



**MINUTES OF THE
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
FEBRUARY 13, 2014 @ 9:30 A.M.
APB BOARDROOM**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

EXCUSED WITH VALID REASON:

Richard Brown Jr., Commissioner
Ashley Vailes, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Cara Boyd-Conners, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Jim Williams, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Carol Bohannon, Hearing Judge/Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT

Solomon Graves, Administrative Services Manager, APB
Mahogany Franklin, Fiscal Support Supervisor, APB
Melissa Haney, Executive Assistant to the Chairman, APB
Tamara Salaam, Administrative Specialist III (Parole), APB
Pam Brown, IRS Assistant Area Manager, DCC
Jerry Bradshaw, Deputy Director of Residential Services, ACC
Meredith Rebsamen, Attorney General's Office

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 13, 2014

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

AGENCY UPDATES

Mr. Graves referred to a memo dated February 12th in regards to the final approval of the revocation to RCF policy. This was approved by the Rules and Regulations Committee on February 5th. It requires final approval by the Board. Commissioner Wallace moved. Commissioner Peacock seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Mr. Graves stated that there is a packet containing three bills for review. He stated that the first one is Senate Bill 26 and it covers Fiscal year 2015. The Board has been approved for \$24,000 in general improvement funds to allow access to parole decisions online. Commissioner Mays stated that this will be a great tie in for the new electronic voting process. He stated that once the recommendation is complete it can be viewed online.

Mr. Graves stated that the next bill for review is Senate Bill 87. This bill reflects the addition of two Administrative Specialist III positions and will allow the Board to make our two temporary positions permanent. He stated that this does not include pool positions. Those will appear in the FY 2016 appropriations.

Mr. Graves stated the last bill for review is Senate Bill 135. This is a supplemental appropriation for the current fiscal year. We currently have 2 positions, one from ADC and one from ACC and this will allow for the additional spots for these positions this fiscal year.

Mr. Graves stated that he will not be maintaining any other bills this session. There were no questions regarding these bills for review.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Felts introduced Mr. Jerry Bradshaw from ACC. Mr. Bradshaw stated that he would like to discuss TVP sanctions with the Board. He stated that ACC feels that they have gotten away from TVP's original goals by allowing multiple stays. He stated that they are revamping and they have changed the offender violation guide. He stated that they have restricted the qualifications for TVP and made them much more restrictive. Commissioner Wallace asked if they would be able to go more than once. Mr. Bradshaw stated that they are allowed to go only twice and it is retroactive. This applies even if they have discharged a previous sentence. At this time they will not accept anyone with pending charges, new felony charges, history of sexual misconduct or violent misdemeanors. Commissioner Wallace asked if they get a new hearing if they don't fit the criteria. Mr. Bradshaw stated that an offender is not revoked when they go to TVP. TVP is a treatment program and it's a sanction to complete before being sent back to ADC. The program is either 90 or 120 days. The first 30 days they work hoe squad and then go through re-entry prior to release. This will allow a skill to be learned. They are currently working on this and have also established the Safe Serve Program for fast food workers. They are setting this up at SEA and planning for Omega now. Chairman Felts stated that they are meeting this afternoon at 2:00 pm in order to discuss this in more depth. Commissioner Vandiver asked if they look at other state's models for re-entry. Mr. Bradshaw stated that he will be doing research on other state models. Chairman Felts stated that this goes back to best practices. It's a new thing and there is a lot of work for the Executive and Legislative branches to re-evaluate the needs and how best to meet those goals. Commissioner Wallace stated that he would like the opportunity to visit Omega and see how the process works. Chairman Felts stated that Mr. Graves will be setting up a time for the Board to visit Omega and we will have the Board meeting down there as well. Mr. Bradshaw stated that they have worked hard on the

program and they have worked with the Warden at Ouachita in order to help develop programs for the inmates. Mr. Graves stated that the Board will have its meeting at Omega in either March or April. Commissioner Wallace stated that Commissioner Vandiver has not been down there yet and it would be a great learning experience for the Board. He stated that he is glad the rules of the program have changed and he thinks it will really help with re-entry. Mr. Bradshaw stated that its going to get a lot bigger and now that the process has changed the officers are still getting used to it and that has slowed down the process a little for the field staff.

