



**MINUTES OF THE  
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD  
JUNE 24, 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  
Brett Morgan, Commissioner, APB

**Others Present**

Brooke D. Cummings, Executive Administrator, APB  
Christie Goldman, Business Operations Manager, APB  
Scott Howard, Investigator, APB  
Felicia Bentley, Investigator, 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  
Jason Gokey, Computer Support Technician, DOC

**Excused**

Boyce Hamlet, Commissioner, APB  
Carol Bohannon, Hearing Judge, APB  
Jack Bell, Hearing Judge, APB  
Hollie Wellborn, Executive Assistant to the Chairman, APB  
William Bowman, Systems Coordination Analyst, APB

## **Call to Order**

Chairman Felts called the Board meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A quorum was declared. Chairman Felts noted that Commissioner Hamlet is out on annual leave.

## **Approval of Minutes – June 10, 2021**

Commissioner Morgan moved for approval of the minutes. Vice-Chair McCastlain 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 population has reached or surpassed 100%. In the county jails, there are 977 males and 111 females. There are 325 Act 309s. The in count is 16,408. There are 24 in the ORCU Hospital in Malvern. There are 7 in other hospitals outside of ADC facilities. There is 1 out on furlough. There are 85 out to court. There is a combined total of 16,525.

Chairman Felts then reviewed the population report for DCC. They have an in count of 1,327. They have 4 out to court. They have a combined total of 1,331.

Chairman Felts ended the review of the population reports by reviewing the Statewide Field Operations report for the month of May. Chairman Felts noted that there were 32,301 on Regular Probation. Specialty Court was at 1,647, Parole was 25,382, Boot Camp was 14, and the Act 539s count was 23. This gives a combined total of 59,367 persons under supervision.

## **Attorney General's Report**

Assistant Attorney General Joe West reported to the Board that there is no change in the case total. There are still 11 APA Appeals active in Pulaski County Circuit Court. They are all fully briefed and waiting for a decision. He said the same remains for the Wood case. It is the one case under Supreme Court review right now. It is still sitting because the court has yet to rule on Mr. Wood's motion to file a belated brief.

### **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 May 31, 2021, we've expensed \$258,480.06 (73.47%). At this time last year, the Board had exhausted 71% 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 May 2021. There were 504 total revocations. Of those, there were 61 administrative revocations, 388 individuals waived, and 55 individuals were revoked at a hearing.

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 they recently returned from the APAI Conference. She said she anticipates they will be getting copies of the presentations soon. Anything that would be beneficial to the Board will be presented to the Board.

Ms. Cummings stated that there will be a virtual panel hearing for ACA Reaccreditation. That will be on Tuesday. Ms. Cummings and Chairman Felts will be taking part in that. It will be at 9 a.m. Central Time and will be around 40-45 minutes.

Ms. Cummings said she will be meeting with Tawnie Rowell, the Director of the Sentencing Commission, today to discuss Act 1034.

Ms. Cummings told the Board that their Annual Operations Plan was submitted. She will provide a copy of that to the Commissioners via email.

### **Old Business**

There was nothing to report regarding old business.

### **New Business**

Secretary Ryals asked if the Administrative Specialist III position that Ms. Felicia Bentley, Investigator, APB, held is going to be filled. Ms. Cummings said there are a number of positions posted. There were three positions posted. They were the Revocation Hearing Judge and two Administrative Specialist III positions. They have closed, so now interviews will be conducted.

### **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.

### **Other Discussion**

Ms. Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, DCC, asked if there has been any word of when visitors will be allowed to attend parole hearings. Chairman Felts said he has not heard anything.

Ms. Ellingburg advised everyone that Ms. Danielle Fagan's last day will be July 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, July 15, 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**

**JUNE 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: June 24, 2021**