



**MINUTES OF THE
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
January 25, 2018
9:00 A.M.
APB BOARDROOM**

Board Members Present:

John Felts, Chairman
John Belken, Vice Chairman
Andy Shock, Secretary
Dawne Vandiver, Commissioner
Abraham Carpenter, Commissioner
Jerry Riley, Commissioner
Lona McCastlain, Commissioner

Excused with Valid Reason(s):

Carol Bohannon, Hearing Judge, APB
Lisa Wilkins, Hearing Judge, APB
Evelyn Gomez, Hearing Judge, APB

Others Present:

Brooke D. Cummings, Executive Administrator, APB
Jessica Leija, Business Operations Manager, APB
Kelly Knuckles, Executive Assistant to the Chairman, APB
Scott Howard, Investigator, APB
Kenya Woods, Victim Input Coordinator, APB
Tamara Salaam, Administrative Support Supervisor, APB
Christie Little, Administrative Support Supervisor, APB
William T. Bowman, II, Systems Coordination Analyst, APB
Lindsey Rindahl, Administrative Analyst, APB
Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, ACC
Jerry Bradshaw, Director of Parole and Probation Services, ACC
Solomon Graves, Public Information Officer, ADC
Nga Mahfouz, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office

Call to Order

Chairman Felts called the board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was declared.

Approval of Minutes – January 11, 2018

Commissioner Vandiver moved for approval of the minutes. Secretary Shock seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.

Report Updates

Chairman Felts reported that there are 17,749 inmates incarcerated in the Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC). There are currently 1,532 men and women on the ADC County Jail Back-up list.

In the reviewing of the Arkansas Community Correction (ACC) Center Jurisdictional Population, Chairman Felts stated there are a total 1,514 offenders in ACC Centers. The total ACC capacity is 1,629. This includes those in all ACC Centers including RCFs, Omega, SW AR CCC, and those offenders on ACC's back-up list. Their Statewide Field Operations report reflects 30,542 on probation, 2,732 out to drug court/specialty court, 141 boot camp releases (including inactive cases) and 24,541 on parole, for a combined total of 57,956 under supervision.

There were no further questions or comments regarding the report updates at this time.

Attorney General's Report

Ms. Nga Mahfouz, Assistant Attorney General, stated there were currently ten outstanding cases; one case had been briefed before a circuit judge and is awaiting a result. Ms. Mahfouz had no further updates for the Board at this time.

There were no questions or comments regarding the AG's report.

Fiscal Report Update

Ms. Jessica Leija, Business Operations Manager, updated the Board on the Fiscal Report. Ms. Leija reported that the Board, as of December 31, 2017, has expended 48% of the maintenance, operations and travel budget. Ms. Leija stated that at this time last year the Board had spent 38% of the operating expense budget. There was an attachment included in the board member's packets for review.

Ms. Leija reminded the Board that the registration deadline for the 2018 APAI conference is March 2018. Chairman Felts stated the Board would discuss which board member or members will be attending and let Ms. Leija know before the upcoming registration deadline.

In addition, Ms. Leija mentioned to the Board that the statements of financial interest forms are due by the end of January 2018.

There were no further questions or comments regarding the Fiscal report.

Hearing Judge's Report

Ms. Brooke Cummings, Executive Administrator, updated the Board on revocation hearings conducted throughout the month of December 2017. Ms. Cummings reported to the Board that there were a total of 383 revocation actions, the technical only violators has increased by approximately 20 since November 2017. A total of 61 technical only violations that number includes: 31 absconders, 10 technical warrants, and the others consist of those who are ineligible for the ACC Supervision Sanction Program. The Board discussed the report in detail of each revocation hearing judge. A copy of the hearing judge report was included in each board member's file for review.

Chairman Felts stated there were approximately 430 people incarcerated in the county jails on the 90 day revocation program.

There were no comments or questions regarding the Hearing Judge Report.

Agency Updates

Ms. Brooke Cummings reported to the Board that the request for sub-award funds has been submitted to the Bureau of Justice Assistance and should take approximately 4 weeks to receive a response. The Parole Board's interest in the request for sub-award funds will be used to fund changes within eOMIS, modifications to the parole guidelines tool and training on the parole guidelines tool.

