



**MINUTES
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
SEPTEMBER 29, 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

HEARING EXAMINERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT

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
Tamara Salaam, Admin. Support Supervisor, APB

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Melissa Haney, Administrative Analyst

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

Commissioner Carpenter moved.

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

POPULATION REPORTS

- Chairman Felts reported that the county jail backup population is down to 612. It was reported that the numbers would decrease once the Board ratifies votes and parole plans go out on October 4, 2011.
- It was also reported that statewide there are 29,912 individuals on probation and 23,281 on parole. Chairman Felts stated that as a result of Act 570, the Board can expect to see an increase in the probation and the parole numbers.
- In review of the DCC population report, all facilities are at capacity with the exception of SEC. Mr. Arnold reports that the number of women inmates has decreased and that is why the women's facilities are not running at capacity.
- Chairman Felts reported that the Board's monthly report percentages are slightly off and that will be looked at by Mrs. Ellingburg's office. He stated that the August numbers show that a total of 537 screenings and hearings were approved by the Board. There were no questions regarding this information.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

- Mr. Jochums reported that they had one lawsuit under review. Inmate Robert Taylor sued for writ of mandamus requesting a written explanation of the Board's decision to deny his parole. The case was dismissed in August.

FISCAL REPORT

- Mrs. Gillerson presented the August 2011 accounts payable report. There were no questions.

HEARING EXAMINER REPORTS

- Mrs. Bohannan reported that she conducted 20 hearings during September. Of those 20 hearings, 15 were revoked to ADC, 4 revoked to TVP, 1 was allowed to remain on supervision. She also stated that she conducted parole hearings at the Grimes Unit.
- Mr. Williams stated that he conducted a total of 18 hearings. Of those hearings, 13 were revoked to ADC, 1 revoked to TVP and 2 were found not guilty. He also stated that he conducted 2 probable cause hearings, one was sent to California and the other was sent to Texas. He further stated that he attended 2 ACIC meetings and 1 Board training. He also conducted parole hearings at the Wrightsville Unit.
- Mrs. Vailes reported that she conducted 17 hearings and of that 17, 12 were revoked to ADC, 2 revoked to TVP and 3 were deferred for further review. She also stated that she conducted parole hearings at the McPherson Unit.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Graves discussed the new policy language for the Class III and IV deferrals. He stated that this new change will result in an automatic deferral at the time of the hearing for any inmate who is Classes III or IV. He also requested the Board rescind the policy that requires Varner Super Max inmates to achieve level 5, as this is no longer Board practice. He stated that both changes need to be promulgated under the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act and then they will take effect. Commissioner Wallace moved to accept these changes and they were seconded by Commissioner Mays. The motion passed.
- Chairman Felts reminded the Board of the AAPAA conference to be held on October 12-13, 2011. He reported that DCC will pay for one night of stay and anyone attending two nights will be required to pay for the other night. He also reminded the Board that they must pay their AAPAA membership fee when they arrive at the conference.

