



**MINUTES OF THE
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
FEBRUARY 26, 2015 @ 9:30 A.M.
5th FLOOR BOARDROOM**

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
John Belken, Commissioner

EXCUSED WITH VALID REASONS:

Abraham Carpenter, Commissioner
Carol Bohannon, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Cara Boyd-Connors, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Jim Williams, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Ashley Vailes, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Meredith Rebsamen, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office
Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, ACC

OTHERS PRESENT

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

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Felts called the board meeting to order at 9:36 am. A quorum was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 12, 2015

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

REPORT UPDATES

Chairman Felts reported that there are 18,183 inmates incarcerated in the Arkansas Department of Correction. There are currently 2,642 men and women on the ADC County Jail Back-up list. In review of the ACC Parole and Probation Population there are 27,518 individuals on probation, 2,370 in Drug Courts, 22,251 individuals on parole, and 257 individuals on Boot Camp release for a total of 52,396 under supervision.

In review of the ACC Center Jurisdiction Population there is a total 1,564 offenders. 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 363 approved Transfer Screenings for an overall approval rate of 99.5%. There were 40 Screenings deferred and 0 screenings were scheduled for hearings. The board conducted a total of 472 Approved Hearings out of a total of 838. The Board had a 86.7% Approval Rate. The Board had 3 Parole Hearings, 1 Denied and 2 Deferred. There were 85 Transfer Hearings denied and 38 were deferred. The Board conducted 183 Reconsideration Hearings, 100 Rescind Screenings and 8 Rescind Hearings for a total of 90 actions. In addition, there were 30 Pardons, 2 Recommendations for Firearm Restorations, 37 Commutation Screenings and 1 Commutation Hearings for a total of 70 Executive Clemencies. The Board had total monthly actions of 1,328.

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 57% 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 156 offenders were revoked and sent back to custody in ADC, RCF or TVP. Chairman Felts made note that Ashley Vailes' number of hearings scheduled is larger than others because she handles Sanction Hearings. There were no further questions or comments.

AGENCY UPDATES

Solomon Graves, Administrative Services Manager, mentioned that the current ice and snow storms in our area had caused some back-up in our revocation and parole departments.

Mr. Graves reminded the Board that James Austin, Ph.D., with the JFA Group, would be conducting a presentation this afternoon at 2:00 pm for the Board members regarding the proposal of a new risk assessment instrument.

Mr. Graves gave the Board an update on the Legislative Session. He reviewed the following bills with the Board: SB57, SB58, SB472, HB1371 and HB1415.

Mr. Graves discussed Section 18 of SB472, pertaining to membership of the board and how it will affect the operation of the board in general. Also mentioned was the change in the Act 290 Program and extension for hospice eligible offenders.

There were no questions from the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

The March 2015 Arkansas Parole Board hearing schedule and calendar was provided to the Board. The Board was asked to notify Ms. Tamara Salaam, Administrative Support Supervisor, of any scheduling conflicts.

There were no questions regarding the scheduling for March.

Chairman Felts announced that Commissioner Belken will be reviewing all of the Screenings for the Parole Board. Chairman Felts mentioned that he will start rotating this duty as everyone becomes more familiar with the online voting system. This process will allow some consistency on the Screening files.

FILES FOR REVIEW

There are no questions regarding the files for review. The next Victim Input Hearing will be held on March 4th, 2015 at 9:30 am.

ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12th, 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 Wallace

RATIFICATION DATE: February 26, 2015