



**MINUTES OF THE
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
June 25, 2015
9:00 A.M.
APB BOARDROOM**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

EXCUSED WITH VALID REASONS:

Carol Bohannon, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Cara Boyd-Connors, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Jim Williams, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Ashley Vailes, Hearing Judge/Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT:

Meredith Rebsamen, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office
Solomon Graves, Administrative Services Manager, APB
Mahogany Franklin, Fiscal Support Supervisor, APB
Kelly Knuckles, Executive Assistant to the Chairman, APB
Tamara Salaam, Administrative Support Supervisor, APB
Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, ACC

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Kelly Knuckles, Executive Assistant to the Chairman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Felts called the board meeting to order at 9:04 am. A quorum was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 11, 2015

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

REPORT UPDATES

Chairman Felts reported that there are 18,779 inmates incarcerated in the Arkansas Department of Correction which is a reduction from last month. There are currently 2,738 men and women on the ADC County Jail Back-up list. Last month we had 2,847 men in women on that list.

In review of the ACC Center Jurisdiction Population there is a total 1,585 offenders in ACC Centers. This includes those in ACC correction centers, Omega and SE ARK TVP, and on the ACC's back-up list. The total ACC capacity is 1,603. Statewide Field Report reflects 27,173 on probation, 2,345 out to drug court, 285 boot camp releases and 21,785 on parole, for a combined total of 51,588.

In review of the APB monthly report, Solomon Graves, Administrative Services Manager, stated that the Board had a total of 1,632 board actions in May 2015, including parole and clemency actions. The Board had 128 denials and 998 approved in May.

Chairman Felts stated that the number one thing that needs to drive what we need to do is safety.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT

Meredith Rebsamen, Assistant Attorney General, reported there were no updates on her end. Ms. Rebsamen asked that we make sure we send all law suit correspondence to her office.

FISCAL REPORT

Mahogany Franklin, Fiscal Support Supervisor, reported that the Board has currently expended 87% of its annual travel, maintenance, and operations budget. The report was included in the meeting packet for the Board's review.

There were no questions regarding the fiscal report.

HEARING JUDGE'S REPORT

The Hearing Judge Activity Report was available for the Board's review. Chairman Felts stated that a total of 110 offenders were revoked by a Hearing Judge and sent back to custody in ADC or ACC. There were a total of 615 actions for the month of May. There were a total of 356 waivers for the month.

There were no further questions or comments regarding the hearing judge report.

AGENCY UPDATES

Mr. Solomon Graves, APB Administrative Services Manager, updated the Board on the following items. Mr. Graves commented on the revocation hearing numbers, he stated the Board is on track this year to send 5,500 parole violators back to the Department of Correction based on the first 6 months of the calendar year.

The Parole Board will be making some policy changes related to Revocation. This will not be just policies implementing ACT 1239. These revisions will include expanding the role of the Board in Parole Revocation and to expand the opportunity for alternatives to traditional incarceration for parole violators. We are looking at increased use of community based resources, coordinating with ACC and private providers and working with ADC on parole violator bed options. The Board should get a copy of the revised language in the next week or two. All of this is not firm as of yet. We will call a special board meeting when we have the language set.

Mr. Graves updated the Board on the Criminal Justice Transparency Act of 2015. This is the bill that requires all 3 agencies, ADC, ACC and the Parole Board to post certain information on our respective websites regarding offenders. The Board is responsible for posting the offenders who are coming up for parole or being considered for parole. We are close to finalizing our work plan for the Transparency Act for review by the Board.

Mr. Graves update the Board that on July 6th we are tentatively planning a support staff meeting to discuss upcoming changes.

Mr. Graves updated the Board on the ARORA risk assessment tool which is tailored to specifically to the inmate population. There will be a follow-up meeting in late July and the plan is to begin automation by late August.

OLD BUSINESS

There was not any old business to discuss at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

The July 2015 Arkansas Parole Board hearing schedule and calendar was provided to the Board. The Board was asked to notify Ms. Tamara Salaam, Administrative Support Supervisor, of any scheduling conflicts.

There were no questions regarding the scheduling at this time.

FILES FOR REVIEW

There are no questions regarding the files for review.

ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Commissioner Vandiver, Secretary of the Board, moved to adopt the recommendations. Commissioner Carpenter seconded. The motion was carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, July 16th, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the Arkansas Parole Board.

Signature on File

John Felts
Chairman

Signature on File

Dawne Vandiver
Secretary

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

June 2015

UNITS:

RATIFIED (X)

R.L. WILLIAMS



PINE BLUFF/SE



GRIMES



EAST ARKANSAS



MISS CO/NEC



VARNER



OUACHITA



**OTHER: Pardons, Commutations, Transfer Screenings, ACT 290s,
700s, Reconsiderations, Revocation Appeals, Rescinds,
Special Conditions, EPA, Etc.**



MOTION BY: Commissioner Vandiver SECONDED BY: Commissioner Brown

RATIFICATION DATE: June 25, 2015