



**MINUTES OF THE
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
JULY 25, 2013 @ 11:00 A.M.
APB BOARDROOM**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

EXCUSED WITH VALID REASON:

Richard L. Mays, Jr., Secretary/Commissioner
Joe Peacock, Commissioner
Carol Bohannon, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Jim Williams, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Ashley Vailes, Hearing Judge/Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT

Solomon Graves, Administrative Services Manager, APB
Mahogany Brown, Fiscal Support Supervisor, APB
Melissa Haney, Executive Assistant to the Chairman, APB
Tamara Salaam, Administrative Specialist III (Parole), APB
Sheila Sharp, Director, DCC
Dan Roberts, Deputy Director, Parole/Probation, DCC
Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, DCC

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Felts called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. A quorum was declared. Chairman Felts introduced the new Interim Director of DCC, Mrs. Sheila Sharp. She stated that she is making changes and looks forward to working closely with the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 11, 2013

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

POPULATION REPORT

Chairman Felts reported that there are 15,234 inmates in the Department of Correction and this includes those inmates in the 309 Program and in Work Release. There are also currently 671 on the County Jail Backup list.

In review of the DCC population report there are a total of 29,020 individuals on probation, 2,315 in drug court and 24,213 individuals on parole for a total of 55,933. There are currently 445 in the Boot Camp program. Vice-Chairman Wallace asked how many parole officers supervise this population and Mr. Dan Roberts stated that DCC currently has 412 active officers. He stated that those officers currently supervise 25,000 active cases and the rest are on unsupervised status.

In review of the DCC jurisdiction population there is a total population of 1,487 with a backup total of 114 in regular backup. The TVP backup is currently at 37. The total capacity for the DCC jurisdictional population is 1,615.

Chairman Felts stated that everyone should have a copy of the matrix report in their board packets. There were no questions.

In review of the APB monthly report, Chairman Felts stated that the Board had a total of 324 approved Transfer Screenings out of a total of 360. There were a total of 89 EPA Screenings. The overall approval rate for Screenings was 92%. The Board conducted a total of 230 Transfer Hearings with an approval 154. There were 45 denied and 31 deferred for further action with an overall approval rate of 66.9%. Chairman Felts reported that there were 27 pardons, 20 voted with merit and 7 voted without merit. There were a total of 37 Commutation Screenings, 28 without merit, 5 scheduled for hearings and 4 deferred. There were no Commutation Hearings. There were 2 firearm rights only application and they were both voted with merit. There were a total of 66 clemency/pardon actions. The Board had an overall total action of 885.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

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

FISCAL REPORT

Mrs. Mahogany Franklin reported that as of July 1, 2013, the Board has expended 99% of its annual travel and operations budget. She stated that the detailed report is attached for the Board's review. She stated that we will be releasing \$2,000 back to the treasury. She stated that the Board did very well this fiscal year and she greatly appreciates everyone's help throughout the year. There were no questions regarding the budget.

HEARING JUDGES REPORT

The Hearing Judges report was available to the Board for review. The Chairman reported that due to the new changes in effect the revocation numbers have increased dramatically. He stated that the Hearing Judges conducted 147 Hearings and signed almost 400 waivers. There were no questions regarding the Hearing Judges report.

AGENCY UPDATES

Mr. Graves stated that at the back in December, the Board approved Act 679 changes. This allowed offenders within one year of their Transfer Eligibility date to go to transitional living. He stated that the guidelines have been approved by the Legislative Counsel. He stated that with these new changes the Board will need to vote to make them effective. Vice-Chairman Wallace moved. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to report at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Felts stated that Mr. Kevin Murphy from ACCET was scheduled to appear today to speak about their program but Mr. Murphy was not in attendance.

Chairman Felts stated that a memo was recently brought the Board’s attention that deals with allowing absconders past their discharge date to be removed from parole. This was put into place by the former Chairman and Chairman Felts asked that this policy be rescinded. He stated that absconders should be accountable and if they abscond then they need to have their time stopped and a hearing will need to be held. He stated that no good time is to be granted to benefit an absconder. Vice-Chairman Wallace moved to rescind the former policy. Commissioner Vandiver seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Vice-Chairman Wallace stated that he would like all memos and policy dictated by the former Chairman to be reviewed in order to determine if the Board is in compliance with the law. Chairman Felts stated that he will be meeting with Director Sharp on a regular basis and they will follow up on this request.

August 2013 Schedule

Chairman Felts stated that the schedule is very full for August and the Commissioners may find themselves busier than last month. He stated that he has put himself on the schedule to conduct hearings in order to aid the Board. There were no questions regarding the schedule.

FILES FOR DISCUSSION - REVIEW

There were no questions regarding files for review

RATIFICATION OF VOTES

Vice-Chairman Wallace moved. Commissioner Carpenter seconded the motion to ratify the votes. Motion carried.

Other Comments

Vice-Chairman Wallace stated that he thinks the Board needs to hold a series of public meetings in order to discuss the Board’s functions and how they differ from DCC, ADC and BOC. He stated that he thinks there is a lot of confusion for the public about these agencies and it needs to be addressed. Vice-Chairman Wallace stated that the Board could work with the media in order to answer questions. Commissioner Vandiver stated that she thinks this is a great suggestion and would be very valuable.

Chairman Felts asked Mrs. Ellingburg if she had any comments. She stated that Mrs. Jackson, IRO at the Varner Unit, is leaving and that position has been opened at this time. She also stated that she knows there have been some concerns about broken file boxes and she has ordered 48 new boxes for the Board. Chairman Felts stated that the Board appreciates her hard work.

ADJOURNMENT

There were no further comments or questions.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, August 15, 2013 at 9:30a.m. 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
JULY 2013

<u>UNITS:</u>	<u>RATIFIED (X)</u>
BENTON	X
CACCC	X
CUMMINS	X
EAST AR	X
GRIMES	X
MCPHERSON	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, ETC.	X

MOTION BY: Commissioner Mays SECONDED BY: Commissioner Carpenter

RATIFICATION DATE: JULY 25, 2013