



**MINUTES OF THE
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
APRIL 25, 2013 @ 11:00 A.M.
APB BOARDROOM**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

HEARING EXAMINERS PRESENT:

Carol Bohannon, Hearing Examiner/Attorney
Jim Williams, Hearing Examiner/Attorney

EXCUSED WITH VALID REASON:

Ashley Vailes, Hearing Examiner/Attorney
Mahogany Brown, Fiscal Support Supervisor, APB

OTHERS PRESENT

Solomon Graves, Administrative Services Manager, APB
Melissa Haney, Executive Assistant to the Chairman, APB
Tamara Saalam, Administrative Specialist III (Parole), APB
Dan Roberts, Deputy Director, Parole/Probation, DCC
Damien McNeal, Assistant Director, Parole/Probation, DCC
Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, DCC

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 – April 11, 2013

Commissioner Vandiver moved. Commissioner Peacock seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as amended.

POPULATION REPORT

Chairman Felts reported that there are 14,825 inmates in the Department of Correction and this includes those inmates in the 309 Program and in Work Release. Of that total, there are 13,009 males and 1,816 females. The count for the county jail backup is currently 408.

In review of the DCC population report there are a total of 29,377 individuals on probation, 2,722 in drug court and 23,987 individuals on parole for a total of 56,107. There are currently 471 in the Boot Camp program. Chairman Felts requested to know if there has been any drop in probation or parole cases with the use of earned discharge credits. Mr. Dan Roberts reported that its just beginning to show a change at this time.

In review of the DCC jurisdiction population there is a total population of 1,508 with a backup of 72 males and 52 females with a total of 126 in custody. There are also 58 not in custody and the TVP backup is currently at 75 males and 6 females with 81 in custody. The total back up for TVP is 121 at this time.

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

In review of the APB monthly report, the report was inaccurate and Chairman Felts requested that this report be looked at to verify the current numbers. While looking at the report, Commissioner Wallace requested that the issue of reconsiderations be placed on the Boards agenda for the retreat in June. He stated that this needs to be discussed because the Board is receiving too many of these requests. He stated that there needs to be specific criteria in place for requesting reconsideration. He stated that right now everyone is applying, but not everyone will be considered and it is important to specify the guidelines on how this is to be handled. Commissioner Peacock stated that he agrees and requested that Mrs. Meredith Rebsamen from the AGs office do some research on this issue and attend the retreat to discuss this thoroughly with the Board. Commissioner Wallace stated that he thinks that Mrs. Rebsamen might be able to help add some criteria that limits the number of reconsiderations coming in while not violating an inmates right to appeal a decision. Mrs. Rebsamen stated that she believes this is a great idea and it will also be a good time for her to go over some other issues as well. She stated that she would get with Mr. Graves and go over this to see what can be reviewed and changed.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Mrs. Rebsamen stated that she is working on some training information for the Board. She had nothing else to report.

FISCAL REPORT

Mr. Solomon Graves reported that as of March 31st, the Board has expended a total of 69.84% of its funding and that the Board is in a very good place right now. He stated that Mrs. Brown will begin the fiscal year close out process in order to help the Board finish on a strong note. Commissioner Vandiver asked what happens if the Board has excess money at the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Graves stated that we do not get carryover funds and that it goes back into the treasury if unused.

HEARING EXAMINERS REPORT

The Hearing Examiner report was available to the Board for review. There were no questions.

AGENCY UPDATES

Training

Mr. Graves reported that on Monday, April 29th at 9:00am, the treatment and program staff will be here in the office to talk about programs, SOSRA and the Vo-Tech school. He also reported that on Monday, May 6th at 9:00am, Mr. Arnold, Mr. McNeal and Mr. Roberts will be here to talk about Field Services and training. Chairman Felts stated that this will be an excellent opportunity to hone the Boards skills when interviewing.

Legislative Update

Mr. Graves stated the legislative session is over. There have been several changes that will affect the Board. They passed the new act that allows expanded discretion. This will give the Board sole discretion over sex offenses and this bill went into effect on February 20th. This new rule will only apply to offenses on or after February 20th. They also passed a new bill that allows discretion over serious felonies but it will not be active until August 15th. We cannot deny offenders already serving for crimes committed before these dates. Chairman Felts stated the Board will not see a lot of these cases until probably 2015.

Mr. Graves also stated that there is a new change to the revocation hearing examiners title. They will now be regarded as Hearing Judges. Also, a bill was passed that requires mandatory revocation hearings for individuals with violent and/or sex related offenses. This is being drafted for policy changes and must go before the rules and regulations committee. We will then get feedback and we should have a final draft in May or early June. It will then open up for a public comment session. Chairman Felts stated that this is one of the issues that will be covered during the training retreat in June.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to report at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Union Rescue Mission

Chairman Felts reported that the Union Rescue Mission has expanded its facility and has been approved as transitional living for DCC. They would like to offer a chance for the Board to tour the facility and view their program. Also, the Dorcas House for women can be toured as well. He stated that the Board will be looking at this opportunity in May.

May 2013 Schedule

Chairman Felts stated that the Board should have a copy of the May schedule. He stated that if any Commissioners have any adjustments to the schedule to please let him know as soon as possible so that changes can be made. He stated that this will be a tough month as some of the Board members will be traveling to Rhode Island for a parole conference. There were no questions regarding the schedule.

FILES FOR DISCUSSION - REVIEW

There were no questions regarding files for review

RATIFICATION OF VOTES

Commissioner Mays moved. Commissioner Carpenter seconded the motion to ratify the votes. Motion carried.

OTHER COMMENTS

Mrs. Shirley Ellingburg stated that everything is going well with Institutional Release services and Mr. Dan Roberts reported that things are going well with Field Services.

ADJOURNMENT

There were no further comments or questions.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16, 2013 at 9:30a.m. This meeting will take place in the APB Boardroom.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Signature on File

John Felts
Chairman

Signature on File

Richard L. Mays, Jr.
Secretary

ARKANSAS BOARD OF PAROLE
FULL BOARD RATIFICATION OF VOTES
APRIL 2013

<u>UNITS:</u>	<u>RATIFIED (X)</u>
BENTON	X
CACCC	X
CUMMINS	X
EAST AR	X
GRIMES	X
MCPHERSON	X
MISSISSIPPI CO.	X
NEACCC	X
OUACHITA RIVER CORR.	X
PINE BLUFF	X
R.L. WILLIAMS	X
SEARC	X
SWARC	X
TRCC	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: APRIL 25, 2013