



MINUTES
OF THE ARKANSAS BOARD OF PAROLE MEETING
August 11, 2011 – 9:30 a.m.
ABP Boardroom

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Felts, Chairman
Abraham Carpenter, Jr., Vice-Chairman/Commissioner
Richard L. Mays, Jr., Secretary/Commissioner
Carolyn Robinson, Commissioner
Joseph Peacock, Commissioner
Jimmy Wallace, Commissioner
Richard Brown, Jr., Commissioner

**HEARING EXAMINERS
PRESENT:**

Ashley Vailes, Hearing Examiner/Attorney

EXCUSED WITH VALID REASONS:

Carol Bohannon, Hearing Examiner/Attorney
Jim Williams II, Hearing Examiner/Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dan Roberts, Deputy Director, Parole/Probation, Department of Community Correction (DCC)
Steve Arnold, Assistant Director, Parole/Probation, DCC
Jeff Tillman, Assistant Director, Parole/Probation, DCC
Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, DCC
Arnie Jochums, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's (AG's) Office
Solomon Graves, Administrative Services Manager / ACA Coordinator, ABP
Norma Gillerson, Fiscal Support Supervisor, ABP
Tamara Salaam, Administrative Support Supervisor – Parole Services, ABP

Call to Order

Chairman Felts called the meeting to order and declared a quorum at 9:30 a.m.

Approval of July 28, 2011 Minutes

Commissioner Wallace moved.

Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.

New Business**Agency Updates**

Mr. Graves addressed the Board and stated that on Sunday, August 6, 2011 he and Chairman Felts attended the re-accreditation hearing for our agency. We are re-accredited until 2014. On Monday morning, it was determined that a new set of standards will go before the Commission on Accreditation in Corrections for adoption in January 2012. These new standards will first go through a field test prior to approval. ABP will not be under these new standards until 2014; when we are up for re-accreditation again. Mr. Graves stated that our state has a lot to be proud of with our corrections system. In terms of sex offender registration and general practices, we are doing very well and a lot of the states at the conference would like to be functioning on our current level.

Commissioner Wallace inquired on the cost for the agency's reaccreditation. Mrs. Norma Gillerson reported that approximately \$7,800 was paid for re-accreditation. Commissioner Wallace inquired as to why we pay the committee this amount to do accreditation. Mr. Graves followed up by saying that this is done at the Board's discretion. Governor Huckabee had requested that the entire corrections system be accredited and since that time we have tried to maintain accreditation. We are one of just a few states to be fully accredited. Chairman Felts followed up by stating that most states would like to be where we are but can't meet the standards. He stated that now that we have been fully accredited it would be silly to walk away from it now. Commissioner Wallace stated that he would like to see a statement of the cost because he was informed that the cost was \$11,000 and would like to see justification for this amount.

Mr. Graves stated that it has been requested that the Board do a presentation at the spring APAI Conference regarding our experiences with accreditation. Commissioner Carpenter inquired as to how many states are actually accredited at this time and Mr. Graves followed up by stating that there are only 3 other states and the U.S. Army that have accredited Boards.

Chairman Felts thanked Mr. Graves for his presentation at ACA. He stated that he did an excellent job helping with everything and presenting the information. He stated that the committee at the ACA conference was very complimentary regarding our Board's maintenance of documents and our overall operations. Chairman Felts called for additional questions at this time. Commissioner Peacock asked if Chairman Felts could give the Board a short summary of the conference. Chairman Felts followed up by stating that the conference was built around bringing people in corrections together for training so that everyone could train under a central area. He stated that he spent a lot of time working on management and evidence based practices. He stated that our agency is already doing these things and a lot of states want to be where we are as far as procedures are concerned. Chairman Felts stated that they learned a lot about improving corrections and we can always use that information to build and improve upon what we currently do.

Act 570

Chairman Felts stated that Mrs. Ellingburg and her staff have already started working on scheduling inmates who are within 6 months of their eligibility date rather than 4 months. He stated that this was changed in order to get the inmates into classes and programs before their eligibility date. Mrs. Ellingburg stated that they will know more about the upcoming numbers around August 20th, but they expect to see increases and the Board will see that increase in October.

Class III and IV Inmates

Commissioner Peacock inquired if there was anything that can be done about not seeing Class 3 and 4 inmates. He stated that if these inmates are not eligible then it would save a lot of time to not have to see them every month. Chairman Felts stated that it is the Board's practice to see them even if they are Class 3 or 4, with the exception of those that sign waivers. Chairman Felts said the Board will look at this issue in the later part of August for Full Board.

Board Investigator Duties

Commissioner Peacock asked if the Board has the authority to let the Board Investigator interview inmates and make recommendations on behalf of the Board. Chairman Felts recommended that this also be put on the agenda for the second Board so that it can be fully reviewed and investigated.

Files for Discussion / Review

Chairman Felts called for any comments regarding the files for discussion. There were no comments.

Ratification of Votes

Commissioner Mays moved.

Commissioner Carpenter seconded the motion to ratify the units. Motion carried.

Commissioner Wallace moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Chairman Felts adjourned the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

SIGNATURE ON FILE

**JOHN FELTS
CHAIRMAN**

SIGNATURE ON FILE

**RICHARD L. MAYS, JR.
SECRETARY**

**ARKANSAS BOARD OF PAROLE
FIRST BOARD VOTE RATIFICATION**

August 2011

UNITS:

RATIFIED (X)

DELTA



GRIMES



MCPHERSON



NORTH CENTRAL UNIT



TUCKER



TUCKER MAX.



**OTHER: TRANSFER SCREENINGS, CLEMENCIES, PARDONS,
RECONSIDERATION, REVOCATION APPEALS, RESCINDS,
SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS, ACT 290, 700'S, EPA, ETC.**



MOTION BY: RICHARD L. MAYS, JR. SECONDED BY: ABRAHAM CARPENTER, JR.

RATIFICATION DATE: AUGUST 11, 2011