



**MINUTES OF THE
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
MAY 27, 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
Hollie Wellborn, Executive Assistant to the Chairman, APB
Christie Goldman, Business Operations Manager, APB
Scott Howard, Investigator, APB
William Bowman, Systems Coordination Analyst, APB
Tamara Salaam, Administrative Support Supervisor, APB
Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, DCC
Joe West, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office
Jim Cheek, Program Admin. Parole/Probation Services, DCC
Lasonja Evans, Accounting Operations Manager, DOC
Cindy Murphy, Public Information Officer, DOC

Excused

Carol Bohannon, Hearing Judge, APB
Jack Bell, Hearing Judge, APB

Call to Order

Chairman Felts called the Board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was declared.

Approval of Minutes – May 13, 2021

Vice Chair McCastlain moved for approval of the minutes. Secretary Ryals 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 they are continuing to bring inmates in from the county jails, so the population is quickly rising. The county jail backup has 127 females and 1,124 males for a combined total of 1,251. There are 23 in Interstate Compact. They have an in count of 16,379 and 16,473 for a total number of inmates.

Chairman Felts then reviewed the population report for DCC. He said they have an in count of 1,282. They have a grand total of 1,286. There are 731 males and 311 females for a combined total of 1,042.

Chairman Felts ended the review of the population reports by reviewing the Statewide Field Operations report for the month of April. Chairman Felts noted that there were 32,158 on Regular Probation. Specialty Court was at 1,697, Parole was 25,675, Boot Camp was 14, and the Act 539s count was 23. This gives a combined total of 59,567 persons under supervision.

Attorney General's Report

Assistant Attorney General Joe West reported to the Board that since last month there have been no changes. There are still 11 pending APA Appeals in Pulaski County Circuit Court. He said they are all fully briefed. There is still one pending appeal decision in Circuit Court for the Wood case.

Fiscal Report Update

Ms. Christie Goldman, Business Operations Manager, APB, updated the Board on the Fiscal Report. Ms. Goldman 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 April 30, 2021, we've

expensed \$233,852.55 (66.47%). At this time last year, the Board had exhausted 70% of the operating expense budget.

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 April 2021. There were 556 total revocations. Of those, there were 78 administrative revocations, 63 individuals revoked at a hearing, and 415 waivers signed.

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

Agency Updates

Ms. Cummings advised the Board that at administrative locations fully vaccinated individuals may wear their mask at their discretion unless they are within six feet of an offender. Non-vaccinated individuals should continue to wear masks. Everyone at a facility will need to wear masks. Commissioner Riley asked if they have started vaccinating inmates yet. Chairman Felts said they have.

Ms. Cummings also mentioned that the APAI conference is coming up in June.

Ms. Cummings said she has a meeting this afternoon with the Chief Technology Officer and the Chief of Staff of DOC regarding IT plans and IT budget. Vice Chair McCastlain asked if they can get new iPads. Ms. Cummings said they will not be able to get new iPads in this current fiscal year.

Old Business

There was nothing to report regarding old business.

New Business

Chairman Felts advised the Board that they will start going back to the units for hearings in June.

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 9:32 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, June 10, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

Signature on file

John Felts
Chairman

Signature on file

Wendy Ryals
Secretary

ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
FULL BOARD RATIFICATION OF VOTES

MAY 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: May 27, 2021