



**MINUTES
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
SEPTEMBER 15, 2011 @ 9:30 A.M.
APB Board Room**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

EXCUSED WITH VALID REASONS:

Carol V. Bohannon, Hearing Examiner/Attorney
James L. Williams II, Hearing Examiner/Attorney
Ashley Vailes, Hearing Examiner/Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dan Roberts, Deputy Director, Parole/Probation, DCC
Steve Arnold, Assistant Director, Parole/Probation, DCC
Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, DCC
Arnie Jochums, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office
Solomon Graves, Administrative Services Manager, APB
Norma Gillerson, Fiscal Support Supervisor, APB

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 25, 2011

Commissioner Wallace moved.

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

OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Graves discussed the deferral policy for Class III and IV inmates. The Board received copies of the draft language automatically deferring these inmates with the right to appeal within 60 days. He stated that after speaking with Arnie Jochums from the AG's office this information should be tabled until the full Board meeting. This was moved by Commissioner Peacock and Seconded by Vice-Chairman Carpenter. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Graves presented the draft copy of the 2010-2011 Annual Report. He covered the main highlights of the report and reported the newest numbers for the fiscal year. He also reminded the Board that this is a draft and there will be additional changes made to the Hearings/Screenings page.
- Mr. Graves also stated that while our approval rate may seem low for Hearings (68%), we are well above the national average. Our Screening approval rate was 92% and that is an excellent rate for the Board. Our averages help to reduce the total prison population.
- Mr. Graves further stated that the 1031 report in the annual report is part of an Act passed in 2003 that requires the Board to break down the number of approvals, denials and deferrals for each crime, gender and race. This will be the last year that this report is in use. The numbers reflected may be different than those reported in our annual report due to the 1031 report duplicating offenders. The report counts the offense not the offender.
- Mr. Graves identified the following reasons for the continued decrease in our overall numbers for Hearings and Screenings.
 1. The Board of Corrections regularly evoking the 1 year EPA
 2. Offenders are coming to ADC with longer sentences and Transfer Eligibility dates are farther out.
 3. The Board is reducing the number of denials and deferrals resulting in offenders being released at their first hearing with the Board.
- Mr. Graves referred to a handout reflecting new video conferencing equipment at ADC units. All but Tucker/Tucker Max are up and running at this time. He also notified the Board that we will be disconnecting the video conferencing station in the small conference room that is not being used. This will reduce the monthly DIS billing by \$450.00. Currently, DIS is currently considering a new billing structure for video and the Board may be able to further reduce its overall billing in the future. Mr. Graves reported that he is currently monitoring the number of offenders being reviewed via video conferencing and will present a report on this information in 2012.
- Chairman Felts addressed the new security system and stated that it is currently functioning well. He stated that this security system was installed because the Board had become lax in regulating incoming traffic to the office. Also, prior to this system we had no way to lock down the office at nights and on weekends.

- He reported that the janitorial service will now come to our office during the day so that when the last staff member leaves for the day the office will be locked down.
- Chairman Felts also addressed the Re-Entry program that will be presented at the Grimes unit on September 28th at 10:00am. This program will last all day and Mr. Dennis Shrantz will be presenting. He encouraged the Board to attend this program. Mr. Graves will be sending out additional information regarding this program.
- Chairman Felts addressed the vacancy for the secretarial position and stated that so far the Board has received roughly 170 applications and that they hope to start interviewing for this position next week. He has appointed Mr. Graves, Commissioner Carolyn Robinson and Commissioner Richard Mays to the interviewing committee.
- Chairman Felts also informed the Board of the continued drop in County Backup population. The number is now down to 693. ADC and DCC are to be commended for their hard work.

FILES FOR DISCUSSION - REVIEW

The Board reviewed the listing of victim input hearings that were conducted the first half of September 2011.

RATIFICATION OF VOTES

Commissioner Mays moved.

Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion to ratify the votes. Motion carried.

The next Board meeting will be held on September 29, 2011.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Signature on File

John Felts
Chairman

Signature on File

Richard L. Mays, Jr.
Secretary

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

SEPTEMBER 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: JIMMY WALLACE

RATIFICATION DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2011