



**MINUTES OF THE
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
May 25, 2017
9:00 A.M.
APB BOARDROOM**

Board Members Present:

John Felts, Chairman
Andy Shock, Secretary
Abraham Carpenter, Commissioner
Dawne Vandiver, Commissioner
Jerry Riley, Commissioner
Lona McCastlain, Commissioner

Excused with Valid Reason(s):

John Belken, Vice Chairman, APB
Kelly Knuckles, Executive Assistant to the Chairman, APB
Carol Bohannon, Hearing Judge/Attorney, APB
Lisa Wilkins, Hearing Judge/Attorney, APB
Evelyn Gomez, Hearing Judge/Attorney, APB
Solomon Graves, Public Information Officer, ADC
Jerry Bradshaw, Director of Parole and Probation Services, ACC

Others Present:

Brooke Cummings, Executive Administrator, APB
Janice Horton, Business Operations Manager, APB
Scott Howard, Investigator, APB
Kenya Woods, Victim Input Coordinator, APB
Tamara Salaam, Administrative Support Supervisor, APB
Christie Little, Administrative Support Supervisor, APB
William T. Bowman, II, Computer Support Analyst, APB
Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, ACC
Nga Mahfouz, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office
Nicole Clark, Re-Entry Coordinator, ADC

Call to Order

Chairman Felts called the board meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. A quorum was declared.

Approval of Minutes – May 11, 2017

Secretary Shock moved for approval of the minutes. Commissioner Vandiver seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.

Report Updates

Chairman Felts reported that there are 17,746 inmates incarcerated in the Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC). There are currently 1,360 men and women on the ADC County Jail Back-up list.

In reviewing the Arkansas Community Correction (ACC) Center Jurisdictional Population Report, Chairman Felts stated there are 1,961 offenders in ACC Centers. This includes those in all ACC Centers including RCFs, Omega, SW AR CCC, and those offenders on ACC's back-up list. The Statewide Field Operations report reflects 29,037 on probation, 2,739 out to drug court/specialty court, 261 boot camp releases (including inactive cases) and 23,966 on parole, for a combined total of 56,003 under supervision.

Chairman Felts stated that the OVG report and the Act 570 report are available to the Board upon request. These reports are kept in the office of the Executive Assistant, Ms. Kelly Knuckles.

There were no further questions or comments regarding the report updates at this time.

Attorney General's Report

Ms. Nga Mahfouz, Assistant Attorney General, stated there hasn't been any change since her last update with the Board on May 11, 2017. There are a number of cases that she is handling for the Board, Ms. Mahfouz mentioned that she recently closed briefing on a Supreme Court briefing that had been filed by an inmate questioning whether or not the Board has discretionary for denying parole in certain circumstances, outside of that, there are no further updates from Ms. Mahfouz.

Fiscal Report Update

Ms. Janice Horton, Business Operations Manager, updated the Board on the Fiscal Report. Ms. Horton reported that the Board, as of April 30, 2017, has expended 74% of its annual travel, maintenance, and operations budget. There is an attachment included in the board member's packets for review. At this time last year the Board had expended 84% of the budget.

There were no further questions or comments regarding the Fiscal report.

Hearing Judge's Report

Ms. Brooke Cummings, Executive Administrator, updated the Board on revocation hearings conducted throughout the past month. Ms. Cummings reviewed the report with the Board and stated that a copy of this report is available for review upon request.

There were no comments or questions regarding the Hearing Judge Report.

Agency Updates

Ms. Cummings reminded the Board of the upcoming American Correctional Association (ACA) re-accreditation audit that will take place on June 1st through June 2nd, stating that there will be 2 auditors here during that time period. Ms. Cummings stated that she would like to hold a short meeting in regard to the upcoming audit. In addition, our agency is looking forward to the eOMIS project that would help streamline the warrant processing system being completed by the end of the fiscal year.

Ms. Cummings stated that we have not received word on the merit bonuses at this time. We should know something by the next Board meeting.

Ms. Cummings updated the Board in regard to the Act 539 inmates, The Fair Sentencing of Minors Act of 2017, our agency has sent letters to the victim's next of kin and the officials within the county of conviction. The inmates will be scheduled for a hearing and with that scheduling the registered victims will be sent a letter in regard to the upcoming hearing. The Board will give the victim's next of kin a hearing before the Board on June 9th and June 21st. Ms. Cummings stated there is a list of Act 539 inmates that will be given out to the Board as soon as the list is finalized.

The Board will also have a retreat held locally in June 2017. Ms. Cummings will update the Board on the date for the retreat.

There were no further Agency Updates to be discussed at this time.

Old Business

There were no further comments or questions regarding Old Business.

New Business

Chairman Felts welcomed Ms. Nicole Clark, ADC Re-Entry Coordinator. Ms. Clark attended the Board meeting today to speak to the Board about ADC's Think Legacy program. Ms. Clark provided the Board with a copy of the evidence-based curriculum, mission statement and the core values of the program. Ms. Clark stated that the program was originally named the Re-entry program. However, the name was getting confused with ACC's Re-entry program. Therefore, the program's name was changed to Think Legacy. Ms. Clark stated that the program is not intended to be stipulated on an inmate because our goal is not to have someone in the program that does not want to be there. The class is held from 7 am to 11 am and is a mandatory twenty hours per week. Ms. Clark is the only person within ADC that has Re-entry title, she has worked with different coalitions around the State to get volunteers to come in and assist with the inmates, because they lose their social skills in about six months. Ms. Clark stated that the program seeks counselors, mentors or someone who is interested in assisting the inmates with the curriculum. In order for an inmate to be eligible, they have to be 6-18 months to their TE date, flat date or past their TE date. In addition, the inmate must be disciplinary free for 60 days, Class II or better, they are required to sign a contract stating they are approachable and teachable. The inmate must abide by ADC's rules and guidelines. Think Legacy is available at all of the general population Units except for the work release Units; we recently started working with the juveniles. The program has participants that have graduated from a program, such as SATP, that are assigned to come up with a topic to discuss with a group in the comradery in the barracks. Ms. Clark stated that she feels the program has some great values that can benefit any inmate that qualifies. The Think Legacy program works closely with ACC providing the potential to have the same mentor once they are released from incarceration as they had while they were incarcerated in ADC. Ms. Clark provided the Board with pictures of the classrooms to provide a visual of the program's atmosphere.

Ms. Clark welcomed any questions and stated that if the Board has any questions to feel free to contact her. There were no further comments or questions regarding New Business.

Files for Review

There were no questions or concerns regarding the Files for Review.

Adoption of Recommendations

Secretary Shock moved to adopt the recommendations. Commissioner Carpenter seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, June 15th at 9:00 a.m.

Signature on File

John Felts
Chairman

Signature on File

Andy Shock
Secretary

ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD

FULL BOARD RATIFICATION OF VOTES

May 2017

UNITS:

RATIFIED (X)

R.L. Williams/SEC



Pine Bluff/Ester



Grimes



East Arkansas



Mississippi Co. W/R/NEACC



Vарner



Ouachita



Other: Pardons, Commutations, Transfer Screenings, ACT 290s, 700s, Reconsiderations, Revocation Appeals, Rescinds, Special Conditions, EPAs, Etc.



Motion By: Secretary Shock **Seconded by:** Commissioner Carpenter

Ratification Date: May 25, 2017