



**MINUTES OF THE
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
JANUARY 31, 2013 @ 9:30 A.M.
APB BOARD ROOM**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

HEARING EXAMINERS PRESENT:

Ashley Vailes, Hearing Examiner/Attorney
Jim Williams, Hearing Examiner/Attorney
Carol Bohannon, Hearing Examiner/Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT

Solomon Graves, Administrative Services Manager, APB
Mahogany Brown, Fiscal Support Supervisor, APB
Melissa Haney, Executive Assistant to the Chairman, APB
Tamara Salaam, Administrative Support Supervisor, APB
Meredith Rebsamen, Assistant Attorney General, AGs Office
Dan Roberts, Deputy Director, Parole/Probation, DCC
Steve Arnold, Assistant Deputy Director, Parole/Probation, DCC
Damian McNeal, Assistant Deputy Director, Parole/Probation, DCC
Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, DCC

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Melissa Haney, Executive Assistant to the Chairman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Felts called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. A quorum was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 17, 2013

Commissioner Wallace moved. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.

POPULATION REPORT

Chairman Felts reported that there are 13,963 inmates in the Department of Correction and this includes those inmates in the 309 program and in work release.

In review of the DCC population report there are a total of 29,528 individuals on probation, 2,242 in drug court and 23,657 individuals on parole for a total of 55,427.

Chairman Felts reported that the total population in the DCC residential centers is 1,495 and they have a capacity of 1,615.

In review of the APB monthly report, there were a total of 326 transfer screenings approved out of 367 total transfer screening actions reviewed by the Board. The board has approval percentage of 88.8% for transfer screenings. . There were 238 transfer hearings approved out of a total 347 actions taken, giving the Board a 68.6% approval rating. Of the 350 transfer hearing actions, there were 47 denied and 62 deferred. The Board had 901 total actions for the month, including pardons and clemencies.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Mrs. Rebsamen had no report. Mrs. Rebsamen did state that the Claims Commission issues are being handled by Mr. Dennis Hansen and he will be filing a response on the Board's behalf.

Chairman Felts stated that this issue involves an inmate who has filed a claim and brought legal actions against the Board. It has been previously dismissed by the Courts.

FISCAL REPORT

Ms. Mahogany Brown reported that as of December 30, 2012 the Board has expended 45.44 % of its maintenance, operation and travel budget. She stated the detailed report is attached for the Board to review.

HEARING EXAMINERS REPORT

The Hearing Examiners reported a total of 23 hearings conducted. Of that total 13 were revoked to ADC, 4 were revoked to TVP, 2 were not revoked and 2 was deferred. There were also 2 Compact Hearings. There were no questions regarding the Hearing Examiner report.

AGENCY UPDATES

Legislative Updates

Mr. Graves reviewed several pending bills with the Board. The first bill was the Board's FY14 appropriation which includes a title change for the Hearing Examiners and an increase in funding for enhancements to eOMIS and maintenance. The second bill is in reference to all sex offenses being becoming discretionary. Mr. Graves stated that at the present time, the Board has discretion over Rape, Sexual Assault 1st and 2nd Degree, and Sexual Abuse 1st and 2nd Degree (under the old law). Mr. Graves stated that House Bill 1203 is being presented by Representative Meeks and it will discuss the issue of human trafficking. This bill will amend the current statute to include a Class Y enhancement for trafficking minors and require the offender to serve 70% of their time until their TE date. When they become transfer eligible, their crime will be considered non-deniable. Mr. Graves stated that there is full list of all the bills currently in the review.

Board Activity Report

Mr. Graves stated that in the Boards packets there is a Board activity report that gives up to date stats on the Board's activity. The victim input numbers are about even with last years numbers. The report indicates that an average of 66% of those scheduled actually appear for victim input meetings.

The report also shows that there has been a dramatic spike in the number of waivers to TVP. This year 96% of the entire FY12 total have already waived to TVP. Mr. Graves stated that the Board is on track to send fewer offenders to ADC and that his report reflects only the waivers reported. The numbers for revocation are up slightly but if that rate holds then we will have sent a smaller amount to ADC than last year.

ACT 679 Rules

Mr. Graves reported that the Board held a public hearing to discuss the new changes to ACT 679 and no comments were made. These changes require Board action in order to adopt this as the final rule. If approved, it will go into effect after 30 days for March 2, 2013. Commissioner Mays moved to accept the final rules. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to report at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Electronic Monitoring Presentation

Mr. David Talarico from the 3M Corporation presented the newest equipment designed for the purposes of electronic monitoring of offenders on supervision. Mr. Talarico gave a presentation regarding the features and functions of the various types of electronic monitoring equipment and answered Board questions regarding its functionality and cost.

Mr. Damian McNeal stated that before using these units they did a test run in the North Little Rock office with employees and they were very impressed with the capabilities of the equipment. He stated that the numbers in use are steadily increasing and over time they will see a continued increase for this product.

February 2013 Schedule

Chairman Felts stated that the Board should have a copy of the February schedule. He stated that if any Commissioners have any adjustments to the schedule to please let him know as soon as possible so that changes can be made. There were no questions.

FILES FOR DISCUSSION - REVIEW

Chairman Felts called for any questions regarding the victim input votes for January. There were no questions.

RATIFICATION OF VOTES

Commissioner Mays moved. Commissioner Carpenter seconded the motion to ratify the votes. Motion carried.

OTHER COMMENTS

Mr. Dan Roberts reported that there is nothing new to report from Probation/Parole Services and that he is happy to answer any questions.

Mrs. Shirley Ellingburg reported that everything is moving along in her department and that she is always happy to answer any questions the Board may have.

ADJOURNMENT

There were no further comments or questions.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 9:30a.m. This meeting will take place in the APB Boardroom.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Signature on File

John Felts
Chairman

Signature on File

Richard L. Mays, Jr.
Secretary

ARKANSAS BOARD OF PAROLE
FULL BOARD RATIFICATION OF VOTES
JANUARY 2013

<u>UNITS:</u>	<u>RATIFIED (X)</u>
BENTON	X
CACCC	X
CUMMINS	X
EAST AR	X
GRIMES	X
MCPHERSON	X
MISSISSIPPI CO.	X
NEACCC	X
OUACHITA RIVER CORR.	X
PINE BLUFF	X
R.L. WILLIAMS	X
SEARC	X
SWARC	X
TRCC	X
VARNER	X
WRIGHTSVILLE	X
OTHER: PARDONS, COMMUTATIONS, TRANSFER SCREENINGS, ACT 290, 700'S, RECONSIDERATION, REVOCATION APPEALS, EPA, ETC.	X

MOTION BY: Commissioner Mays SECONDED BY: Commissioner Carpenter

RATIFICATION DATE: JANUARY 31, 2013