



**MINUTES OF THE
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
April 26, 2018
9:00 A.M.
APB BOARDROOM**

Board Members Present:

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

Excused with Valid Reason(s):

Carol Bohannon, Hearing Judge, APB
Lisa Wilkins, Hearing Judge, APB
Evelyn Gomez, Hearing Judge, APB
Solomon Graves, Public Information Officer, ADC
Nga Mahfouz, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office

Others Present:

Brooke D. Cummings, Executive Administrator, APB
Jessica Leija, Business Operations Manager, APB
Scott Howard, Investigator, APB
William T. Bowman, II, Systems Coordination Analyst, APB
Christie Little, Administrative Analyst, APB
Tamara Salaam, Administrative Support Supervisor, APB
Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, ACC
Jerry Bradshaw, Director of Parole and Probation Services, ACC
Lindsey Rindahl, Executive Assistant to the Chairman, APB

Call to Order

Chairman Felts called the board meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. A quorum was declared.

Approval of Minutes – April 12, 2018

Commissioner Vandiver moved for approval of the minutes. Commissioner Carpenter seconded the motion. Commissioner McCastlain stated her remarks under “New Business” should be revised for clarification.

Commissioner Vandiver moved to revise the minutes. Commissioner McCastlain seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The minutes were approved as corrected.

Report Updates

Chairman Felts stated the Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC) is well over capacity and that the ADC County Jail Back-Up List was over 1,800 at one time but has since backed off. Chairman Felts stated approximately 600 inmates on the ADC County Jail Back-Up List are on the 90-day program. He stated that if these inmates were not in county jails they would be in the ADC. Chairman Felts reported that there are 18,185 inmates incarcerated in the ADC.

Chairman Felts reported that most Arkansas Community Correction (ACC) units are right at capacity or right over capacity at this time. Chairman Felts stated there are 1,873 in count with a total capacity of 1,877.

There were no further questions or comments regarding the report updates at this time.

Attorney General's Report

Ms. Nga Mahfouz was excused for valid reason. There were no questions or comments regarding the Attorney General's report at this time.

Fiscal Report Update

Ms. Jessica Leija, Business Operations Manager, updated the Board on the Fiscal Report. Ms. Leija reported that as of March 31, 2018, the Board had expended 73% of the maintenance, operations and travel budget. Ms. Leija stated that at this time last year the Board had spent 67% of the operating expense budget. There was an attachment included in the board member's packets for review.

Chairman Felts stated that today was the last board meeting for Ms. Jessica Leija, Business Operations Manager, before she returned to the ACC. Chairman Felts expressed his appreciation for Ms. Leija and the work she has done for the agency. Chairman Felts stated that she will be missed.

There were no further questions or comments regarding the Fiscal Report.

Hearing Judge's Report

Ms. Brooke Cummings, Executive Administrator, updated the Board with regard to the revocation hearings conducted throughout the month of March 2018. Ms. Cummings reported there were a total of 523 actions. She stated that number included 362 waivers and 117 administrative revocations.

Ms. Cummings stated the percentage of technical only violators currently hovers at approximately 15% to 16%. The lowest percentage was 12% in October 2017. She stated the average percentage was approximately 28% to 30% in July 2016. She reported these numbers indicate the Board is really starting to see a change in this area.

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

There were no comments or questions regarding the Hearing Judge Report.

Agency Updates

Ms. Cummings reported that Ms. Rindahl and she had attended the Legislative Council Meeting on Friday, April 20, 2018. Ms. Cummings informed the Board that she had nothing to report at that meeting.

There were no further comments or questions regarding Agency Updates.

Old Business

Commissioner McCastlain spoke to Jerry Bradshaw, Director of Parole and Probation Services, about changing the association standard condition of parole. She informed Mr. Bradshaw she was interested in arranging a meeting to discuss the matter further. Commissioner McCastlain inquired as to the status of the Board's revisions to the standard conditions of parole. Ms. Brooke Cummings, Executive Administrator, reported that the standard condition of parole of association between parolees was removed, along with a few other minor changes, and that these revisions were forwarded to the Board for review. Chairman Felts and Commissioner McCastlain informed Mr. Bradshaw they would have the final revisions to him by the next regularly scheduled Board meeting on Thursday, May 10, 2018.

There were no further comments or questions regarding Old Business.

New Business

There were no questions or concerns regarding New Business.

Files for Review

Chairman Felts called a recess for the Board to finalize its recommendations and votes regarding the Files for Review.

The meeting recessed at 9:28 a.m.

Recess and Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:45 a.m.

Commissioner Vandiver reported she finalized her recommendation on inmate Marcus Walker and that the Board had completed voting on this recommendation, as well as the recommendation regarding inmate Michael Dancy.

There were no other questions or concerns regarding the Files for Review.

Adoption of Recommendations

Secretary Shock moved to adopt the recommendations. Commissioner Carpenter seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Other Discussion

The Board discussed the Association of Paroling Authorities International (APAI) conference attended by Chairman Felts, Vice Chairman Belken, and Commissioner McCastlain. The conference was held in Incline Village, Nevada, near Lake Tahoe, from April 22 to April 25, 2018.

Chairman Felts stated he began with a meeting Sunday morning. He reported he conducted a presentation on Arkansas, including a discussion on Arkansas' sanctioning program. Discussion also included best practices, back-up, overcrowding, and what we refer to in Arkansas as "Act 539" inmates.

Commissioner McCastlain reported on a break-out session she attended regarding the association standard condition of parole. She stated the presentation was led by a former parolee who became an attorney and professor. She reported the instructor stated the reasoning for the shift is that the "no association" condition goes directly against the reentry movement, which advocates support and peer mentorship. She reported the instructor's position was that if you support reentry, the people that need to be supporting these inmates are the people who have already made it. Commissioner McCastlain proposed the condition be modified to specify there is to be no association with individuals "actively engaged" in a felony.

Chairman Felts stated there is a need to look at all the standard conditions to make sure we do not hinder these individuals from being successful. He stated that overall, it was a good conference.

Chairman Felts stated the May hearings at the Cummins Unit would be moved from Thursday, May 3rd to Friday, May 4th at the request of the unit.

There were no further questions or concerns to be discussed at this time.

Executive Session and Reconvene

Commissioner Vandiver moved to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. Commissioner Riley seconded the motion. The motion passed. The Board entered into Executive Session at 10:10 a.m.

The Board reconvened to its regular session at 10:57 a.m. Chairman Felts reported the Board conducted an exit interview with Ms. Jessica Leija, Business Operations Manager. Chairman Felts reported no action has been taken at this time.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 10, 2018, at 9:00 a.m.

Signature on File

John Felts
Chairman

Signature on File

Andy Shock
Secretary

ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD

FULL BOARD RATIFICATION OF VOTES

April 2018

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 Shock Seconded by: Commissioner Carpenter

Ratification Date: April 26, 2018