



**MINUTES OF THE
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
JANUARY 29, 2015 @ 9:30 A.M.
5th FLOOR BOARD ROOM**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Felts, Chairman, Chairman
Richard Brown Jr., Vice-Chairman /Commissioner
Dawne Vandiver, Secretary/Commissioner
James Wallace, Commissioner
Richard L. Mays, Jr., Commissioner
Abraham Carpenter, Commissioner
John Belken, Commissioner

EXCUSED WITH VALID REASONS:

Carol Bohannon, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Cara Boyd-Conners, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Jim Williams, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Ashley Vailes, Hearing Judge/Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT

Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, ACC
Solomon Graves, Administrative Services Manager, APB
Mahogany Franklin, Fiscal Support Supervisor, APB
Kelly Knuckles, Executive Assistant to the Chairman, APB
Tamara Salaam, Administrative Support Supervisor, APB
Lisbeth Cross, Administrative Specialist III, APB

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Kelly Knuckles, Executive Assistant to the Chairman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Felts called the board meeting to order at 9:34 am. A quorum was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES-January 15, 2015

Vice-Chairman Brown moved for approval of the minutes. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.

REPORT UPDATES

Chairman Felts reported that there are 17,886 inmates incarcerated in the Arkansas Department of Correction. There are currently 2,328 men and women on the ADC County Jail Back-up list. In review of the ACC Parole and Probation Population report there are 27,378 individuals on probation, 2,351 in Drug Courts, 22,360 individuals on parole, and 249 on Boot Camp release for a total of 52,338 under supervision.

In review of the ACC center jurisdiction population there is a total 1,560. This includes those in ACC correction centers, Omega and SE ARK TVP and on the ACC's back-up list. The total ACC capacity is 1,603.

In review of the APB monthly report Chairman Felts state that the Board had a total 364 approved Transfer Screenings for an overall approval rate of 91.5%. There were 185 screenings deferred and 73 screenings were scheduled for hearings. The board conducted a total of 436 approved hearings out of a total of 844. The Board had a 70.9% approval rate. The Board did not have any Parole Hearings. There were 89 Transfer Hearings denied and 132 were deferred. The Board conducted 44 Reconsideration Hearings, 46 Rescind Screenings and 14 Rescind Hearings for a total of 90 actions. In addition, there were 34 Pardons, 4 Recommendations for Firearm Restorations, 30 Commutation Screenings and 4 Commutation Hearings for a total of 72 Executive Clemencies. The Board had total monthly actions of 1,353.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT

Meredith Rebsamen from the Attorney General's office was not in attendance.

FISCAL REPORT

Mahogany Franklin, Fiscal Support Supervisor, reported that the Board has currently expended 49% of its annual travel, maintenance, and operations budget. The report was attached for the Board's review. There were no questions regarding the fiscal report.

HEARING JUDGE'S REPORT

The Hearing Judge Activity Report was available for the Board's review. Chairman Felts stated that a total of 147 were revoked and sent back to custody in ADC, RCF or TVP. Chairman Felts made note of the increase in waivers. There were no further questions or comments.

AGENCY UPDATES

Solomon Graves, Administrative Services Manager, presented the Board with an updated APB 2014-2015 Organizational Chart. Mr. Graves asked that the chart be approved as presented. Commissioner Wallace moved. Commissioner Vandiver seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Graves acknowledged the hard work of Ms. Lisbeth Cross and his appreciation for her assistance in the past few months with Executive Assistant to the Chairman position being vacant.

Mr. Graves also recognized a new hire, Ms. Christie Little and stated that her experience with the ADC, ACIC, eOMIS and SOSRA would be an asset for the APB.

Mr. Graves updated the Board on the change to the electronic voting and upcoming training with the IROs. Mr. Graves also mentioned that Ken Giesbrecht is working with the ADC on cabling every unit. There are few areas that need additional cabling. These areas are the Benton Unit-Building 59, Cummins Kitchen, and the chapel at the Grimes Unit.

Mr. Graves gave the Board an update on the Legislative Session. He reviewed the following bills with the Board: SB57, SB58, SB86 and HB1054.

Mr. Graves discussed the increase in the cost of video services from DIS. In order to remain within the budget, the Board will be disconnecting 2 lines of service. The Board discussed moving to a new video system and how to accommodate a temporary reduction in video unit capacity.

There were no questions from the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

The February 2015 APB Hearing Schedule was provided to all Commissioners. The Board was asked to notify Ms. Tamara Salaam, Administrative Support Specialist, of any scheduling conflicts.

FILES FOR REVIEW

There are no questions regarding the files for review.

ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Commissioner Vandiver, Secretary of the Board, moved to adopt the recommendations. Commissioner Carpenter seconded. The motion was carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, February 12, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. at the Arkansas Parole Board.

Signature on File

John Felts
Chairman

Signature on File

Dawne Vandiver
Secretary

**ARKANSAS BOARD OF PAROLE
FULL BOARD RATIFICATION OF VOTES**

January 2015

UNITS:

RATIFIED (X)

R.L. WILLIAMS



PINE BLUFF/SE



GRIMES



EAST ARKANSAS



MISS CO/NEC



VARNER



OUACHITA



**OTHER: Pardons, Commutations, Transfer Screenings, ACT 290s,
700s, Reconsiderations, Revocation Appeals, Rescinds,
Special Conditions, EPA, Etc.**



MOTION BY: Commissioner Vandiver SECONDED BY: Commissioner Carpenter

RATIFICATION DATE: January 29, 2015