MINUTES
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
OCTOBER 13, 2011 @ 11:30 A.M.
Clarion Hotel
Fayetteville, Arkansas

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Felts, Chairman
Abraham Carpenter, Vice-Chairman/Commissioner
Richard Brown Jr., Commissioner
Jimmy Wallace, Commissioner

HEARING EXAMINERS PRESENT:

Carol V. Bohannan, Hearing Examiner/Attorney

EXCUSED WITH VALID REASONS:

Richard Mays Jr., Commissioner/Secretary
Carolyn Robinson, Commissioner
Joseph Peacock, Commissioner
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
Solomon Graves, Administrative Services Manager, APB

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Melissa Haney, Administrative Analyst

CALL TO ORDER
Chairman Felts called the meeting to order at 11:30 am. A quorum was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 29, 2011
Commissioner Wallace moved.
Commissioner Carpenter seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS
Mr. Graves discussed an email in the board packets regarding policy changes for Act 570. The Board received seventeen (17) questions from the Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR). Mr. Graves asked for Board approval for the technical changes noted in questions 5, 9, 13, 14, and 17 (attached). They will not change policy; and is simply an adjustment in the wording. Board policy requires that a technical change be approved by the Board. The majority of the questions ask for clarification on what certain policy statements mean. Commissioner Carpenter moved to approve these changes. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mr. Graves stated that the changes will be on the November agenda for Administrative Rules and Regulations subcommittee for final approval.

NEW BUSINESS

Risk Assessment

Mr. Graves stated that Chairman Felts asked him to put together a summary of the work with Dr. Austin from the JFA Institute regarding where we are with the risk assessment. As it stands right now, there are six items that will be a part of the assessment. They are:
1.   Crime of conviction
2.   Offense severity level
3.   Criminal history score
4.   Age at 1st arrest
5.   Age of release
6.   Gender.

Items 2 and 3 would be pulled from the judgment and commitment order as those are things that come from the Sentencing Commission. Item 4 is Age at First Arrest which is one of the main predictors of what an offender may do once they are released to community supervision. This information is not currently tracked in eOMIS. This item will be replaced with a variable of equal predictability. Item 5 is age of release; offenders who are 25 and under have a higher rate of recidivism. The recidivism rate decreases as an offender get older.

The following are 5 additional items Dr. Austin is considering for inclusion in the assessment:
1.   Classification level at time of release
2.   Programs completed at time of release
3.   Gang membership or affiliation
4.   Prior probation/parole revocations
5.   Education levels.

On November 22, 2011, Dr. Austin will be presenting the final tool to the Board on and then on December 16, 2011 he will be conducting training on the administration and interpretation of the tool.

Mr. Graves closed with the following:

1.   This is a pure risk assessment. It will not measure an offenders programmatic or treatment needs. It looks only at what the odds of them coming back to the ADC or DCC.

2.   Dr. Austin believes that this tool can be fully automated. Most of the items are currently in eOMIS and can be scored without an actual interview. Dr. Austin has done similar work with the Texas and Maryland Parole Boards with that result. Conversations are still ongoing with DCC's IT and Research sections regarding system needs and automation. There will be a meeting on Tuesday, October 18, 2011 with members of the DCC Management Team to reconcile some of the issues with the ORAS tool.

3.   The new tool must be in use by January 1, 2012. The first monthly report, including the numbers required by Act 570, will be published in February 2012.

Mr. Graves stated that there is still a lot of work to do in the next few months but the Board will get it done. This concluded Mr. Graves report. Mr. Wallace complimented Mr. Graves on his hard work and diligence with keeping the Board in compliance with Act 570.

Comments:

Chairman Felts stated that since the Board is only represented by 4 Board members today he would like to discuss Mr. Belken's job performance at the next Board meeting.

Chairman Felts also stated that at the next Board Meeting Kevin Murphy with Arkansas Association of Correction Employees Trust (AACET), which a non-profit group that will be presenting is. Mr. Arnold stated that this organization is like the Arkansas State Employees Association and employees can choose to participate out of their payroll checks. It offers some plans for vision and dental coverage as well as scholarship programs. Chairman Felts stated that he will be presenting at the end of the month.

FILES FOR DISCUSSION - REVIEW
The Board reviewed the listing of victim input hearings that were conducted the first half of October 2011.

RATIFICATION OF VOTES
Commissioner Carpenter moved.
Commissioner Brown seconded the motion to ratify the votes. Motion carried.

The next Board meeting will be held on October 27, 2011

The meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

 Signature on File   **Signature on File**

John Felts   **James M. "Jimmy" Wallace**
Chairman   **Acting Secretary**

ARKANSAS BOARD OF PAROLE
FIRST BOARD VOTE RATIFICATION

<u>OCTOBER 2011</u>

<u>UNITS:</u>	<u>RATIFIED (X)</u>
DELTA	☒
GRIMES	☒
MCPHERSON	☒
NORTH CENTRAL UNIT	☒
TUCKER	☒
TUCKER MAX.	☒
OTHER: TRANSFER SCREENINGS, COMMUTATIONS, PARDONS, RECONSIDERATION, REVOCATION APPEALS, RESCINDS, SPECIAL CONSIDEATIONS, ACT 290, 700'S, EPA, ETC.	☒

MOTION BY: ABRAHAM CARPENTER, JR. **SECONDED BY:** RICHARD BROWN JR.

RATIFICATION DATE: OCTOBER 13, 2011