Mrs. Meredith Rebsamen asked if this would have a big influence over the numbers being sent to ADC. She asked if this had been taken into consideration. Mr. Bradshaw stated that it's a double edged sword and its something they will have to work with. She asked if most people just want to go to TVP and he stated that is the reason they have limited the participation to twice. Chairman Felts stated that by changing the process, they are not going through a revocation hearing and signing a waiver to TVP. He stated that he has raised the point that this is a big issue for revocation. He stated that he has talked a lot to the Hearing Judges and if we revoke their parole we have to take action to re-release. Now when they complete TVP they are automatically released and the Parole Board does not have to sign off on it. If they have waived and been disruptive or are not working they can be sent to ADC. He stated that he has a real issue with this and believes that there needs to be discretion for that by the Board. If the Board revokes the parole, they need to take action to re-release. By changing the rules of the program, they are giving ACC more control. They can waive to TVP, but they can be send to ADC without a hearing with a Hearing Judge. At this time, Wade Hodge is the person who acts as the Hearing Judge for those that do not wish to sign a waiver. This allows it to stay as a sanction and not a revocation. Commissioner Peacock asked if they send appeals if they need to be sent down to Mr. Hodge. Chairman Felts stated that if they are part of a sanction, they will need to go downstairs to Mr. Hodge or Mr. Bradshaw. If it is an appeal that our Hearing Judges handled, then our office would still process those. There were no further questions regarding the new TVP sanction process.

Chairman Felts stated that there have been a lot of changes and everyone is doing things they did not do before. Things change and the numbers are the driving force for what we do. He stated that we will continue to do the best we can with what we have. He stated that he commends ACC in their hard work and diligence to better the current situation. Commissioner Mays stated that the Board definitely appreciates what ACC does and everyone is happy to work as a team.

Election of Officers

Commissioner Wallace stated that he has appreciated being the Vice-Chairman for the last few years, but he feels it is time for him to step down. He moved to elect Commissioner Richard Brown Jr. as Vice-Chairman and Commissioner Dawne Vandiver as Secretary. He stated that he thinks the offices should be changed out ever so often to allow everyone to hold an office. Commissioner Carpenter seconded the motion. The motion was carried. Commissioner Richard Brown Jr will be the Vice-Chairman and Commissioner Dawne Vandiver will be the Board Secretary.

FILES FOR REVIEW

There were no questions regarding the files for review.

ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Commissioner Mays moved to adopt the recommendations. Commissioner Carpenter seconded. The motion was carried. Chairman Felts stated that these recommendations come from the listed units.

OTHER COMMENTS

Chairman Felts stated that he wanted to clarify that when the Commissioners are out at the units the cards will still be given out, but they will just have a telephone number without the date. Commissioner Mays stated that they can tell the inmate and family that the recommendation will be available on or about Board date.

Commissioner Wallace stated that he would like to encourage all Commissioners to pay close attention to the way they recommend and review files. He stated that Tamara and Delores have a tremendous job to accomplish now and it takes time. He stated that by not voting on time they are delaying them in doing what

they need to do to get the recommendations ready. He asked that all recommendations be made as soon as possible on files in order to expedite the process.

Mr. Kenneth Giesbrecht stated that he will be rolling out the new computers in the next week and he asked that everyone be patient as this happens.

ADJOURNMENT

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, February 27, 2014 at 9:30a.m. in the APB Boardroom.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Signature on File

**John Felts
Chairman**

Signature on File

**Richard L. Mays, Jr.
Secretary**

**ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
FIRST BOARD ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

FEBRUARY 2014

UNITS:

DELTA	<input type="checkbox"/>
NORTH CENTRAL UNIT	<input type="checkbox"/>
NORTH WEST/WASHINGTON CO.	<input type="checkbox"/>
TUCKER	<input type="checkbox"/>
TUCKER MAX.	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRIMES	<input type="checkbox"/>
MCPHERSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
MCPHERSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
BENTON	<input type="checkbox"/>
TRCC/SW	<input type="checkbox"/>
DCC-CAC	<input type="checkbox"/>
CUMMINS	<input type="checkbox"/>
OTHER: TRANSFER SCREENINGS, COMMUTATIONS, PARDONS RECONSIDERATIONS, REVOCATION APPEALS, RESCINDS, SPECIAL CONDITIONS, ACT 290, 700'S, EPA, ETC.	<input type="checkbox"/>

MOTION BY: Commissioner Mays

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Carpenter

ADOPTION DATE: FEBRUARY 13, 2014