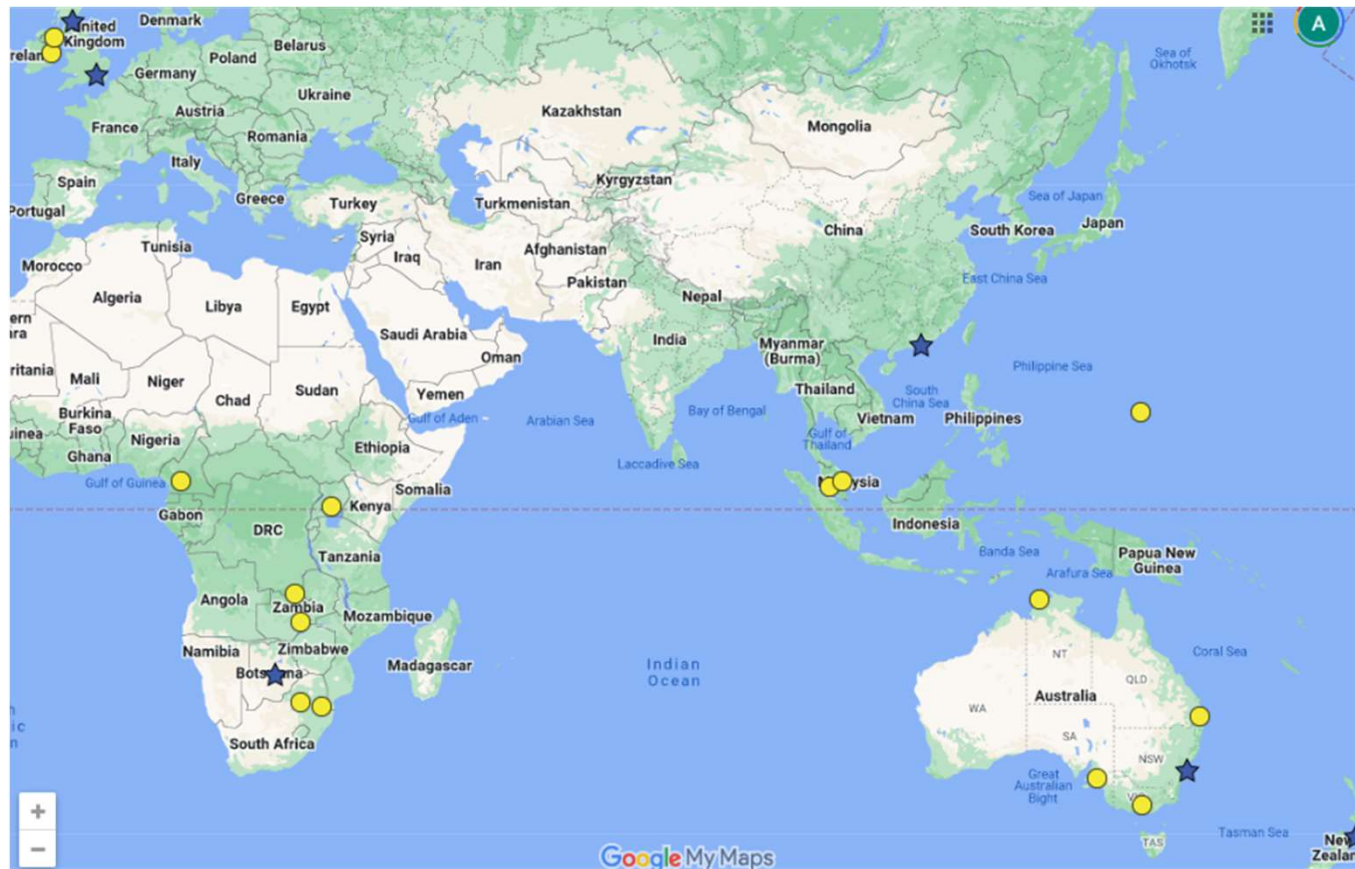
We are committed to the development, improvement and utilization of consistent and rational parole practices.

We believe in the human dignity of all and shall demonstrate this belief to the community, victims and incarcerated individuals through our practices.

We believe in the development of leadership that creates an environment to guide, influence and facilitate best practices.



