



**MINUTES OF THE
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
May 29, 2014 @ 1:30 P.M.
APB Boardroom**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

HEARING JUDGES PRESENT:

Jim Williams, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Ashley Vailes, Hearing Judge/Attorney

EXCUSED WITH VALID REASONS:

Carol Bohannon, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Cara Boyd-Conners, 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
Dan Roberts, Deputy Director of Probation/Parole Services, ACC
Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, ACC

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Melissa Haney, Executive Assistant to the Chairman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Felts called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. A quorum was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 10, 2014

Commissioner Young moved. Commissioner Mays seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.

POPULATION REPORT

Chairman Felts stated that there are currently 17,723 inmates incarcerated in the Department of Correction. There are currently 2,464 men and 200 women on the County jail backup list. There were no questions regarding the report.

In review of the ACC Parole and Probation Population report there are 28,235 individuals on probation, 2,315 in drug court, 21,745 individuals on parole, and 298 on boot camp release for a total of 52,593 under supervision.

In review of the ACC jurisdiction population there is a total population of 1,877. This includes those in ACC correction centers and Omega and SE ARK TVP. The total ACC capacity is 1,879.

In review of the APB monthly report, Chairman Felts stated that the Board had a total of 366 approved Transfer Screenings out of a total of 392. The overall approval rate for Screenings was 93.4%. There were 26 deferred and 48 were scheduled for hearings. The Board conducted a total of 804 Transfer Hearings with 578 approved. The Board had a 72% approval rate. There were 78 denied and 148 deferred. The Board conducted 88 reconsideration hearings, 55 rescind screenings and 18 rescind hearings. There were also 29 pardons, 1 firearm restorations, 30 commutation screenings and 7 commutation hearings for a total of 67 clemencies. The Board had total actions of 1,472.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

There was no report from the Attorney General's office.

FISCAL REPORT

Mrs. Mahogany Franklin reported that the Board has currently expended 81% of its annual travel, maintenance and operations budget. The report was attached for the Board's review. Chairman Felts stated that the Board appreciates Mrs. Franklin's work and she also received glowing reviews from the ACA audit team. Mrs. Franklin reminded the Board of the mandatory meeting at the Crown Plaza Hotel from 9am-4pm on Monday. She asked that anyone that will not be in attendance please let her know.

HEARING JUDGES REPORT

The Hearing Judge Report was available to the Board for review. Commissioner Wallace asked if the hearings are slowing down and Chairman Felts reported that Act 1029 Hearings have gone up for April and May. Mr. Williams reported that they are receiving approximately 155 violation reports a week. There were no further questions regarding the Hearing Judge Report.

AGENCY UPDATES

Chairman Felts stated that Mr. Graves did an excellent job on the ACA Audit and received glowing reports from the auditors. He thanked him for his hard work. Mr. Graves stated thanked everyone for their support during the ACA audit and stated that it was a team effort. He stated that the accreditation helps set standards and policies for our agency. He stated that the only standard we did not pass was the Board Member salary standard. ACA has a rule that if you are not in compliance with a standard, you must develop a plan of action to correct it. He stated that the Board will be requesting discretionary compliance for this standard. Commissioner Mays acknowledged Mr. Graves hard work and exceptional job working with the auditors.

Mr. Graves reminded the Board that they would be meeting to develop the 2015 Legislative Package. The meeting will take place Monday, June 2nd at the Crown Plaza Hotel. During this meeting the Board will also begin developing the strategic plan. The Board will also begin reviewing the Board and Personnel Manuals.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

June 2014 SCHEDULE

Chairman Felts stated that the June Calendar is available for review. He stated that Commissioner Wallace will be out on annual leave the first week of the month. The calendar has been adjusted accordingly. If there are any changes that need to be made please let him and Tamara know so these can be addressed.

FILES FOR DISCUSSION - REVIEW

There were no questions regarding the files for review.

OTHER COMMENTS

Chairman Felts stated that they will be extending the 1 year EPA to include some regular paroles into November. He stated that with the help of Mrs. Shirley Ellingburg and Mrs. Wendy Kelley, they have approved a list of individuals that will fall within the 1 year EPA standard. Mr. Graves stated that at this time there are 198 on the list. There are 151 males and 47 females and all but 13 were already approved by the Board. Chairman Felts stated that this will allow the Board of Correction to move those inmates TE dates up so they can be released early. Commissioner Wallace asked if this will affect those individuals with programs. He stated that he would like to see these individuals paroled if possible. Chairman Felts stated that if they are not a threat or violent, they are preparing to move them out as quickly as possible. Mrs. Ellingburg reported that the original list included 422 inmates. Chairman Felts stated that the original list has been culled down due to the removal of those with a violent history or other ineligible type offenses, but we should have the rest ready for release in November. Commissioner Wallace and Young requested that the Board consider obtaining the authority to move TE dates up. Mr. Graves said that authority is currently given to the Board of Correction in statue.

ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Commissioner Vandiver moved. Commissioner Mays seconded the motion to adopt the recommendations. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, June 12, 2014 at 9:30a.m. at the Arkansas Parole Board.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Signature on File

John Felts
Chairman

Signature on File

Dawne Vandiver
Secretary

**ARKANSAS BOARD OF PAROLE
FULL BOARD RATIFICATION OF VOTES**

MAY 2014

UNITS:

RATIFIED (X)

EAST AR	X
MISSISSIPPI CO.	X
NEACCC	X
OUACHITA RIVER CORR.	X
PINE BLUFF	X
R.L. WILLIAMS	X
SEARC	X
VARNER	X
WRIGHTSVILLE	X

**OTHER: PARDONS, COMMUTATIONS, TRANSFER SCREENINGS, x
ACT 290, 700'S, RECONSIDERATION, REVOCATION APPEALS,
EPA, ETC.**

MOTION BY: Commissioner Vandiver SECONDED BY: Commissioner Mays

RATIFICATION DATE: MAY 29, 2014