



**MINUTES OF THE
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
July 27, 2017
9:00 A.M.
APB BOARDROOM**

Board Members Present:

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

Excused with Valid Reason(s):

Kenya Woods, Victim Input Coordinator, APB
Christie Little, Administrative Support Supervisor, APB
Carol Bohannon, Hearing Judge/Attorney, APB
Lisa Wilkins, Hearing Judge/Attorney, APB
Evelyn Gomez, Hearing Judge/Attorney, APB
Jerry Bradshaw, Director of Parole and Probation Services, ACC

Others Present:

Brooke Cummings, Executive Administrator, APB
Janice Horton, Business Operations Manager, APB
Scott Howard, Investigator, APB
Kelly Knuckles, Executive Assistant to the Chairman, APB
William T. Bowman, II, Computer Support Analyst, APB
Tamara Salaam, Administrative Support Supervisor, APB
Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, ACC
Solomon Graves, Public Information Officer, ADC
Nga Mahfouz, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office

Call to Order

Chairman Felts called the board meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. A quorum was declared.

Approval of Minutes – July 13, 2017

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

Report Updates

Chairman Felts reported that there are 18,123 inmates incarcerated in the Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC). There are currently 1,452 men and women on the ADC County Jail Back-up list as of today.

In reviewing the Arkansas Community Correction (ACC) Center Jurisdictional Population Report, Chairman Felts stated there are 2,036 offenders in ACC Centers. This includes those in all ACC Centers including RCFs, Omega, SW AR CCC, and those offenders on ACC's back-up list. The Statewide Field Operations report reflects 29,426 on probation, 2,749 out to drug court/specialty court, 208 boot camp releases (including inactive cases) and 24,002 on parole, for a combined total of 56,385 under supervision.

Chairman Felts asked Mr. Solomon Graves, Arkansas Department of Correction's Public Information Officer, to speak to the Board in regard of any changes within ADC that need to be addressed. Mr. Graves stated that ADC is rolling out infrastructure on the video visitation for inmates and family members, further stating this has not taken place at this time, but it is in the works for future use. Mr. Graves stated the Board would be notified of changes going forward with this matter. Mr. Graves mentioned to the Board that ADC opened up 66 beds last week at the Pine Bluff Unit.

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

Attorney General's Report

Ms. Mahfouz stated the Parole Board currently has eight open cases against the Board. Ms. Mahfouz stated that one case on Mr. Jeremy Kennedy they are up on appeal, the other cases have been briefed and we are waiting to issue an order or schedule a hearing. Ms. Mahfouz stated she had no further updates at this time.

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

Fiscal Report Update

Ms. Janice Horton, Business Operations Manager, updated the Board on the Fiscal Report. Ms. Horton reported that the Board, as of June 30, 2017, has expended 90% of its annual travel, maintenance, and operations budget. There is an attachment included in the board member's packets for review. At this time last year the Board had expended 100% of the budget.

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

Hearing Judge's Report

Ms. Brooke Cummings, Executive Administrator, updated the Board on the current revocation hearing numbers. Ms. Cummings stated that there were 552 total actions by the Board in the month of June, of those 354 outcomes were waivers to ADC that is 64% of the total actions taken. Ms. Cummings stated that of the 163 revocation hearings held 82% of those were revoked to ADC. Ms. Cummings stated to the Board that the report is available upon request by the board members.

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

Agency Updates

Ms. Cummings stated to the Board that on October 1, 2017, is the implementation target date in the month of July the Parole Readiness Committee as well as the Data Gathering Sub-Committee met with the Council of State Governments. The Parole Board's representative for the Data Gathering Sub-Committee is Mr. William Bowman the Board's Computer Support Analyst, this committee will gather the numbers to see how the legislation changes have affected the numbers and to what degree they are affected. The committees will then meet with the Task Force to advise them from a local level to keep them up-to-date on any changes in our area.

Mr. Graves addressed the Board concerning the Parole Readiness Committee, which was designed to ensure that all three correctional agencies are working in concert to ensure we are getting inmates out on time and we are getting them out prepared for release in order to safeguard public safety. This committee plans to meet throughout the year on a monthly basis and then eventually move to a bimonthly meeting.

Ms. Cummings mentioned to the Board will be seeking some of the Bureau of Justice Assistance sub-award grant money in order to fund the implementation of the parole guidelines, we will in turn submit that request to Marquis to get the specifications for a quote on the request for the parole guidelines.

There were no further Agency Updates to be discussed at this time.

Old Business

There were no questions or concerns regarding Old Business.

New Business

There were no questions or concerns regarding New Business.

Files for Review

There were no 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

Ms. Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, mentioned there were some Units, Institutional Release Officers being reassigned due to Ms. April Dorn and Ms. Donna Cobb leaving those Units to take a new position with another state agency.

Mr. William Bowman, Computer Support Analyst, stated that we are still in the process of getting the video conference system setup for the agency. Mr. Bowman stated he would update the Board of any changes in the future.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

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

Signature on File

John Felts
Chairman

Signature on File

John Belken
Vice-Chairman

ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD

FULL BOARD RATIFICATION OF VOTES

July 2017

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: July 27, 2017