NEW BUSINESS

ACT 570

- Mr. Graves stated that he and Chairman Felts recently met with Mrs. Wendy Naro to discuss the preliminary results of a recidivism study for the Board. This study looked at inmates over a 3 year period, from 2007-2010. Mrs. Naro reported that the study showed that 32.7% of those followed were returned to ADC or DCC custody. She also reported that the recidivism rate was evenly distributed among racial groups. It was also reported that offenders who were 25 years or younger when they were released, have the highest rate of recidivism. The offenses with the highest rate of recidivism were robbery, theft and burglary crimes. Sex crimes and other violent offenses had the some of the lowest rates of recidivism.
- Mr. Graves reported that Dr. James Austin will be here Monday, October 10 at 1:00 P.M. with a new draft of the assessment tool. Dr. Austin would also like to the opportunity to attend parole hearings at Newport on Tuesday. Mr. Graves reported that he is currently working on the scheduling.
- Mr. Graves stated that due to Act 570, there will be several modifications to eOMIS. This will include new release reasons, the overall design of the hearing screens, worksheets and the risk assessment tool. This will be discussed further at the October 10th meeting with Dr. Austin.
- Mr. Graves reported that he and Chairman Felts attended the Re-entry initiative meeting on Wednesday and it was a very positive session. The group was able to identify a vision and mission for the re-entry initiative and once the notes are finalized, the Board will receive a copy of this information. Mr. Graves encouraged the Board to participate in this initiative.
- Board Committees made the following committee appointments
 - The Personnel Committee-Commissioner Mays acting as Chair, Commissioner Peacock, Commissioner Robinson, Carol Bohannon, Solomon Graves and Norma Gillerson.
 - The Budget Committee- Commissioner Wallace as Chair, Commissioner Carpenter, Solomon Graves and Norma Gillerson
 - The Legislative Affiliates Committee-Commissioner Brown as Chair, Commissioner Wallace, Commissioner Carpenter and Solomon Graves.
- Chairman Felts stated that he will serve as an ad-hoc member on all committees. Commissioner Wallace announced that on Monday at 9:30 a.m. he would like for the Budget and Legislative Affiliate committees to meet so that they can start planning for the upcoming legislative session. Chairman Felts stated that due to the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act, each Chair will be required to establish a set meeting schedule so that it can be sent to the media. In the meantime, the press will be notified on about the meeting on Monday in case they wish to attend.

NEW HIRE

- Chairman Felts announced that the Board has hired Mrs. Mahogany Brown to fill the Administrative Specialist II position. Mrs. Brown is currently working at Workforce Services and she brings a wide variety of skills to the Board. Chairman Felts stated that she will be a great asset to the Board and they look forward to working with her. Commissioner Mays moved to approve this new hire and Commissioner Peacock seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

DCC UPDATES

- Chairman Felts requested any new DCC updates from Mr. Steve Arnold. Mr. Arnold stated that there was a recent article regarding the new re-entry grant. This grant started last year and has already received an extension due to its success. It focuses on inmates who do not have a residence in which to parole. This grant has already served 112 clients, most of whom were non-sex offenders. They are able to parole to transitional living facilities for 120 days. He stated that DCC will continue to work in tandem with Act 570 and the prisoner re-entry initiative. They want to bring families and the community into the initiative and keep it consistent with Act 570. He stated that a lot of movement is expected and there is still a lot of work

left to do but that by mid-spring the process should be fully operational.

OCTOBER HEARING SCHEDULES

- Chairman Felts reported that a committee will be formed in order to address the hearing schedule. He stated that parole services gets an avalanche of work at the end of the month, because all the large units are on the second Board and with ACT 570 this work load is likely to increase. He will be working on committee memberships and possibly pulling in people from other agencies.
- Chairman Felts also stated that if adjustments need to be made to the schedule to let him know so it can be addressed.
- Chairman Felts reminded the Board that on October 11th, there will be parole hearings at Grimes and McPherson and due to the AAPAA conference to be held in Fayetteville on October 12-13th the Board will need to get all voting completed by Tuesday.

FILES FOR DISCUSSION - REVIEW

The Board reviewed the listing of victim input hearings that were conducted during the first half of September 2011. There were no questions.

RATIFICATION OF VOTES

Commissioner Mays moved.

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

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, October 13, 2011 and will be held in Fayetteville at the Clarion Hotel.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 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)

BENTON	<input type="checkbox"/>
CACCC	<input type="checkbox"/>
CUMMINS	<input type="checkbox"/>
DIAGNOSTIC	<input type="checkbox"/>
EAST	<input type="checkbox"/>
MISSISSIPPI CO.	<input type="checkbox"/>
NEACCC	<input type="checkbox"/>
OUACHITA REGIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/>
PINE BLUFF	<input type="checkbox"/>
RANDALL L. WILLIAMS CORR.	<input type="checkbox"/>
SEARC	<input type="checkbox"/>
SWARC	<input type="checkbox"/>
TRCC	<input type="checkbox"/>
VARNER	<input type="checkbox"/>
WRIGHTSVILLE	<input type="checkbox"/>
OTHER: RESCINDS & TRANSFER SCREENINGS, ACT 290'S, EPA, 700'S, SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS, RECONSIDERATION, REVOCATION APPEALS, CLEMENCIES, ETC.	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

RATIFICATION DATE: SEPTEMBER 29, 2011