



**MINUTES OF THE
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
MARCH 28, 2019
9:00 A.M.
APB BOARDROOM**

Board Members Present:

John Felts, Chairman
Andy Shock, Vice Chairman
Lona McCastlain, Secretary
John Belken, Commissioner
Dawne Vandiver, Commissioner
Abraham Carpenter, Commissioner
Jerry Riley, Commissioner

Excused with Valid Reason(s):

Carol Bohannon, Hearing Judge, APB
Lisa Wilkins, Hearing Judge, APB
Evelyn Gomez, Hearing Judge, APB

Others Present:

Brooke D. Cummings, Executive Administrator, APB
Hollie Wellborn, Executive Assistant to the Chairman, APB
Christie Little, Business Operations Manager, APB
Scott Howard, Investigator, APB
William T. Bowman, II, Systems Coordination Analyst, APB
Tamara Salaam, Administrative Support Supervisor, APB
Monica Adams, Administrative Support Supervisor, APB
Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, ACC
Terri Simmons, Administrative Specialist II, APB

Call to Order

Chairman Felts called the Board meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. A quorum was declared.

Approval of Minutes – March 14, 2019

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

A copy of the minutes was included in each board member's packet for review.

Review of Population Reports

Chairman Felts reviewed the population reports. The report showed that ADC is over capacity, with the exception of work-release, with a jurisdictional count of 17,880. The county jail back-up total is 1,519 with the males' numbers at 1,412, and the females' numbers are at 107. Commissioner Vandiver asked Chairman Felts if the count includes individuals serving 90 days. Chairman Felts advised her that the count does include those individuals.

Chairman Felts then reviewed the population report for ACC. They have jurisdictional count of 2,144.

Chairman Felts ended the review of the population reports by reviewing the Statewide Field Operations report. Regular Probation's count was 32,577, Drug Court was 2,011, Parole was 25,340, Boot Camp was 45, and the Act 539's count was 15. This gives a combined total of 60,288 persons under supervision.

Attorney General's Report

There was nothing to report from the Attorney General's office.

Fiscal Report Update

Ms. Christie Little, Business Operations Manager, updated the Board on the Fiscal Report. Ms. Little reported that effective July 1, 2018, the Agency received funding of \$295,211 to cover Operating and Travel Expenses for fiscal year 2019. As of February 28, 2019, we've expended \$172,317.89 (58%) of the Maintenance & Operations and Travel and Conference budget. At this time last year, the Agency had also expended 63% of budgeted funds.

A copy of the fiscal report was included in each board member's packet for review.

There were no questions or comments regarding the Fiscal Report.

Hearing Judge's Report

Ms. Brooke Cummings, Executive Administrator, updated the Board on revocation hearings conducted throughout the month of February 2019. Ms. Cummings reported to the Board that there were a total of 371 actions. That number includes 280 waivers, 43 administrative revocations not requiring a hearing, and 32 individuals that were revoked at a hearing.

Chairman Felts asked Ms. Cummings about the comparison of the numbers from today and the previous months. Ms. Cummings stated that there had been a steady trend of considerations going to a hearing. Those have decreased. Waivers have pretty much stayed the same. We are seeing a decline in the number of hearings being scheduled. Ms. Cummings then provided examples of the numbers from previous years to current as evidence of that fact.

Secretary McCastlain asked Ms. Cummings if the number of hearings were being divided equally amongst the Hearing Judges. Ms. Cummings stated that they have reworked some issues to even things out. She said she is monitoring the scheduling as well to make sure everything is even.

A copy of the hearing judge report was included in each board member's packet for review.

Agency Updates

Ms. Brooke Cummings mentioned HB1866 was presented to the House Judiciary and was passed. It will go to the Senate Judiciary next. Chairman Felts reminded the Board that HB1866 is the bill changing Pardons and Clemency time frames.

There were no comments or questions regarding Agency Updates.

Shorter College Presentation

Ms. Stormy Cubb started her presentation by stating that Shorter College participates in the Second Chance Pell Program that was a President Obama Administration initiative. This is to allow incarcerated individuals to participate in the Pell Grant if they are eligible just like anyone else. The Department of Education launched an experiment to allow 69 schools in the nation to put courses inside the facility. Shorter College instructors are doing face to face instruction inside the facility for the incarcerated students to acquire an Associate's Degree in Entrepreneurial Studies.

Ms. Cubb advised the Board that they are having problems where a student is a senior with Shorter College, and they are being pulled away because the Board has stipulated a program, such as Vo-Tech. Ms. Cubb asked the Board what they can do in order to make sure that this doesn't happen and the student is not pulled from Shorter College. Commissioner Belken advised her that a way to do so is by emailing a list of individuals in the program. Ms. Cubb also stated that the individuals are provided with a document showing that they are in the program and how many credits they have left to take to have with them at a hearing. Commissioner Belken told Ms. Cubb that the best place for documentation would be to place it in Scanned Documents in eOMIS so that the Board can see it when reviewing files. He also stated that the inmate needs to bring the documentation to the hearing.

Ms. Cubb provided the Board with a pamphlet regarding the program.

Old Business

There was nothing to report regarding Old Business.

New Business

There was nothing to report regarding New Business.

Files for Review

A copy of the files for review was included in each board member’s packet for review.

There were no questions or comments regarding the files for review.

Adoption of Recommendations

Secretary McCastlain moved to adopt the recommendations of the Board for the units as listed on the attached ratification list. Commissioner Carpenter seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the recommendations became the official vote of the Parole Board.

Other Discussion

Ms. Christie Little introduced Ms. Terri Simmons as the new employee of the Arkansas Parole Board. She will be the Administrative Specialist in the Receptionist area.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, April 11, 2019, at 9:00 a.m.

Signature on file

John Felts
Chairman

Signature on file

Lona McCastlain
Secretary

ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD

FULL BOARD RATIFICATION OF VOTES

March 2019

UNITS:

RATIFIED (X)

R.L. Williams/SEC



Pine Bluff/Ester



Grimes



East Arkansas



Mississippi Co. W/R/NEACC



Varner



Ouachita



Other: Pardons, Commutations, Transfer Screenings, ACT 290s,
700s, Reconsiderations, Revocation Appeals, Rescinds,
Special Conditions, EPAs, Etc.



Motion By: Secretary McCastlain Seconded by: Commissioner Carpenter

Ratification Date: March 28, 2019