



**MINUTES OF THE
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
APRIL 26, 2012 @ 9:30 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
Carolyn Robinson, Commissioner
Joe Peacock, Commissioner
Abraham Carpenter, Commissioner

HEARING EXAMINERS PRESENT:

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

EXCUSED WITH VALID REASONS:

Ashley Vailes, Hearing Examiner/Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT

Solomon Graves, Administrative Services Manager, APB
Norma Gillerson, Fiscal Support Manager, APB
Melissa Haney, Executive Assistant to the Chairman, APB
Tamara Salaam, Administrative Support Specialist, APB
Dan Roberts, Deputy Director, Parole/Probation Services, DCC
Steve Arnold, Assistant Director, Parole/Probation, DCC
Damien McNeil, Assistant Director, Parole/Probation, DCC
Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, DCC
Arnie Jochums, Asst. Attorney General, Attorney Generals Office

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 12, 2012

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

POPULATION REPORT

Chairman Felts reported that there are 14,103 inmates in the Department of Correction. He stated that there are currently 478 inmates in the county jail backup, but this number will decrease as the May E.P.A. takes effect.

In review of the DCC population report there are 1,382 inmates currently incarcerated with 110 in the TVP backup and 45 in the regular backup. There are a total of 29,591 individuals currently on probation and 23,401 on parole.

Chairman Felts reported that the Board's monthly report shows 206 approved out of 304 total screenings giving the Board a 68% approval rate. The monthly report for transfer hearings reported 280 approved hearings out of 452 for the month of March, giving the Board an approval rate of 62%. There were 928 total actions completed by the Board for the month of March, this number includes totals for Commutations and Pardons. The Board denied 71 cases and deferred 152 for further action.

FISCAL REPORT

The fiscal report was presented by Mr. Solomon Graves who stated that as of March 31, 2012 the Board has expended 83% of the total budget. He stated that this amount includes the supplemental appropriation received during the 2012 fiscal session. The report is in the Board folders for review.

Mr. Graves also stated that the receipts for the AAPP conference need to be turned in to Mahogany so that TR1 forms can be completed and processed accordingly.

HEARING EXAMINERS REPORT

The Hearing Examiners reported a total of 35 hearings conducted. Of that total 28 were revoked to ADC, 5 were revoked to TVP, 1 was not revoked and 1 was deferred. There was 1 case found to have no jurisdiction, as reported by Hearing Examiner Carol Bohannon.

NEW BUSINESS

Hidden Creek Transitional Living

Mr. Paul Stevens from Under Grace Ministries and Mr. David Ready, Director of the Hidden Creek Transitional Living Facility presented information to the Board regarding their program. Mr. Stevens stated that their organization is a group of volunteers who minister to inmates. They currently have a 48 bed facility and things are going very well with the program. They are trying to create a partnership to help inmates make the first critical steps on the outside. Mr. Stevens stated that their goal is to provide a continual structured environment and therapy.

Mr. Ready also stated that they are trying to accomplish the continued education that the residents have learned while incarcerated. They want to help them to maintain accountability, make proper choices and help them to safely transition back into society. He reported that there is a 12 step program in order to keep them on task and help with the weaknesses that could lead to relapse. After the program they can re-up for a second 90 day program if desired. This program is to help transition to a new way of life and help people achieve their goals and move forward.

Commissioner Wallace asked if this program is for people who have no where else to go and what is the cost of the program. Mr. Ready reported that this is a program that anyone can choose to go to and the cost is \$125 a week, so roughly \$500 a month. He stated that residents are encouraged to work. Chairman Felts requested to know what happens when a resident can not find work and Mr. Ready stated that they are very patient and they understand this struggle. He stated that they work with residents and the cost is absorbed for the first month. He stated that they are conveniently located on Markham and Shackelford so transportation is easy, jobs are plentiful and the apartments are very nice. He also reported that they only accept non-violent

offenders and that currently all of their residents are employed. He stated that if any of these residents do fall behind on payments then it is added to their tab to pay back. He reported that they discuss the fees and individual goals with each resident and they tailor the cost to meet their needs if necessary.

Chairman Felts asked if the programs primary focus is on the DCC residents and if they plan to move forward towards including ADC as well. Mr. Ready stated that they are working towards taking in non-violent offenders from ADC and they are working to incorporate them into the program as soon as possible. He completed his presentation by stating that he hoped the Board would consider adding as a stipulation for parole to their program that they remain a minimum of 90 days.

Request to Amend Standard Condition #1

Mr. Graves reported that they have received a request from DCC to amend the Standard Condition #1 (Reports). This change would say that the parolee is required to report to his/her parole officer the next day or next available day that the office is open. This change requires Board action. Commissioner Carpenter moved to accept the motion. Commissioner Brown seconded. The motion was carried.

May 2012 Schedule

Chairman Felts stated that if any Commissioners have any adjustments to the schedule they need to let him know as soon as possible so that changes can be made.

FILES FOR DISCUSSION REVIEW

Chairman Felts called for any questions regarding the victim input votes for May. It was requested to get a final vote on Inmate Larry Dalhaus, ADC# 145438. His parole was denied for 1 year.

RATIFICATION OF VOTES

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

ADJOURNMENT

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 17, 2012 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 2012

<u>UNITS:</u>	<u>RATIFIED (X)</u>
BENTON	X
CACCC	X
EAST AR	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, RESCINDS, SPECIAL CONDITIONS, ETC.	X

MOTION BY: Commissioner Mays **SECONDED BY:** Commissioner Carpenter

RATIFICATION DATE: APRIL 26, 2012