



MINUTES OF THE ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD

October 26, 2017

9:00 A.M.

ADC Ouachita River Correctional Unit
100 Walco Lane, Malvern, Arkansas 72104

Board Members Present:

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

Excused with Valid Reason(s):

Carol Bohannon, Hearing Judge/Attorney, APB
Lisa Wilkins, Hearing Judge/Attorney, APB
Evelyn Gomez, Hearing Judge/Attorney, APB
Jessica Leija, Business Operations Manager, APB
Kenya Woods, Victim Input Coordinator, APB
Christie Little, Administrative Support Supervisor, APB
Tamara Salaam, Administrative Support Supervisor, APB
Jerry Bradshaw, Director of Parole and Probation Services, ACC
Nga Mahfouz, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office

Others Present:

Brooke Cummings, Executive Administrator, APB
Scott Howard, Investigator, APB
Kelly Knuckles, Executive Assistant to the Chairman, APB
William T. Bowman, II, Computer Support Analyst, APB
Solomon Graves, Public Information Officer, ADC
Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, ACC

Call to Order

Chairman Felts called the board meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. at the Arkansas Department of Correction Ouachita River Unit in Malvern, Arkansas. A quorum was declared.

Approval of Minutes – October 12, 2017

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

Report Updates

Chairman Felts reported that there are 18,291 inmates incarcerated in the Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC). All ADC Units are at capacity at this time with the exception of Benton Work Release (98.5%), Maximum Security Unit (98.2%), NW Work Release (99.0%), Ouachita River Correctional Unit (96.9%) and Texarkana Work Release (99.2%). There are currently 1,717 men and women on the ADC County Jail Back-up list as of today. The Board of Corrections will invoke the next EPA in November 2017.

In reviewing the Arkansas Community Correction (ACC) Center Jurisdictional Population Report, Chairman Felts stated there are 2,017 offenders in ACC Centers. This includes those in all ACC Centers including RCFs, Omega, SW AR CCC, and those offenders on ACC's back-up list. The Statewide Field Operations report reflects 30,079 on probation, 2,748 out to drug court/specialty court, 164 boot camp releases (including inactive cases) and 23,985 on parole, for a combined total of 56,976 under supervision.

There were no further questions or comments regarding the report updates at this time.

Attorney General's Report

Chairman Felts stated that Ms. Nga Mahfouz will not be in attendance at today's meeting.

There was no report from the Attorney General's office.

Fiscal Report Update

Ms. Brooke Cummings, Executive Administrator, updated the Board on the Fiscal Report. Ms. Cummings reported that the Board, as of September 30, 2017, has expended 25% of its annual travel, maintenance, and operations budget. Ms. Cummings mentioned to the Board that at this time last year the Board had spent 20% of the operating expense budget. There is an attachment included in the board member's packets for review.

Ms. Cummings mentioned that the agency would be renewing another two-year lease for the office space. Ms. Cummings stated she would keep the Board up to date on any changes regarding the lease agreement. Commissioner McCastlain stated she and the Board would like to meet in regard to the budget and upcoming bi-annual budget for next fiscal session. Ms. Cummings assured the Board they would be involved in the budget planning and should they have any questions please contact her or Ms. Jessica Leija, Business Operations Manager.

There were no further questions or comments regarding the Fiscal report.

Hearing Judge's Report

Ms. Brooke Cummings, Executive Administrator, updated the Board on the current revocation hearing numbers. Ms. Cummings stated that there were 451 total actions for the month of September 2017, with a total of 259 waivers to ADC and 157 were revoked to ADC. The Board was given a report reflecting the revocation hearing numbers in their meeting packet for review. Ms. Cummings mentioned there were 340 individuals currently in the 90 day short term revocation program.

There were no further questions or comments regarding the Hearing Judge's Report.

Agency Updates

Ms. Cummings mentioned to the Board that there were Act 539 eligible inmates coming up before the Board beginning in November. The Board discussed the Act 423 changes and ACC Supervision Sanction Program. Ms. Cummings stated that there were some APB policy manual changes to be made that would require the assistance of the Board; she will update the Board at a later date to discuss more in detail those changes for Board approval. Commissioner McCastlain stated the Board would need to approve any changes implemented before the agency can move forward. Commissioner McCastlain asked what kind of timeline the Board would be looking at for these changes to be reviewed and made. Ms. Cummings stated there were changes to be made regarding Act 539 and Act 423 and those portions would be brought before the Board for a proposal.

There were no further Agency Updates to be discussed at this time.

Old Business

Chairman Felts asked the commissioners if there was any Old Business to discuss. Commissioner Vandiver asked Mr. Bo Bowman, Computer Support Analyst to update the Board on the video phone conferencing system. Mr. Bowman stated the video conference phones were working well and that the picture was very clear on the phones.

There were no further questions or concerns regarding Old Business.

New Business

There were no questions or concerns regarding New Business.

Files for Review

The Board discussed a case they would be deferring for 30 days for more information on the case and to assure the victim's family and county officials had ample time to respond to their being notified.

There were no further questions or concerns regarding the Files for Review.

Adoption of Recommendations

Secretary Shock moved to adopt the recommendations. Commissioner Carpenter seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, November 9th at 9:00 a.m.

Signature on File

**John Felts
Chairman**

Signature on File

**Andy Shock
Secretary**

ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD

FULL BOARD RATIFICATION OF VOTES

October 2017

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 Shock Seconded by: Commissioner Carpenter

Ratification Date: October 26, 2017