



**MINUTES OF THE
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
JULY 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
Hollie Wellborn, Executive Assistant to the Chairman, APB
Christie Goldman, Business Operations Manager, APB
Scott Howard, Investigator, APB
Felicia Bentley, 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
Jerry Bradshaw, Director, DCC
Jim Cheek, Program Admin. Parole/Probation Services, DCC
Janie Runkle, Public Information Specialist, DOC

Excused

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

Call to Order

Chairman Felts called the Board meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. A quorum was declared.

Approval of Minutes - July 15, 2021

Secretary Ryals 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 they are moving on up to a more normal range. There are 145 females and 1,103 males in the county jail backup for a combined total of 1,248. The in count is 16,517. There are 23 in ORCU Hospital, 4 in other hospitals, 1 on furlough, and 79 out to court for a combined total of 16,624. The females are at 99.3% capacity, and the males are at 100.5% capacity.

Chairman Felts then reviewed the population report for DCC. He said they have an in count for DCC of 1,426. There is 1 in a hospital and 4 out to court with a total jurisdictional count of 1,431. There are 223 in Re-Entry. Their capacity is 240, so they are at 92.9%. The male in count for the DCC Centers is 61.5%. The female in count for the DCC Centers is 75.4%. The combined total is 65.4%.

Chairman Felts ended the review of the population reports by reviewing the Statewide Field Operations report for the month of June. Chairman Felts noted that there were 32,409 on Regular Probation. Specialty Court was at 1,624, Parole was 25,286, Boot Camp was 14, and the Act 539s count was 23. This gives a combined total of 59,356 persons under supervision.

Attorney General's Report

Assistant Attorney General Joe West reported to the Board that last month Newton v Felts was dismissed. That brings the total number of APA Appeals in Circuit Court to 10. All of them are full briefed. The Wood v APB case, the Supreme Court case, was granted a motion by the court to file a late brief. Mr. West said his response brief will be due the 21st of August.

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 June 30, 2021, we've expensed \$289,911.03 (82.41%). At this time last year, the Board had exhausted 81% of the operating expense budget.

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

Chairman Felts asked if everything is working okay for the mileage reimbursement for the Commissioners travels. Ms. Goldman said everything is great now, and they have it all worked out. The Board asked Ms. Goldman to inquire about a rate change.

Hearing Judge's Report

Ms. Cummings updated the Board on revocation hearings conducted throughout the month of June 2021. There were 514 total revocations. Of those, there were 366 waivers, 77 individuals who were administratively revoked, and 71 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

Secretary Ryals asked about the employee positions. Ms. Goldman said two individuals have been hired for the two Administrative Specialist III positions. They will start on the 9th of August. They are Derek Wilson and Kevin Smith.

Ms. Cummings said she met with the Secretary and Chief of Staff last Friday to discuss the transition into more of a consultative role.

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. Vice Chair McCastlain seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the recommendations became the official vote of the Parole Board.

Other Discussion

Secretary Ryals asked about the COVID cases. Mr. Jerry Bradshaw, Director, DCC, said that OMEGA is currently on lockdown. Director Bradshaw said the Paragould Parole Office is shut down. He said 5 out of 9 tested positive. Chairman Felts said he believed the employee count that tested positive was 63. Ms. Janie Runkle, Public Information Specialist, DOC, said that sounds close. Director Bradshaw said they are doing rapid tests on officers.

Chairman Felts advised the Board that if any of them have concerns about going to a unit to let him know and video hearings can be arranged.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, August 12, 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

JULY 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:** Vice Chair McCastlain

Ratification Date: July 29, 2021