



**MINUTES OF THE  
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD  
APRIL 29, 2021  
9:00 A.M.  
RICHARD LEE RICHARDSON AUDITORIUM**

**Board Members Present**

John Felts, Chairman, APB  
Lona McCastlain, Vice Chair, APB  
Wendy Ryals, Secretary, APB  
Andy Shock, Commissioner, APB  
Jerry Riley, Commissioner, APB  
Boyce Hamlet, Commissioner, APB  
Brett Morgan, Commissioner, APB

**Others Present**

Brooke D. Cummings, Executive Administrator, APB  
Jack Bell, Hearing Judge, APB  
Hollie Wellborn, Executive Assistant to the Chairman, APB  
Scott Howard, Investigator, APB  
William Bowman, Systems Coordination Analyst, APB  
Tamara Salaam, Administrative Support Supervisor, APB  
Joe West, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office  
Jim Cheek, Program Admin. Parole/Probation Services, DCC  
Kris Honey, Program Admin. Parole/Probation Services, DCC  
Lindsay Wallace, Chief of Staff, DOC  
Cindy Murphy, Public Information Officer, DOC

**Excused**

Carol Bohannon, Hearing Judge, APB  
Christie Goldman, Investigator, APB

## **Call to Order**

Chairman Felts called the Board meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. A quorum was declared.

## **Approval of Minutes - April 15, 2021**

Commissioner Morgan moved for approval of the minutes. Commissioner Shock seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.

A copy of the minutes was included in each board member's packet for review.

## **Review of Population Reports**

Chairman Felts reviewed the population reports starting with the ADC report. He said the numbers are going up since they are bringing inmates in from the county jails. The county jail backup for females is 141, and the males are 1,243. This gives a total of 1,384 individuals.

Chairman Felts then reviewed the population report for DCC. He said their numbers are also going up. Reentry has 208 beds filled. The capacity is 240.

Chairman Felts ended the review of the population reports by reviewing the Statewide Field Operations report for the month of March. Chairman Felts noted that there were 32,093 on Regular Probation. Specialty Court was at 1,703, Parole was 25,959, Boot Camp was 15, and the Act 539s count was 21. This gives a combined total of 59,791 persons under supervision.

## **Attorney General's Report**

Assistant Attorney General Joe West reported to the Board that the number of APA Appeals has remained at 11. Mr. West said he filed a Motion to Dismiss on the Hardwick v. Felts case. Reynolds v. Felts was dismissed by Judge Fox. Howard Wood filed a Motion to Appeal. Judge Fox filed a Motion to Dismiss.

Vice Chair McCastlain asked if the Attorney General's office had appealed the Wilson case. Mr. West said that the case is being handled by Civil Division, and he will check on it.

## **Fiscal Report Update**

Ms. Christie Goldman, Investigator, APB, is out on annual leave, so Ms. Brooke Cummings, Executive Administrator, APB, updated the Board on the Fiscal Report. Ms. Cummings reported that effective

July 1, 2020, the Agency received funding of \$351,800 for Maintenance & Operations and Conference & Travel for fiscal year 2021. As of March 31, 2021, we've expensed \$161,295.39 (45.85%). At this time last year, the Board had exhausted 60% of the operating expense budget.

Chairman Felts asked about the difference in the spending from this year compared to last year. Ms. Cummings said there are a number of factors. One would be the reduced amount of rent we pay. She said last year we were reaccredited with ACA. That was over \$10,000 of an expense. We had two copiers before, and now we have one. There was also no training or travel.

A copy of the fiscal report was included in each board member's packet for review.

### **Hearing Judge's Report**

Ms. Cummings updated the Board on revocation hearings conducted throughout the month of March 2021. There were 500 total revocations. Of those, there were 76 administrative revocations, 57 individuals revoked at a hearing, and 367 waivers signed. There were 516 total actions.

A copy of the hearing judge report was included in each board member's packet for review.

### **Agency Updates**

Ms. Cummings introduced the Parole Board's new hearing judge, Jack Bell.

### **Old Business**

There was nothing to report regarding old business.

### **New Business**

There was nothing to report regarding new business.

### **Files for Review**

A copy of the files for review was included in each board member's packet for review.

**Review of the Hearing Schedule**

A copy of the hearing schedule was included in each board member’s packet for review.

**Adoption of Recommendations**

Secretary Ryals moved to adopt the recommendations of the Board for the units as listed on the attached ratification list. Commissioner Shock seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the recommendations became the official vote of the Parole Board.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

*Signature on file*

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**John Felts**  
**Chairman**

*Signature on file*

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**Wendy Ryals**  
**Secretary**

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

**APRIL 2021**

**UNITS:**

**RATIFIED (X)**

**R.L. Williams**



**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 Ryals    Seconded by: Commissioner Shock**

**Ratification Date: April 29, 2021**