



**MINUTES OF THE
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
FEBRUARY 27, 2014 @ 9:30 A.M.
APB BOARDROOM**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

EXCUSED WITH VALID REASON:

Richard L. Mays, Jr., Secretary/Commissioner
Joe Peacock, Commissioner
Carol Bohannon, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Ashley Vailes, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Jim Williams, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Cara Boyd-Conners, Hearing Judge/Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT

Solomon Graves, Administrative Services Manager, APB
Mahogany Brown, Fiscal Support Supervisor, APB
Melissa Haney, Executive Assistant to the Chairman, APB
Tamara Saalam, Administrative Specialist III (Parole), APB
Kenneth Giesbrecht, Computer Support Specialist, APB
Pam Brown, Assistant Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, ACC

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 13, 2014

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

POPULATION REPORT

Chairman Felts stated that there are currently 17,643 inmates incarcerated in the Department of Correction. This number includes those that are in the County Jail, Work Release and 309 program. He stated that this number is up from last month. He explained that those on parole holds are in lock up, but are not on the official list. As hearings are held, they move to a new list and are counted in the total population. This has slowed down tremendously for the Revocation department. He stated that that Mrs. Brown and her team of IRO's have released 259 on parole just this week and he commended them for their good work. Mrs. Brown stated that they will be releasing more on Friday. Chairman Felts stated that Mr. Graves had a request for data from the Governor's Office on the number released. At the beginning of this month there were 599 approved for parole. He stated that they have been working closely with ADC to get parole violators in and give direct requests for those waiting to be scheduled for March.

In review of the ACC Parole and Probation Population report there are 28,416 individuals on probation, 2,370 in drug court, 21, 887 individuals on parole, and 331 in boot camp for a total of 53,004 under supervision. Chairman Felts stated that this number has dropped several thousand due to the large number of parole violators being revoked. Over 2, 000 have been returned to ADC since July 2013. Commissioner Wallace requested to know how the Amnesty program is working for ACC. Chairman Felts stated that he spoke to Sheila Sharp and currently about 50 people have turned themselves in to ACC. The information is still getting out to parolees and their families and will take time to see the full effects of the program.

In review of the ACC jurisdiction population there is a total population of 1,711. This includes those in ACC correction centers and Omega and SE ARK TVP. The total capacity is 1,735. Chairman Felts stated that they have scheduled some interviews for parole violators at TRCC that will come up in March. There are about 18 to be interviewed.

Chairman Felts stated that everyone should have a copy of the OVG report in their board packets. There were no questions.

In review of the APB monthly report, Chairman Felts stated that the Board had a total of 356 approved Transfer Screenings out of a total of 386. The overall approval rate for Screenings was 92.2%. There were 23 EPA screenings and 19 were approved for an approval rate of 82.6%. The Board conducted a total of 661 Transfer Hearings with 445 approved without programs. The Board had a 67.3% approval rate. There were 72 denied and 144 deferred. There were also 29 pardons, 2 firearm restorations, 27 commutation screenings and 2 commutation hearings for a total of 72 clemencies. The Board had total actions of 1,344.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

There was no report from the Attorney General's Office.

FISCAL REPORT

Mrs. Mahogany Franklin reported that the Board has currently expended 55% of its annual travel, maintenance and operations budget. She stated that the detailed report is included for the Board's review.

00HEARING JUDGES REPORT

The Hearing Judge report was available to the Board for review. Chairman Felts stated that Mrs. Bohannon is out sick so her numbers will be updated as they become available. He stated that the numbers have significantly decreased. They are getting close to clearing out the county jail of those awaiting hearings. There were no questions regarding the Hearing Judge Report.

AGENCY UPDATES

Mr. Graves stated that he has a brief update on the activities of the fiscal session and 3 of the appropriation bills. He discussed Senate Bills 26, 87 and 135.

Mr. Graves discussed the Board's Accreditation. He stated that the ACA reaccreditation audit will be held on May 28th and be completed by May 29th. That is a board day and may need to be pushed back. He stated that we are on track to have all standards completed by April 1st.

Mr. Graves stated that at the last Board meeting there was a request to visit Omega. We will have our April 10th Board Meeting at Omega and Kathy Brown and Jerry Bradshaw will give a presentation on their program.

Mr. Graves stated that the April 24th Board Meeting will be held at AAPA in Hot Springs. This will be held on April 22nd and 23rd. Mahogany will set up lodging for those that are interested in attending. This also helps the Board to meet an ACA standard fro meet with supervising officers.

Mr. Graves discussed electronic voting and stated that by Monday he will have an estimate from Marquis to get this up and online as soon as possible. Once they get everything lined out, we will meet to discuss what everyone needs to be prepared and start building. This will take 2 to 3 months to complete once the project has been approved. Chairman Felts stated that there will be a lot of changes to the voting system. Chairman Felts stated that he has asked Mr. Graves to take over as the parole services supervisor. Mr. Graves stated that they have already had their first staff meeting and discussed several changes. He stated that they will meet next week to discuss efficiency and to understand their limitations and expectations of the new voting system. He stated that the last Board meeting was almost impossible to complete with the expectations given with the limited staff we have available. He stated that Holly will be helping to key votes and that improvements are being made so that there is a plan in place to meet the expectations of the new system. Chairman Felts stated that right now we have 3 temporary positions, Robin, Tena and Holly. We are trying to get these full time positions and fill them permanently so that we have more staff to help with the increasing numbers.

Chairman Felts called for the Board's approval to make Mr. Graves the new parole services supervisor. Commissioner Wallace moved. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss

March 2014 SCHEDULE

Chairman Felts stated that the calendar for March is very busy and he tried to make it as equal as possible for everyone. If there are any conflicting dates or issues please let him know so those can be discussed.

FILES FOR DISCUSSION - REVIEW

Chairman Felts stated that there are few files for discussion that need further review. He stated that the recommendations for #2 and #7 on the list have been changed to denials. There were no further questions regarding files for review.

ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Commissioner Vandiver moved. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion to adopt the recommendations. Motion carried.

OTHER COMMENTS

There were no further comments

ADJOURNMENT

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 9:30a.m. in the APB Boardroom

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Signature on File

John Felts
Chairman

Signature on File

Dawne Vandiver
Secretary

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

FEBRUARY 2013

<u>UNITS:</u>	<u>RATIFIED (X)</u>
EAST AR	X
MISSISSIPPI CO.	X
NEACCC	X
OUACHITA RIVER CORR.	X
PINE BLUFF	X
R.L. WILLIAMS	X
SEARC	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: FEBRUARY 27, 2014