



**MINUTES OF THE
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
AUGUST 29, 2013 @ 9:30 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

HEARING JUDGES PRESENT:

Ashley Vailes, Hearing Judge/Attorney

EXCUSED WITH VALID REASON:

Richard L. Mays, Jr., Secretary/Commissioner
Joe Peacock, Commissioner
Carol Bohannon, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Jim Williams, 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
Dan Roberts, Deputy Director, Parole/Probation, DCC
Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, DCC
Meredith Rebsamen, Attorney Generals Office

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 15, 2013

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

POPULATION REPORT

Chairman Felts reported that there are currently 1,236 males and 49 females on the County Jail Backup list. He stated that the Board of Correction has evoked the 90 day EPA on a limited basis by removing inmates returning to Pulaski and Lonoke Counties. All other individuals will be released when eligible.

In review of the DCC population report there are a total of 29,037 individuals on probation, 2,350 in drug court and 23,822 individuals on parole and 464 in boot camp for a total of 55,673. Vice-Chairman Wallace asked how many parole officers supervise this population and Mr. Dan Roberts stated that DCC currently has 412 active officers.

In review of the DCC jurisdiction population there is a total population of 1,438. The total capacity for the DCC jurisdictional population is 1,615. Commissioner Wallace requested to know how many are not being released under the EPA. Chairman Felts stated that there are less than 200 on the EPA list that will not be released. There are around 500 inmates that are being released under the EPA.

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 295 approved Transfer Screenings out of a total of 260. The overall approval rate for Screenings was 88.1%. The Board conducted a total of 382 Transfer Hearings with an approval 244. The overall approval rate for Hearings was 66.9%. There were 6 Parole Hearings, which are those offenders that were sentenced prior to 1994. There were 3 approved for release out the 6 hearings for a 50% approval rate. Chairman Felts reported that there were 27 pardons, 35 commutation screenings, 2 commutation hearings and 2 firearm rights restored for a total of 66. The Board had total actions of 907.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Mrs. Rebsamen did not have a report, but she stated that if the Board has any questions she will be happy to answer them. Chairman Felts stated that recently an inmate sent the Board legal documents for review and Mrs. Rebsamen stated that all legal documents or summons need to be forwarded to her immediately to be processed. She stated that the information the inmate sent was in reference to a suit filed, but it did not get served properly because he did not file the paperwork correctly. She stated that no action is needed at this time.

FISCAL REPORT

Mrs. Mahogany Franklin reported that the Board has currently expended 7% of its annual travel and operations budget. She stated that the detailed report is attached for the Board's review. She stated that open enrollment for insurance changes begins October 1st. She stated that if anyone needs more information regarding the enrollment process to please see her.

HEARING JUDGES REPORT

The Hearing Judges report was available to the Board for review. The Chairman reported that the numbers for the month are astronomical. This month there were a total of 846 actions taken on revocation requests. Chairman Felts asked Mrs. Vailes if there were any current issues with the new Act 1029 hearings. Mrs. Vailes stated that there have currently been no issues with these new hearings. Chairman Felts stated that Mr. Graves has been working with eOMIS to form a way to indicate on the violation reports if that parolee is being reviewed under Act 1029. There were no further questions regarding the Hearing Judges report.

AGENCY UPDATES

Mr. Graves reported that in regards to Act 1029, one of the things requested was to work with our partners in the field and the county jails to make sure that those parolees with Act 1029 warrants are being detained pending their mandatory hearing. He stated that in order to make this process easier, they are working to create an additional signature space on the form that will require the jail official to sign indicating that they understand that

the parolee must be detained pending a hearing. This will go into production today.

Mr. Graves stated that they are also working to formulate a new interview worksheet for DCC offenders. DCC offenders can not be stipulated to ADC programs and he is working to create a new worksheet that will make it easier to keep from requesting programs for these offenders. He stated that he is working with Marquis and this should be in production by October.

Mr. Graves stated that on Monday and Tuesday of this week he and the Chairman attended the Legislative Session held in Pine Bluff and at the Omega and Ouachita River units. He stated that on Monday, they discussed ADC's needs and bed space issues and how to address those problems. On Tuesday, they traveled to Omega and Ouachita and the Legislative members were able to tour the facility and sit in on Hearings with the Board. He stated that there were a lot of positive comments and it was a great learning experience for those involved. Mr. Graves stated that on September 11, 2013, they will be going before the Rules and Regulations Committee in order to have the Board manual changes approved.

Mr. Graves reported that the new IT position is open and will officially close this Friday. He stated that if all goes well, the position should be filled by late September.

Chairman Felts reported that the Hearing Judge position is now closed and we had a total of 35 applications submitted. He stated that they will begin scheduling interviews this week in order to fill this position as soon as possible.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Carpenter requested information on the annual AAPPI conference in October. Chairman Felts stated that they will be receiving further information from DCC in the next few weeks.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

September 2013 Schedule

Chairman Felts stated that the schedule for September is available and if there are any changes that need to be made, please let him or Tamara know so those can be addressed. There were no questions regarding the schedule. Chairman Felts stated that the calendar for 2014 is being put together at this time and if there are any suggestions for unit changes those can be addressed.

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Felts called the Board into Executive Session regarding a personnel issue at 10:00 am. The Executive Session ended at 10:25 am and the Board recognized the hard work of Mrs. Vailes. There was no action taken in the matter of this personnel issue.

ADJOURNMENT

There were no further comments or questions.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, September 12, 2013 at 9:30a.m. in the APB Boardroom

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 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
AUGUST 2013

<u>UNITS:</u>	<u>RATIFIED (X)</u>
BENTON	X
CACCC	X
EAST AR	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 Wallace SECONDED BY: Commissioner Carpenter

RATIFICATION DATE: August 29, 2013