



**MINUTES OF THE
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
NOVEMBER 21, 2013 @ 9:30 A.M.
APB BOARDROOM**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Felts, Chairman
James Wallace, Vice-Chairman/Commissioner
Richard L. Mays, Jr., Secretary/Commissioner
Richard Brown Jr., Commissioner
Dawne Vandiver, Commissioner
Abraham Carpenter, Commissioner

HEARING JUDGES PRESENT:

Cara Boyd-Conners, Hearing Judge/Attorney

EXCUSED WITH VALID REASON:

Joe Peacock, Commissioner
Carol Bohannon, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Ashley Vailes, Hearing Judge/Attorney
Jim Williams, Hearing Judge/Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT

Solomon Graves, Administrative Services Manager, APB
Mahogany Brown, Fiscal Support Supervisor, APB
Melissa Haney, Executive Assistant to the Chairman, APB
Tamara Saalam, Administrative Specialist III (Parole), APB
Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, DCC

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Melissa Haney, Executive Assistant to the Chairman

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 7, 2013

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

POPULATION REPORT

Chairman Felts stated that the current county jail back up is up to 2, 441 men and 182 females. The total number in county jail at this time is 2, 623. Chairman Felts stated that the local Sherriff's offices are very excited about ways to reduce the backup. He stated that there are currently 17, 372 incarcerated in ADC. This number includes the Arkansas State Police and County Jail 309s.

In review of the ACC Parole and Probation Population report there are 28, 906 individuals on probation, 2,421 in drug court, 22,464 individuals on parole, and 401 in boot camp for a total of 54,194 under supervision.

In review of the ACC jurisdiction population there is a total population of 1,501. This includes those in ACC correction centers and Omega and SE ARK TVP. He stated that there are also 34 individuals that are drug court violators. The total capacity for the ACC centers is 1,603.

Chairman Felts stated that everyone should have a copy of the OVG report in their board packets. There were no questions.

In review of the APB monthly report, Chairman Felts stated that the Board had a total of 286 approved Transfer Screenings out of a total of 364. The overall approval rate for Screenings was 78.6%. The Board conducted a total of 473 Transfer Hearings with 60.3% approval rate for release. There were 93 denied and 92 deferred for further action. There were also 29 pardons with 19 voted with merit and 10 voted without merit, 24 commutation screenings and 2 commutation hearings. Of this number, 9 were deferred and 1 hearing was scheduled for an overall total of 65 Pardons/Executive Clemencies. The Board had total actions of 1,403.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

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

FISCAL REPORT

Mrs. Mahogany Franklin reported that the Board has currently expended 31% of its annual travel and operations budget. She stated that the detailed report is attached for the Board's review. Chairman Felts stated that they will be meeting next week to review needs for the next fiscal year. Mrs. Franklin added that she will be putting in an order for 2014 calendars and anyone that would like to have one should let her know by next week.

HEARING JUDGES REPORT

The Hearing Judge report was available to the Board for review. Commissioner Wallace asked why more people are not being sent to TVP and Hearing Judge Conners stated that they try to balance between ADC and TVP by gauging which offenses warrant ADC time or TVP time. She stated that she tries to weigh the violations and look at the history and type of offense. Commissioner Mays stated that the report shows that Hearing Judges Conners and Vailes are sending a fair number of parole violators to TVP at this time.

AGENCY UPDATES

Mr. Graves introduced Ken Geisbrecht as the new Computer Specialist for the Board. He stated that Ken has hit the ground running and he is very pleased and excited about the direction that Ken is going to take the agency. Chairman Felts stated that Ken is a great asset to the agency and that they are happy to have him as part of the team.