Membership



Paroling Authorities and Boards

- Local
- State
- Federal
- Global

Universities

Criminal Justice Agencies

Federal Agencies

Partnerships

Unique design of each jurisdiction

International connection promoted the expansion of Structured Decision-Making Framework (SDMF)

Recent Community of Practice held in New York City, which brought together 10 states from the U.S. and the Parole Board of Canada

Collaboration and Resource Sharing

Parole Board of Canada (PBC)

Who We Are and What We Do



Parole Board of Canada

Quality Decision-Making

Are limited to only what is necessary and proportionate

Are fair, free of bias and of outside influence

PBC Decisions

Reflect all relevant aspects of the case and reflect a responsiveness to diversity

Are based on relevant, reliable and persuasive information, and respect the PBC's legislation and policies

Parole Board of Canada

Structured Decision-Making Framework (SDMF)

To support quality decision-making, the PBC adopted a structured approach to decision-making in 2009/2010

Developed for the PBC by Dr. Ralph Serin, Carleton University

The SDMF allows Board members to consider a number of key areas (domains) in their assessment of risk to re-offend and allows them to provide a rationale for their decision

Provides a roadmap for Board member decision-making and decision writing

Parole Board of Canada

Structured Decision-Making Framework

The Structured Decision-Making Framework (SDMF) is based in research

- Statistical Risk Estimate is anchored first with actuarial measures
- Domains
 - Criminal and Conditional Release History
 - Disinhibitors (self control)
 - Responsivity
 - Institutional/Community Behavior
 - Offender Change
 - Release Plan
 - Case-Specific Factors

Parole Board of Canada

Structured Decision-Making Framework

PBC, along with Dr. Ralph Serin's team, presented its new Structured Decision-Making Framework at the Annual Training Conference of the Association of Paroling Authorities International in Savannah, Georgia in 2010

- Benefits
 - Consistency, anchored decision-making, supports independence, decision writing, etc.

The presentation generated many questions and piqued interest from other jurisdictions

Information sharing and partnerships through the APAI

Parole Board of Canada

Structured Decision-Making Framework

Best Practices

Many Jurisdictions Use the SDMF (to name a few):

- Canada
- Connecticut
- Kansas
- California

The California Experience

- Targeted for long-term offenders

The California Experience

Overview of CA Board of Parole Hearings

Overview of Parole Hearings in California

- 8,700 scheduled hearings in 2021
- Live hearings, 2-2 ½ hours each
- All incarcerated persons have a right to counsel
- Victims and prosecutors have a right to attend and speak
- Hearings are recorded and transcribed
- Legal standard: Persons are granted parole unless they pose a current, unreasonable risk of danger to the public
- Parole decisions are reviewable by the Board's Chief Counsel, the Governor, and the courts

The California Experience

Who is Eligible for a Parole Hearing

About 39,000 “long-term offenders”

Persons serving life with the possibility of parole (“lifers”)

Youthful Offenders

- Under age 26 at time of crime, who have served 15, 20, or 25 years, or
- Under age 18 at time of crime, sentenced to life without the possibility of parole, and served 25 years

Elderly Parole

- Persons age 50 who have served 20 years

The California Experience

APAI Professional
Training,
Networking, and
Collaboration

Youthful Offender Parole Hearings

2012, U.S. Supreme Court decision *Miller v Alabama*

2013, APAI annual training conference topic -
adolescent brain development

2014, California created youthful offender parole
hearings

The California Experience

APAI Professional
Training,
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Youthful Offender Parole Hearing Outcomes (2014-2021)

Conducted over **13,400** youthful offender parole hearings

Granted parole to **3,800** youthful offenders convicted of murder, manslaughter, etc. and originally sentenced to very lengthy terms

The California Experience

APAI Professional
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Elderly Parole Hearings

Began in 2014, by court order as a means of reducing prison population; limited to persons age 60 who have served 25 years

Through APAI, was able to conduct survey of other jurisdictions

Program was implemented and expanded by state legislature to include persons age 50 who have served 20 years

Presented these changes to APAI at the Annual Training Conference in May 2022

The California Experience

APAI Professional
Training,
Networking, and
Collaboration

Elderly Parole Hearing Outcomes (2014-2021)

Conducted over **9,700** elderly parole hearings

Granted parole to **1,800** persons convicted of murder, manslaughter, etc. and originally sentenced to very lengthy terms

The California Experience

APAI Professional
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Recidivism for persons granted parole by the CA Board of Parole Hearings

3-5% *general recidivism* (any new crime within
three years of release)

Less than 1% *violent recidivism* (new felony crime
against person within three years of release)

The California Experience

APAI Professional
Training,
Networking, and
Collaboration

Structured Decision-Making Framework

Introduction at APAI Annual Training Conference

Consistent, risk-based decisions

Focus hearings on risk-related factors

Outcomes

Hearings shortened by 30 minutes

Hearing officers more confident in their decisions

Uniform structure for hearing officers to discuss cases

Questions or Comments?



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