



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**PATRICIA LABOSSIÈRE**

**F80181**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Initial Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** June 18, 2020

**DATE OF DECISION:** November 18, 2020

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Gloriann Moroney, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Karen McCarthy, Colette Santa

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the inmate at the time of offense, criminal record, institutional record, the inmate's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing or in written submissions to the Board, we conclude that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole.<sup>1</sup> Parole is denied with a review scheduled in four years from the date of the hearing.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

On September 9, 2002, in Bristol County Superior Court, Patricia Labossiere pleaded guilty to the second-degree murder of Julia Bradshaw. She was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, Ms. Labossiere also pleaded guilty to assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon (knife) and received a from and after sentence of 5 years to 5 years and a day.

On the night of October 27, 2000, 38-year-old Patricia Labossiere called the Attleboro police to report that she had just stabbed her 67-year-old mother, Julia Bradshaw. Ms. Labossiere remained on the phone with the police dispatcher until an officer arrived at the Bradshaw residence. When Ms. Labossiere opened the door, the officer instructed her to hang up the

<sup>1</sup> Two Board Members voted to deny parole with a review in three years from the date of the hearing.

phone. According to the officer, Ms. Labossiere appeared calm and smoked a cigarette. When questioned as to the whereabouts of her mother, Ms. Labossiere responded that her mother was in the bedroom. When the officer asked why she had stabbed her, Ms. Labossiere stated, "I'm sick of her bullshit, so I stabbed her." Ms. Labossiere was then handcuffed and ordered to sit on the floor.

The officer discovered Julia Bradshaw in the master bedroom, lying on her back without a pulse. She had a large amount of blood inside her mouth and on the right side of her chest. According to the officer, there did not appear to be any signs of a struggle. Ms. Labossiere was arrested for murder. A subsequent search of the home revealed a wet knife on the kitchen counter and a wet paper towel with blood on the kitchen floor.

## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON JUNE 18, 2020**

Patricia Labossiere, now 64-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board on June 18, 2020, for an initial hearing. She was represented by Boston College law student Kevin Lee. Ms. Labossiere had been eligible for a parole hearing in 2015, but she chose to postpone. In her opening statement to the Board, Ms. Labossiere apologized to the members of her family and friends of her mother. She recognized her psychological problems and stated that she has worked to address these issues through medication and counseling. Ms. Labossiere noted her lack of a prior criminal record, as well as her medication compliance. She stated that she has been employed throughout 20 years of incarceration and has incurred only one disciplinary report during that time.

When Board Members questioned her as to the details of the murder, Ms. Labossiere stated that, after her mother went to bed, she went to her own bedroom to retrieve a knife. She then went into her mother's room and stabbed her mother multiple times. In discussing her remorse for killing her mother, Ms. Labossiere said that she recognized her actions were "drastic" and that she "took no joy in it." She killed her mother because "she was a life-long enemy and I wanted to end a life-long battle." Ms. Labossiere recalled that, at her brother's funeral in 2000, she heard her dead brother tell her that their family worshipped Satan and were plotting to kill her. Ms. Labossiere described her mother as the leader of the family and "had an obsession that she had to be an important person." Ms. Labossiere testified that she believed her mother was trying to place a curse on her that would make her (Ms. Labossiere) kill herself.

During the hearing, Ms. Labossiere referred to the victim as her "so-called mother." When a Board Member questioned her, Ms. Labossiere explained that she did not believe that Julia Bradshaw was her biological mother, nor did she believe that her brothers and sisters were her "real brothers and sisters." She claimed that her mother abused her, and that her siblings ostracized her. Ms. Labossiere recounted how her husband left her because he "couldn't understand my mental illness." Ms. Labossiere moved back in with her mother, despite her animosity towards her, because she had nowhere else to go. Ms. Labossiere told the Board that she no longer speaks to her daughter, explaining that she thought it "best to let her go, after she called me stupid and crazy." She has two friends, outside of prison, who write to her. Although friendly with other inmates, she prefers to keep to herself. When a Board Member questioned her as to whether she has made amends with her family, Ms. Labossiere stated that she is waiting for her family to reach out to her.

Ms. Labossiere explained that her biggest area of concern is her struggle with mental health issues, as she has been diagnosed with schizo-affective disorder. She is on medication and claims that she is not afraid that she would kill anyone else. When Board Members noted their concern, Ms. Labossiere stated, "What I did was specific to my mother." Ms. Labossiere attends mental health counseling monthly and sees a psychiatrist every three months. She has not discussed her feelings about her mother with her counselors, explaining, "I let them ask the questions." Ms. Labossiere claims that the counselors are mainly interested in her prison life. When the Board noted that she has not been evaluated for services from the Department of Mental Health (DMH), Ms. Labossiere said that she did not apply for DMH services because "I didn't want to sign away all my rights." Ms. Labossiere reports that she does not have contacts with anyone outside of prison to rely on for support.

The Board considered letters in opposition to parole from several members of the victim's family. The Board also considered testimony in opposition to parole from Bristol County Assistant District Attorney Dennis Collins.

### **III. DECISION**

Ms. Labossiere has served almost 20 years for murdering her mother. It is the opinion of the Board that until she can fully engage in mental health treatment and demonstrate stability within the correctional facility, she remains a risk to public safety. She needs to be open and truthful with her treatment team. The Board does recognize that much of her presentment is due to her mental illness. However, Ms. Labossiere's assertion that her mother deserved to be murdered and [that] she was justified in her actions are alarming. The Board did acknowledge her history of homicidal ideations. She is encouraged to remain compliant with her mental health case plan, [remain] program compliant, and maintain a positive adjustment. She should also work on developing a parole plan that will address her risks/needs in the area of reintegration.

The applicable standard used by the Board to assess a candidate for parole is: "Parole Board Members shall only grant a parole permit if they are of the opinion that there is a reasonable probability that, if such offender is released, the offender will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society." 120 C.M.R. 300.04. In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Ms. Labossiere's institutional behavior, as well as her participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of her incarceration. The Board has also considered a risk and needs assessment and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize Ms. Labossiere's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Ms. Labossiere's case, the Board is of the opinion that Patricia Labossiere is not a suitable candidate for parole at this time.

Ms. Labossiere's next appearance before the Board will take place in four years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages her to continue working towards her full rehabilitation.

*I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above referenced hearing. Pursuant to G.L. c. 127, § 130, I further certify that all voting Board Members have reviewed the applicant's entire criminal record. This signature does not indicate authorship of the decision.*

*Pamela Murphy* (SMB)  
Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

11/18/20  
Date