Mr. Graves stated that there are two emergency issues that need to be addressed. One of those deals with changes to the Board manual for the revocation process. This will allow Hearing Judges to revoke to the Regional Centers, as well as ADC and TVP. RCF will be used as a step between ADC and TVP. Mr. Graves covered the new changes to the Board manual and explained what the Board will need to vote on today. He stated that this requires approval and the emergency approval will trigger a 120 day period to go through the promulgation process for legislative review. Commissioner Wallace moved to accept the changes. Commissioner Mays seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Mr. Graves stated that the Board has been asked to grant authorization to transfer those who have been revoked to ADC and are waiting in county jail to the RCF centers. If an offender has been deemed as eligible for ACC centers, they can choose to go to RCF instead of waiting in county jail. They must agree in writing and it must be witnessed by the parole officer. A member of the Board must give final approval. Commissioner Wallace asked what crimes would be deemed eligible for this program. Mr. Graves stated that this will only apply to those eligible for RCF. Chairman Felts stated that these inmates will be approached and offered the opportunity to transfer to RCF. They will still come before the Board after serving no more than 6 months. He stated that if a person is transferred to RCF and they become a disciplinary problem, they can still be administratively transferred to ADC. Commissioner Vandiver asked how many people this would affect. Chairman Felts stated that at the present time it will only affect roughly 45 individuals, but in order to make this effective, it needs to go into policy. He stated that his will allow these individuals with a chance to be helped in a more therapeutic environment rather than a labor intensive incarceration period such as ADC. Mr. Graves stated that this will also allow some relief on the county jails and allow people to be moved in and out quicker. Chairman Felts stated that they are trying to do everything possible to expedite the process and get these individuals hearings as quickly as possible. Commissioner Wallace motioned to accept the change. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

DECEMBER 2013 SCHEDULE

Chairman Felts asked that Mrs. Ellingburg bring the files up early if possible. He stated that this month is an odd month with only 1 Board meeting and 1 victim input meeting scheduled. He stated that he has added an additional victim input day, which will be on Monday, December 9th. There will be one on the 4th and one on the 9th, so all Board members need to mark this on their calendars. He also stated that the order of the units is different and asked that the Commissioners keep this in mind.

FILES FOR DISCUSSION - REVIEW

Chairman Felts stated that #3 on the list would be denied. There were no further questions or comments regarding the files for review.

RATIFICATION OF VOTES

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Felts called the Board into Executive Session regarding the job performance of Hearing Judge Cara Boyd-Conners. The session began at 10:15 and ended at 10:40 am. Chairman Felts stated that there was no action taken during the Executive Session.

OTHER COMMENTS

Chairman Felts stated that the Board of Corrections will evoke the 90 day EPA on the 26th. He stated that they will be evoking the 1 year EPA again on a regular basis as well. He stated that last time there were only about 45-50 on the list, but 35 were released. He stated that parole services is trying to expedite this process by getting the individuals on the list through a pre-clearance so that when the EPA kicks in they will be able to go home as soon as possible. He stated that using this dead time to make sure they are cleared will help expedite the process as quickly as possible. Mrs. Ellingburg stated that she will have everything ready for the Board next week.

Chairman Felts asked if Mrs. Ellingburg had a projected number for January. She stated that at the last run, there were 154 in county jail that are scheduled for the January Board, this number does not count those that are currently incarcerated.

ADJOURNMENT

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, December 19, 2013 at 9:30a.m. in the APB Boardroom

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

John Felts
Chairman

Richard L. Mays, Jr.
Secretary

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

DECEMBER 2013

<u>UNITS:</u>	<u>RATIFIED (X)</u>
BENTON	X
CACCC	X
CUMMINS	X
DELTA	X
EAST AR	X
GRIMES	X
MCPHERSON	X
MISSISSIPPI CO.	X
NEACCC	X
NORTH CENTRAL	X
NORTH WEST/WASHINGTON CO.	X
OUACHITA RIVER CORR.	X
PINE BLUFF	X
R.L. WILLIAMS	X
SEARC	X
SWARC	X
TRCC	X
TUCKER	X
TUCKER MAX	X
VARNER	X
WRIGHTSVILLE	X
OTHER: PARDONS, COMMUTATIONS, TRANSFER SCREENINGS, ACT 290, 700'S, RECONSIDERATION, REVOCATION APPEALS, EPA, ETC.	X

MOTION BY: Commissioner Mays SECONDED BY: Commissioner Carpenter

RATIFICATION DATE: DECEMBER 21, 2013