



# MINUTES OF THE ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD

May 10, 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, Jr., Commissioner  
Jerry Riley, Commissioner  
Lona McCastlain, Commissioner

## **EXCUSED WITH VALID REASONS:**

Carol Bohannon, Hearing Judge, APB  
Lisa Wilkins, Hearing Judge, APB  
Evelyn Gomez, Hearing Judge, APB  
Scott Howard, Investigator, APB  
Jerry Bradshaw, Deputy Director of Parole and Probation, ACC

## **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Brooke D. Cummings, Executive Administrator, APB  
William T. Bowman, II, Systems Coordination Analyst, APB  
Christie Little, Administrative Analyst, APB  
Monica Adams, Administrative Support Supervisor, APB  
Maria Aguilar, Administrative Specialist II, APB  
Lakeshia Swanigan, Administrative Specialist III, APB  
Tamara Salaam, Administrative Support Supervisor, APB  
Nga Mahfouz, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office  
Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services  
Kevin Murphy, Chief Deputy Director, ACC  
Kelly Knuckles, Program Eligibility Coordinator I, 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 26, 2018**

Secretary Shock moved for approval of the minutes. Commissioner Carpenter seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.

## **Agency Updates**

Ms. Brooke Cummings, Executive Administrator, reported she had been working on the Board's annual operations plan with Tammy Williams, the Board's budget analyst. Ms. Cummings stated they are formulating a plan that will govern the amount of funding the Board may use for salaries and professional fees, among other things. Ms. Cummings reported the Board had not exhausted anywhere near the allocated budget for professional fees over the past few years. She stated this will likely be a major change as she and Ms. Williams are looking at transferring money out of the professional fees budget. Ms. Cummings stated she will present the final annual operations plan to the Board upon its completion.

Commissioner McCastlain stated she would like to discuss the issue of staff salaries in an executive session. Chairman Felts stated the Board would certainly discuss those matters before the annual operations plan is turned in but that today would not be a good day to do so.

There were no questions or concerns regarding Agency Updates.

## **Old Business**

Commissioner Vandiver asked Chairman Felts whether the Board's budget and personnel committees were being implemented. Chairman Felts stated the Board members would meet to discuss this issue at a later date.

Commissioner McCastlain stated she would like the minutes to reflect that the Board is going to rework the way in which inmates will be screened for the Reentry Program. Chairman Felts agreed and stated that the Board had previously discussed a way to screen inmates it wanted to recommend for the Reentry Program. However, upon further discussion, the Board concluded the previously discussed screening process would create a problem with the hearing dockets. Chairman Felts stated that the Board will rework the screening process to avoid keeping inmates longer than necessary.

Commissioner Riley inquired as to the status of the letter Chairman Felts is drafting to send to the Reentry Program. Chairman Felts stated that he is working on the letter and the Board will discuss it upon completion.

There were no other questions or concerns regarding Old Business.

## **New Business**

Chairman Felts asked Ms. Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, to instruct her institutional release officers to reiterate to inmates that the standard conditions of parole (signed by inmates) are also conditions which have been stipulated by the Board. Chairman Felts stressed the importance of inmates acknowledging they understand the requirement to adhere to the standard conditions of parole in addition to any special conditions of parole.

Chairman Felts announced the Board had discussed and revised the standard conditions of parole in a meeting on May 9, 2018. The revised standard conditions of parole are attached to these minutes.

Commissioner Vandiver moved to adopt the standard conditions of parole as discussed and revised by the Board in the meeting on May 9, 2018, and submit them to the Arkansas Community Correction. Secretary Shock seconded. The motion passed.

Chairman Felts stated the Board would be looking at and refining the special conditions of parole at a later date.

There were no further questions or concerns regarding New Business.

## **Files for Review**

Commissioner Belken observed that inmate number 134271 still needed one vote. Commissioner Riley entered his vote on the inmate.

There were no further questions or concerns regarding Files for Review.

## **Adoption of Recommendations**

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

## **Other Discussion**

Chairman Felts announced that the agency had two new employees, Lakeshia Swanigan, Administrative Specialist III, and Maria Aguilar, Administrative Specialist II. Monica Adams, Administrative Support Supervisor, introduced Ms. Swanigan and Ms. Aguilar.

Maria Aguilar stated that she and her husband had recently moved to Little Rock from Albuquerque, New Mexico. Ms. Aguilar stated that she graduated from the University of New Mexico with a bachelor's degree in family studies.

Lakeshia Swanigan stated that she and her husband have three small children. She stated that her background is in the medical field that she is happy for the change in career.

**Presentation by ACC Reentry Program**

Mr. Kevin Murphy, Chief Deputy Director, ACC, stated he brought three Reentry Program graduates to talk to the Board about their successes. Ms. Kelly Knuckles, Program Eligibility Coordinator I, ACC, thanked the Board for having the presentation and introduced the following individuals to speak.

Mr. Mike Avery thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Reentry Program. Mr. Avery discussed the many difficulties inmates face upon release from prison. He stated he was one of the first six inmates selected to participate in the Reentry Program. He attributes his successful parole to the Reentry Program. He stated the program helped him find safe housing, a job, and volunteer opportunities. He stated this program is a great tool to fight recidivism.

Ms. Carrie Farr stated she had her first child when she was fifteen years old. She stated she began abusing drugs at age nineteen. She stated she incurred drug and theft charges and was sentenced to prison twice. She stated she was tired of hurting her children and her family. She stated she prayed for a change and ended up in the Reentry Program. She stated the Reentry Program taught her who she really was and how to budget and manage money. She became employed by Embassy Suites and has since been promoted. She believes the program will help anyone who really wants to change. She stated she is grateful she had the opportunity to participate in the Reentry Program and that it changed her life.

Mr. Randall Reid stated he was caught in criminal thinking and drug addiction for over twenty years. He stated the Reentry Program taught him how to modify his behavior and think differently. He stated the program helped him deal with his problems in a way that he wasn't able to before. He stated he is grateful he was able to participate in the Reentry Program because it gave him the tools he needed to battle his behavior for the rest of his life.

Mr. Murphy stated the Reentry Program has over 900 graduates and that it is changing lives. He thanked the Parole Board for being a part of the success of the program. Mr. Murphy played a short video highlighting the Reentry Program, which is also posted to the Arkansas Community Correction's website.

**Adjournment**

The board meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

The next Parole Board meeting will be held on Thursday, June 14th at 9:00 a.m.

***Signature on File***

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John Felts  
Chairman

***Signature on File***

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Andy Shock  
Secretary

**Arkansas Parole Board  
FULL BOARD RATIFICATION OF VOTES**

**May 2018**

**UNITS:**

**RATIFIED**

**Delta**



**Wrightsville**



**Wrightsville Satellite/Wrightsville Hawkins**



**Tucker**



**Tucker Max**



**Cummins**



**Benton**



**TRCC/SWACC**



**Bowie County**



**McPherson**



**North Central**



**NWA- Work Release**



**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: May 10, 2018**