



**MINUTES OF THE  
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD  
APRIL 10, 2014 @ 9:30 A.M.  
APB BOARDROOM**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

John Felts, Chairman  
Richard Brown Jr., Vice-Chairman/Commissioner  
Dawne Vandiver, Secretary/Commissioner  
Jimmy Wallace, Commissioner  
Abraham Carpenter, Commissioner  
Dennis Young, Commissioner

**EXCUSED WITH VALID REASON:**

Richard L. Mays, 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  
Ken Giesbrecht, Computer Support Specialist, APB  
Shirley Ellingburg, IRS Area Manager, DCC  
Kathy Brown, Warden, Omega Technical Violators Center, ACC  
Jerry Bradshaw, Deputy Director of Residential Services, ACC

## **CALL TO ORDER**

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

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 27, 2014**

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

## **AGENCY UPDATES**

Solomon Graves stated that the file review for ACA has begun and will be completed by the end of the month. The ACA audit team will be in the office May 28-29<sup>th</sup> for the office audit.

Mr. Graves stated that last month the Board approved the reversal of revocation for 32 offenders. At this time, 18 have been released. The original list consisted of 88 candidates and based on feedback from ADC and the field officers it was culled down to 32.

Mr. Graves reported that on April 29<sup>th</sup> the JFA annual population projection will be presented at the April Board of Correction meeting held at Varner. Wendy Naro will be discussing our PRAT assessment and its success level. Mr. Graves stated that he will cover all of the data presented at the Board's May board meeting.

Mr. Graves stated that they are working on several eOMIS enhancements, including automation of scheduling in revocation. This will be a big benefit to the staff, area managers and field officers. They are also working toward electronic voting and hope to have this in production by June or July.

He stated that this afternoon at 1 pm he will be attending a Legislative Audit Committee meeting with the Chairman and Mrs. Mahogany Franklin. The Board's 2013 audit will be reviewed by the committee.

Mr. Graves stated that the Board currently has two vacant positions, one in parole services and one in revocation. They have set up interviews for the position in parole services and those will be held on Monday at 1pm. He stated that they will have a hiring recommendation at April's Full Board meeting. As a result of hiring someone for this position, there will be restructuring in the parole services area in order to even out the workload. At this time, there are only 2 people and they are doing a tremendous amount of work. Commissioner Wallace asked how many applications there were for the position and Mr. Graves stated that there were 163 applications and of that number they will be interviewing 5 candidates for the position.

Chairman Felts stated that in reference to the parole violators list that Mr. Graves discussed, they wanted to keep the first sample small and manageable. He stated that they will be doing another list soon. Commissioner Wallace asked if the next sample would be more than the original 88 candidates. Chairman Felts stated that the next group will probably be over 100, but they will try to keep the number small. He stated that logistically it will be easier to work with a small population. Commissioner Wallace asked if there had been criticism against this action and Chairman Felts responded that there has been some criticism, but it was expected. He stated that the concept was challenged, but the Board has done the best possible to make sure that those considered are going out with the potential for a good success rate.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Commissioner Vandiver requested the number returned under the Amnesty program. Chairman Felts stated that at last count ACC Director Sharp reported that 315 people turned themselves in under the Amnesty program.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Felts introduced Mr. Dennis Young as the new Board Commissioner. He stated that Commissioner Young has hit the ground running and welcomed him to the Board.

Chairman Felts introduced Warden Kathy Brown of the Omega Technical Violators Program. Warden Brown discussed the new policy changes for the Omega center. The new policy only allows offenders to go to Omega twice, the first time for 90 days and the second time for 120 days. With both stays, they will work for

the first 30/60 days in the community and the rest of the time will be spent in the classroom learning re-entry skills.

Mr. Jerry Bradshaw stated that they have been developing this program since January and they wanted to proceed slowly in order to ensure that everyone involved, inmates and staff, are equipped to handle the responsibility and challenges of working in the community. Warden Brown stated that the residents have really been working hard to maintain the facility while they wait to do community work. She stated that they owe the people of Arkansas a debt and the center wants them to be able to repay that debt. She stated that once they are able to start them working outside, they will stay out all day long working. Those that are not fit to work outside the facility will work inside with laundry, maintenance and the kitchen. She stated that the only ones that will not have jobs are the sex offenders and that's because their movements need to be more restricted.

Chairman Felts stated that the Board needs to be able to look closely at those offenders that have been through Omega more than once and still show no sign of change in behavior. Those that show a total disregard for the rules and regulations need to be addressed quickly. Commissioner Wallace asked if it would be possible to obtain a list of offenders that are problematic or have been through the program before. Warden Brown stated that she has a list that she can provide to the Board. Commissioner Wallace stated that this would be very helpful to understand an offender's history when they sit down to interview them. Warden Brown stated that she will put all this information and list into a report for the Board.

Chairman Felts introduced Mr. Joe Bob Smith, Dean of the Central Arkansas Bible Baptist Institute Seminary in Benton. Mr. Smith discussed his program at ORCU and stated that the program is now 4 years old and stated that last year they had 17 graduates with associates in Biblical Studies. He stated that next month they will have 9 more graduate the program. Commissioner Wallace asked how many are currently in the program. Mr. Smith stated that currently they have about 35 inmates enrolled. Commissioner Young asked how the program is financed. Mr. Smith stated that the program is funded by supporting churches and they do not receive any state funds.

#### **OTHER COMMENTS**

Chairman Felts reminded the Board about the retirement party for Mr. Joe Peacock next Wednesday at 12:30pm.

Chairman Felts stated that everyone should have an invitation to the Pathway to Freedom graduation services on April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Wrightsville Hawkins Unit. He stated that Dr. Mary Parker will be the guest speaker and if anyone plans to attend they need to RSVP by April 11<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Franklin stated that there is a trip to Denver planned for May and she will need to know who is attending by Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Felts stated that this is a meeting for the Association Paroling Authorities International and its an organization that allows Parole Boards to meet and share information. The conference will be held May 19-21<sup>st</sup>.

Commissioner Vandiver requested an update on the AAPP conference in Hot Springs at the end of the month. Mrs. Franklin stated that everything has been confirmed and the Board will be checking in on Tuesday and checking out on Thursday after the Board Meeting.

Mr. Graves stated that there has been an influx of inmates being brought into ADC and as a result the Board's are increasing daily. He stated that 14 have been added to the Varner Board and this may require another Commissioner to be added for hearings.

Chairman Felts stated that he has been talking to Jenny Wilkinson from the Governor's office and she has received several phone calls regarding Clemencies and Pardons. He stated that if you have an executive clemency that you are getting phone calls on we can coordinate those to come up a little earlier. Commissioner Wallace stated he does not think this should be the policy the Board follows.

Chairman Felts stated that there was recently a case in the newspaper regarding an inmate serving Life without Parole and some things were written in the file that were made public to the media. He asked that the Commissioners be mindful of the things they write in the files.

**FILES FOR REVIEW**

There were no questions regarding the files for review.

**ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

Commissioner Vandiver moved to adopt the recommendations. Commissioner Carpenter seconded. The motion was carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, April 24, 2014 at 9:30a.m. in the APB Boardroom.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

**Signature on File**

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**John Felts**  
**Chairman**

**Signature on File**

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**Dawne Vandiver**  
**Secretary**

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

**APRIL 2014**

**UNITS:**

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

**MOTION BY:** Commissioner Vandiver

**SECONDED BY:** Commissioner Carpenter

**ADOPTION DATE:** APRIL 10, 2014