



**MINUTES OF THE  
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD  
March 26, 2015  
9:30 A.M.  
APB BOARDROOM**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**EXCUSED WITH VALID REASONS:**

Carol Bohannon, Hearing Judge/Attorney  
Cara Boyd-Connors, Hearing Judge/Attorney  
Jim Williams, Hearing Judge/Attorney  
Ashley Vailes, Hearing Judge/Attorney  
Meredith Rebsamen, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office  
Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, ACC

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Solomon Graves, Administrative Services Manager, APB  
Mahogany Franklin, Fiscal Support Supervisor, APB  
Kelly Knuckles, Executive Assistant to the Chairman, APB  
Tamara Salaam, Administrative Support Supervisor, APB  
Pam Brown, Assistant Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, ACC

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Kelly Knuckles, Executive Assistant to the Chairman

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Felts called the board meeting to order at 9:32 am. A quorum was declared.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 13, 2015**

Commissioner Carpenter moved for approval of the minutes. Vice-Chairman Brown seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.

## **REPORT UPDATES**

Chairman Felts reported that there are 18,059 inmates incarcerated in the Arkansas Department of Correction. There are currently 2,450 men and women on the ADC County Jail Back-up list.

In review of the ACC Center Jurisdiction Population there is a total 1,518 offenders in ACC Centers. This includes those in ACC correction centers, Omega and SE ARK TVP, and on the ACC's back-up list. The total ACC capacity is 1,603.

In review of the APB monthly report Chairman Felts state that the Board had a total 387 approved Transfer Screenings for an overall approval rate of 89.4%. There were 46 Screenings deferred and 101 screenings were scheduled for hearings. The board conducted a total of 425 Approved Hearings out of a total of 815. The Board had a 62.9% Approval Rate. The Board had 2 Parole Hearings, 2 Denied and 1 Deferred. There were 163 Transfer Hearings 163 denied and 167 were deferred. The Board conducted 54 Reconsideration Hearings, 56 Rescind Screenings and 27 Rescind Hearings for a total of 137 actions. In addition, there were 30 Pardons, 0 Recommendations for Firearm Restorations, 38 Commutation Screenings and 3 Commutation Hearings for a total of 71 Executive Clemencies. The Board had total monthly actions of 1,504.

## **ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT**

Meredith Rebsamen from the Attorney General's office was not in attendance.

## **FISCAL REPORT**

Mahogany Franklin, Fiscal Support Supervisor, reported that the Board has currently expended 65% of its annual travel, maintenance, and operations budget. The report was attached for the Board's review. There were no questions regarding the fiscal report.

## **HEARING JUDGE'S REPORT**

The Hearing Judge Activity Report was available for the Board's review. Chairman Felts stated that a total of 119 offenders were revoked and sent back to custody in ADC, RCF or TVP. There were no further questions or comments.

## **AGENCY UPDATES**

Solomon Graves, Administrative Services Manager gave the Board an update on the Legislative Session which is on schedule to be completed by April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. He reviewed the following bills with the Board: SB2, SB57, SB58, SB617, SB1042 and HB1371.

There were no questions from the Board.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The April 2015 Arkansas Parole Board hearing schedule and calendar was provided to the Board. The Board was asked to notify Ms. Tamara Salaam, Administrative Support Supervisor, of any scheduling conflicts.

There were no questions regarding the scheduling for April.

Chairman Felts mentioned that Ms. Wendy Kelley, the Director of Arkansas Department of Correction, was considering a change in the attendance policy for supporters at the Parole Hearings. There are a few issues that need to be discussed today and voted upon. He recommended a minimum age for those attending the parole hearings. A motion was made to set a minimum age of 14 years old and otherwise allow ADC to regulate hearing attendance in their visitation policies. Commissioner Brown moved for approval. Commissioner Belken seconded. The motion was carried.

Chairman Felts asks Ms. Pam Brown, Assistant Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, her opinion on the date they should propose ADC to change the notice on the attendance for parole hearings. Ms. Brown suggests 60 days out, to allow ADC enough time to notify families regarding the change.

Mr. Graves was directed to inform the ADC of the Board's recommendations.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to discuss.

**FILES FOR REVIEW**

There are no questions regarding the files for review. The next Victim Input Hearing will be held on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 9:00 am. Beginning in April we will start all meetings, Victim Input Meeting and Board Meetings, at 9:00 am.

**ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

Commissioner Vandiver, Secretary of the Board, moved to adopt the recommendations. Commissioner Carpenter seconded. The motion was carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the Arkansas Parole Board.

***Signature on File***

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John Felts  
Chairman

***Signature on File***

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Dawne Vandiver  
Secretary

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

**March 2015**

**UNITS:**

**RATIFIED (X)**

**R.L. WILLIAMS**



**PINE BLUFF/SE**



**GRIMES**



**EAST ARKANSAS**



**MISS CO/NEC**



**VARNER**



**OUACHITA**



**OTHER: Pardons, Commutations, Transfer Screenings, ACT 290s,  
700s, Reconsiderations, Revocation Appeals, Rescinds,  
Special Conditions, EPA, Etc.**



**MOTION BY: Commissioner Vandiver    SECONDED BY: Commissioner Carpenter**

**RATIFICATION DATE: March 26, 2015**