



**MINUTES OF THE  
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2019  
9:00 A.M.  
APB BOARDROOM**

**Board Members Present:**

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

**Excused with Valid Reason(s):**

Dawne Vandiver, Commissioner  
Carol Bohannon, Hearing Judge, APB  
Lisa Wilkins, Hearing Judge, APB

**Others Present:**

Brooke D. Cummings, Executive Administrator, APB  
Evelyn Gomez, Hearing Judge, APB  
Christie Little, Business Operations Manager, APB  
William T. Bowman, II, Systems Coordination Analyst, APB  
Hollie Wellborn, Executive Assistant to the Chairman, APB  
Scott Howard, Investigator, APB  
Tamara Salaam, Administrative Support Supervisor, APB  
Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, ACC  
Cindy Richardson, Assistant Director of Parole/Probation, ACC  
Joe West, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office

Minutes Prepared by: Hollie Wellborn, Executive Assistant to the Chairman

## **Call to Order**

Chairman Felts called the Board meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. A quorum was declared. Chairman Felts advised the Board that Commissioner Vandiver is out on Annual Leave. Chairman Felts also advised the Board that Commissioner Carpenter texted to say he is running late.

## **Approval of Minutes - September 12, 2019**

Vice Chairman Shock moved for approval of the minutes. Commissioner Belken seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.

A copy of the minutes was included in each board member's packet for review.

## **Review of Population Reports**

Chairman Felts reviewed the population reports. He said there has been a reduction that is due to the releases out of the County Jails from individuals serving 90 days and maintaining good behavior. The report showed that ADC has a jurisdictional count of 17,845. As usual, the units are all at or over capacity. Chairman Felts stated that the Work Release Centers are the only ones under capacity.

Chairman Felts then reviewed the population report for ACC. They have an in count of 2,355. They have a capacity of 2,358. These are the ACC centers in addition to the OMEGA Sanction Center and the EACC Sanction Center for females. Chairman Felts told the Board about a conference call he had this week with legislators out of Florida. He said that after many years of their abolishment of Parole, they are working on reinstating Parole. Chairman Felts said that the Florida officials were interested in the state of Arkansas and the way we handle Parole.

Chairman Felts ended the review of the population reports by reviewing the Statewide Field Operations report. Chairman Felts noted that there are 33,216 on Regular Probation. Specialty Court was at 2,193, Parole was 25,438, Boot Camp was 37, and the Act 539s count was 20. This gives a combined total of 60,904 persons under supervision.

## **Attorney General's Report**

Assistant Attorney General Joe West advised the Board that there are presently 11 APA Appeals of Board decisions open in Circuit Court throughout Arkansas. Mr. West said that 10 of them Ms. Mahfouz handled, and she will keep because they are fully briefed. He said that he believes she has filed Motions to Dismiss on every one of them. They are waiting on court decisions on all of those. Mr. West said there is one new one that he will handle. He anticipates filing a Motion to Dismiss

within the next week or so.

### **Fiscal Report Update**

Ms. Christie Goldman, Business Operations Manager, APB updated the Board on the Fiscal Report. Ms. Goldman reported that effective July 1, 2019, the Agency received funding of \$295,211 for Maintenance & Operations and Conference & Travel for fiscal year 2020. As of August 31, 2019, we've expensed \$38,355.05 (13%). At this time last year, the Board had exhausted 15% of the operating expense budget.

A copy of the fiscal report was included in each board member's packet for review.

### **Hearing Judge's Report**

Ms. Brooke Cummings, Executive Administrator, updated the Board on revocation hearings conducted throughout the month of August 2019. Ms. Cummings reported to the Board that there were a total of 505 actions. That number includes 323 waivers, 73 individuals that were revoked in a hearing setting, and 103 administrative revocations.

A copy of the hearing judge report was included in each board member's packet for review.

### **Agency Updates**

Ms. Brooke Cummings, Executive Administrator, told the Board that the Agency obtained a second Investigator position. Ms. Cummings anticipates the position to be posted sometime next week.

There were no comments or questions regarding agency updates.

### **Old Business**

There was nothing to report regarding old business.

### **New Business**

There was nothing to report regarding new business.

**Files for Review**

A copy of the files for review was included in each board member’s packet for review.

**Adoption of Recommendations**

Secretary McCastlain moved to adopt the recommendations of the Board for the units as listed on the attached ratification list. Commissioner Carpenter seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the recommendations became the official vote of the Parole Board.

**Other Discussion**

Mr. William Bowman, Systems Coordination Analyst, APB, told the Board that he will be going around and getting everyone’s computers and reimaging them because we are going to start going to the ADC network. Secretary McCastlain told Mr. Bowman that she along with other commissioners have been having problems getting on their iPADS. Mr. Bowman said that he has put in a work ticket with Apple because their required update caused the issue.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, October 10, 2019, at 9:00 a.m.

*Signature on file*

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**John Felts**  
**Chairman**

*Signature on file*

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**Lona McCastlain**  
**Secretary**

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

**September 2019**

**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 McCastlain    Seconded by: Commissioner Carpenter**

**Ratification Date: September 26, 2019**