Ms. Cummings stated that the Council of State Governments will be visiting the agency on February 21st; one day will be spent with the hearing judges and then another day will be set aside for board members.

Ms. Cummings updated the Board in regard to the Parole Board's Annual Report which is due to be submitted by February 2, 2018. Chairman Felts asked Ms. Cummings to submit a draft of the report to the Board by way of email for their review. Ms. Cummings stated that should the Board have any questions to feel free to submit those to her or Chairman Felts.

The Board discussed the difference in the numbers reflected within the Act 570 report versus the numbers of the Parole Board's Annual Report.

Mr. Solomon Graves, ADC Public Information Officer, stated that ADC has noticed a flattening on the amount of revocations coming into the department over the past couple years. In the summer of 2015, the Board started completing the Violation Report Reviews, since that time we have seen a decrease in the number of revocations. Prior to the Board completing the Violation Report Review, every violation that was submitted to the Board there was a warrant issued, as a result there were 3,000 people in the county jail back-up.

Ms. Cummings stated there is a draft of updated standard conditions of parole that she will distribute to each board member for review; these changes were a product of a meeting between APB and ACC.

Mr. Bradshaw clarified some concerns the Board had regarding the standard conditions of parolees. The Board will review the updated conditions with Ms. Cummings for a final board approval.

There were no further comments or questions regarding Agency Updates.

Old Business

Commissioner Vandiver mentioned the last time she was at the East Arkansas Unit she was unable to connect to the internet there at the Unit. Mr. William Bowman, Systems Coordination Analyst, assured Commissioner Vandiver that he had contacted them regarding the connectivity issue at that particular Unit and they have an IT person on site to assist with any technical issues. Mr. Bowman will make sure the Board has the contact numbers of the IT assistance there at the East Arkansas Unit.

Mr. Bowman mentioned the prospective decision-making software that is in the early stages of development, he will update the Board at a later date in regard to that software.

Ms. Cummings stated the software is a collaboration of efforts of ACC, ADC and the Parole Board. Ms. Cummings stated the software will analyze an inmate's file to assist in deciding what particular program is suitable for their needs. Ms. Cummings attended the training was an all-day event, every agency had input.

Commissioner Vandiver stated that she has received a lot of positive feedback on the Think Legacy Program.

Mr. Graves stated that the ADC Think Legacy program has just completed its first year. Mr. Graves stated that the Think Legacy program is administered out of the ADC Industry Division. Mr. Graves mentioned that Mr. Rick Cooper, Industry Administrator, has a passion for changing lives and stepped-up to assist with the program. The Board gave their appreciation to ADC and the program.

There were no further questions or comments regarding Old Business.

New Business

There were no questions or concerns regarding New Business.

Files for Review

There were no questions or concerns regarding the Files for Review.

Adoption of Recommendations

Secretary Shock moved to adopt the recommendations. Commissioner Carpenter seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Other Discussion

Ms. Shirley Ellingburg, ACC IRS Area Manager, asked the Board if they would like the Act 539 to be scheduled in the same manner as those that were previously done. Chairman Felts stated that the scheduling of those hearings should handle in the same manner.

Commissioner McCastlain requested that ACC follow-up with the Board on the Act 539 inmates that have been released to supervision, the Board would like to hear about their supervision reporting and compliance. Mr. Bradshaw stated that he would follow-up with the Board in regard to request of Commissioner McCastlain and the Board.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, February 8, 2018, at 9:00 a.m.

Signature on File

John Felts
Chairman

Signature on File

Andy Shock
Secretary

ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD

FULL BOARD RATIFICATION OF VOTES

January 2018

UNITS:

RATIFIED (X)

R.L. Williams/SEC



Pine Bluff/Ester



Grimes



East Arkansas



Mississippi Co. W/R/NEACC



Varner



Ouachita



Other: Pardons, Commutations, Transfer Screenings, ACT 290s,
700s, Reconsiderations, Revocation Appeals, Rescinds,
Special Conditions, EPAs, Etc.



Motion By: Secretary Shock

Seconded by: Commissioner Carpenter

Ratification Date: January 25, 2018