



**MINUTES OF THE
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
AUGUST 28, 2014 @ 9:30 A.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

EXCUSED WITH VALID REASONS:

Carol Bohannon, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Cara Boyd-Conners, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Jim Williams, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Ashley Vailes, 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
Tamara Salaam, Administrative Specialist III (Parole Services)
Pam Brown, Assistant Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, ACC
Meredith Rebsamen, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Felts called the meeting to order at 9:30 pm. A quorum was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 14, 2014

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

POPULATION REPORT

Chairman Felts reported that there are 17,654 inmates incarcerated in the Department of Correction. There are currently 2,268 men and women on the County Jail Backup list. He stated that this number is down a little because the Board of Correction recently invoked the 90-day EPA. Mrs. Pam Brown, Assistant Area Manager of ACC Institutional Release Services, reported that 225 inmates have been released over the last few days. Chairman Felts commended her team on the excellent job they are doing.

In review of the ACC Parole and Probation Population report there are 27,606 individuals on probation, 3,202 in drug courts, 22,045 individuals on parole, and 237 on Boot Camp release for a total of 52,190 under supervision.

In review of the ACC center jurisdiction population there is a total population of 1,740. This includes those in ACC correction centers and Omega and SE ARK TVP. The total ACC capacity is 1,749.

Chairman Felts reported that the Offender Violation Guide Report is available for review. There were no questions regarding this report.

In review of the APB monthly report, Chairman Felts stated that the Board had a total of 340 approved Transfer Screenings for an overall approval rate of 90.9%. There were 32 deferred and 60 were scheduled for hearings. The Board conducted a total of 499 approved Hearings out of a total 683. The Board had a 73.4% approval rate. The Board also had 3 parole hearings and all 3 were denied. There were a total of 56 Transfer Hearings denied and 127 were deferred. The Board conducted 88 reconsideration hearings, 30 rescind screenings and 11 rescind hearings for a total of 129 actions. There were also 33 pardons, 2 firearm restorations, 37 commutation screenings and 4 commutation hearings for a total of 76 clemencies. The Board had total actions of 1,322.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

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

FISCAL REPORT

Mahogany Franklin reported that the Board has currently expended 8% of its annual travel, maintenance and operations budget. The report was attached for the Board's review. There were no questions regarding the fiscal report.

HEARING JUDGES REPORT

The Hearing Judge Report was available for the Board's review. Chairman Felts stated that a total of 608 were revoked and sent back to custody in ADC, RCF or TVP. The Board discussed the revocation of offenders with minor offenses and supervision guidelines for officers. The Board also discussed absconders returning to custody.

AGENCY UPDATES

Solomon Graves, Administrative Services Manager, reported he and Chairman Felts traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah for an ACA conference and the Board received accreditation for 3 more years. He stated that the Arkansas Parole Board is one of only 5 Boards in the United States to be accredited. He discussed several issues that were covered at the ACA conference including offender re-entry and electronic files.

Mr. Graves stated that the Board will be revising its Act 679 policy for transitional living. This act allows offenders to be released up to a year early if they go to transitional housing and stay there until their transfer eligibility date. He reported that they are working to adjust the rules and tighten up the guidelines for this policy. He stated that he is working on a revision and this will be available by September 11, 2014.

Mr. Graves reported that there is a need for certified Spanish speaking translators and he is currently working to obtain a database of certified interpreters that can be utilized for parole and revocation hearings. He stated that he will have a list of translators by the end of September. Commissioner Young asked how many Spanish speaking inmates are currently incarcerated. Mr. Graves said that he will get a total for the Board.

Mr. Graves discussed the new electronic voting and stated that they are moving forward with this process for the Board. He met with the eOMIS team and ACC to talk about the status of the project and it should be ready for testing by the end of the year. He requested that the Board try out the demo equipment by end of the day as it will have to be sent back Friday.

He stated that Ken is working to get new desk phones for everyone and this will allow for better speed on our network. In addition, the desktop video solutions for video conferencing will hopefully be ready to be tested in the next month.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Felts congratulated Commissioner Abraham Carpenter on being re-appointed to a new 7 year term.

September 2014 SCHEDULE

Chairman Felts stated that the September Calendar is available for review. 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

Commissioner Young stated that he is holding one file for further review. There were no questions regarding the files for review.

OFFICIAL BOARD VOTES

Commissioner Vandiver moved for the adoption of the official Board votes. Commissioner Young seconded the motion to adopt the recommendations. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Felts called the Board into Executive Session at 10:25 a.m. to discuss a personnel issue regarding the performance of Mr. Solomon Graves. The Board also discussed the personnel issue of a hiring recommendation. The Executive Session ended at 11:15 a.m. and the Board took no action regarding Mr. Graves. Regarding the recommendation for hire, the Board recommended the hiring of Mrs. Elizabeth Cross for the vacant Administrative Specialist III position. Commissioner Vandiver moved to hire Mrs. Cross. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, September 11, 2014 at 9:30a.m. at the Arkansas Parole Board.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 pm.

Signature on File

**John Felts
Chairman**

Signature on File

**Dawne Vandiver
Secretary**

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

AUGUST 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 Young

RATIFICATION DATE: AUGUST 28, 2014