



**MINUTES OF THE
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
April 30, 2015
8:30 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

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
Shirley Ellingburg, 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 8:35 am. A quorum was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 16, 2015

Commissioner Wallace 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 18,537 inmates incarcerated in the Arkansas Department of Correction. There are currently 2,542 men and women on the ADC County Jail Back-up list. Last month we had 2,450 men in women on that list. Chairman Felts states, as the Arkansas Parole Board we have to do what we are tasked to do which is, we have to make good decisions on who we feel are individuals that can be returned back to society.

In review of the ACC Center Jurisdiction Population there is a total 1,522 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 of 1,449 board actions in March. The board had a record number of denials in March totaling 307 denials and 609 approved transfers. The Board conducted a total of 137 referrals, rescinds and reconsiderations in March. In addition, there were 4 with merit clemencies and 29 without merit clemencies.

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 71% 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. On March 11, 2015 we received Supplemental Funding of \$12,500 for maintenance and operations.

Ms. Franklin asked that all Board members and Board support staff have their supply orders in by May 8th, 2015 for the remainder of the fiscal year. Last order will be submitted by June 5th.

HEARING JUDGE'S REPORT

The Hearing Judge Activity Report was available for the Board's review. Chairman Felts stated that a total of 147 offenders were revoked and sent back to custody in ADC, RCF or TVP. There were a total of 709 actions for the month of March. There were no further questions or comments.

AGENCY UPDATES

Solomon Graves has one update for the Parole Board pertaining to additional funds awarded to the Arkansas Parole Board by the National Parole Resource Center. This grant will be for technical assistance. The grant was

specifically targeted towards the implementation of specific, targeted actions that are consistent with prior strategic planning efforts. A way to follow up with the awarded to see if they have progressed or if they have not progressed. Our application says in part that we have a plan in place and then our world changed. What we are hoping we can do is refocus on our current environment. We are going to set the course on how we are going to implement the grant moving forward. This opportunity will give us some tools to position us for the future and set a course for the sustainability of the Parole Board and our commitment to society. Any questions regarding this please contact Mr. Graves.

There were no questions from the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Felts addressed the Board on the expectation of the Commissioners to return or no return to the office when they conduct hearings at the units. If they Commissioners visit Cummins, Varner, East, McPherson, Grimes or Ouachita they are not required to return. If they conduct video conferences or attend Benton, all Pine Bluff units, Tucker, Tucker Max or Wrightsville they are to return to the office.

Mr. Felts mentions his appreciation for the Board members and the hard work that you do. In addition, reminds them that if they are out of the office to be sure to complete a leave slip for that time.

NEW BUSINESS

The May 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 some changes on the May calendar because of Memorial Day holiday and ACA accreditation.

There were no questions regarding the scheduling for April.

FILES FOR REVIEW

There are no questions regarding the files for review. The next Victim Input Hearing will be held on May 6th, 2015 at 9:00 am.

ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 14th, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the Arkansas Parole Board.

Signature on File

John Felts
Chairman

Signature on File

Dawne Vandiver
Secretary

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

April 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 Brown

RATIFICATION DATE: April 30, 2015