



**MINUTES OF THE
ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
August 25, 2016
9:00 A.M.
APB BOARDROOM**

Board Members Present:

John Felts, Chairman
Dawne Vandiver, Vice Chairman
Andy Shock, Secretary
James Wallace, Commissioner
Abraham Carpenter, Commissioner
John Belken, Commissioner
Jerry Riley, Commissioner

Excused with Valid Reason(s):

Carol Bohannon, Hearing Judge/Attorney, APB
Ashley Vailes, Hearing Judge/Attorney, APB
Cara Boyd-Connors, Hearing Judge/Attorney, APB
William T. Bowman, II, Computer Support Analyst, APB

Others Present:

Brooke Cummings, Board Administrator, APB
Janice Horton, Business Operations Manager, APB
Kelly Knuckles, Executive Assistant to the Chairman, APB
Scott Howard, Investigator, APB
Kenya Woods, Victim Input Coordinator, APB
Delores Jones, Administrative Specialist III, APB
Lois Hansberry, Administrative Support Supervisor, APB
Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, ACC
Solomon Graves, Public Information Officer, ADC
Nga Mahfouz, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office

Call to Order

Chairman Felts called the board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was declared.

Approval of Minutes – August 11, 2016

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

Report Updates

Chairman Felts reported that there are 18,282 inmates incarcerated in the Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC). Chairman Felts mentioned to the Board that the Board of Corrections evoked a 90 day EPA on August 24, 2016 and there were 233 people released. There are currently 1,553 men and women on the ADC County Jail Back-up list.

Chairman Felts asked that Mr. Solomon Graves, Public Information Officer for ADC, speak to the Board regarding recent updates with ADC. Mr. Graves reiterated that ADC released 233 offenders yesterday after the Board of Corrections evoked the 90 day EPA. In addition, the Board of Corrections gave Director Kelley the authority to suspend the ADC Boot Camp Program. Mr. Graves further stated that for some time ADC has been operating under full capacity. ADC will suspend the Boot Camp Program intakes once the current offenders have completed the program in its entirety. The current boot camp facility will be used as the Department of Corrections female re-entry center. ADC is beginning to see growing numbers in the female population that growth being the reason ADC feels this facility will assist with the intake process.

Chairman Felts mentioned to the Board that he attended the dedication services at the Ester Unit yesterday. He went on to state that the service was very nice. The Ester family was in attendance and seemed to appreciate all the kind words regarding their loved one and her dedication to her job.

In reviewing of the ACC Center Jurisdictional Population, Chairman Felts stated there are a total 1,808 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 total ACC capacity is 1,815. Their Statewide Field Operations report reflects 28,074 on probation, 2,611 out to drug court/specialty court, 320 boot camp releases and 23,204 on parole, for a combined total of 54,209 under supervision.

There were no further questions or comments regarding the Report Updates at this time.

Attorney General's Report

Ms. Nga Mahfouz, Assistant Attorney General, updated the Board regarding 6 new lawsuits that were received since the last Full Board Meeting in late July. She further stated that five of those lawsuits were filed as Writs of Mandamus that automatically get transferred to the AG's Criminal Division. Ms. Mahfouz stated that she would update the Board at a later date.

There were no further questions or comments regarding the AG's Report.

Fiscal Report Update

Ms. Janice Horton, Business Operations Manager, reported that the Board, as of July 31, 2016, has expended 6% of its annual travel, maintenance, and operations budget. There is an attachment included in the board packets for review.

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

Hearing Judge's Report

Chairman Felts asked Brooke Cummings, Board Administrator, to come before the Board to give a review of the Hearing Judge's report. Ms. Cummings stated the report that was given to the Board today is a temporary report. We are in the process of constructing a new report to highlight some of the more important details. The reports in the past included information that we feel may have bogged down some of the more important details. The new report will be completed by our next Full Board meeting at the end of September.

In review of the report, Ms. Cummings stated there were 156 hearings and 33 sanction hearings scheduled from July 26th to August 22nd, 2016; this number does not reflect the waivers to ADC and/or the ACC centers. In addition, there were 128 revoked, 19 deferred for various reasons, 38 continued cases and 3 reinstatements to supervision. The report reviewed is enclosed in the board packet for each board member.

Chairman Felts followed Ms. Cummings' review of the report by stating that the new report will have a more accurate depiction of the numbers on hearings, waivers, etc. The new report will give the Board a clearer picture of revocation hearings and the actions taken.

There were no further questions regarding the Hearing Judge Report.

Old Business

Chairman Felts stated that the Board has a letter indicating the concerns regarding the issues that the Board is still experiencing with video hearings at the Units to give to ADC today.

Mr. Solomon Graves, Public Information Officer, stated that he discussed these issues with Director Kelley and wanted to let the Board know that the infrastructure upgrades at the Units have been completed at both ADC's North Central and East Arkansas units. Mr. Graves informed Director Kelley that the Board would be providing a letter stating the concerns. Mr. Graves further stated that ADC needs the board members to send the issues that they are having to Ms. Rhonda Patterson and her staff at ADC. Ms. Patterson will, at that time, be able start tracking them more accurately, and will be following up with DIS to see what they are doing to address those connectivity issues.

Chairman Felts stated the Board will be sending a help ticket to DIS. Ms. Cummings asked that the Board document the issues by hand during their video conferences, after their hearings email those issues to Mr. William Bowman, APB's Computer Support Analyst, and he will in turn get in touch with ADC followed by contacting both ADC and DIS regarding the connectivity issues.

Mr. Graves stated that the solution may be that the location of the video hearings will need to be moved to another area. ADC does not have IT staff on site at each Unit, we have those systems maintained and service remotely. Mr. Graves stated that ADC is continuously working toward correcting the connectivity issue and appreciate the Board's assistance.

There were no further concerns or questions regarding any Old Business at this time.

Agency Updates

Ms. Cummings, Board Administrator, stated there were not any Agency Updates at this time, because those concerns were covered in the discussion regarding the video connectivity at the Units. She stated we are looking forward to a resolution to get out of the grey area and get back on track with the video hearings being conducted without interruption.

Chairman Felts stated that if we need to back-off video conferencing until the video connectivity is resolved completely.

There were no further concerns or questions regarding the Agency Updates at this time.

New Business

Chairman Felts stated that each board member has a list of Special Conditions codes enclosed in their board packets. He furthered stated there are some issues with those codes and that the "Maximum Supervision and Electronic Monitoring" codes be used with extreme cases.

Mr. John Belken, Commissioner, stated he would like to develop a committee that would concentrate on the codes that are used while entering votes for the Board. The codes are regarding "Special Conditions" for potential parolees and their supervision. Mr. Jimmy Wallace, Commissioner stated that he felt Mr. Belken should head up the new committee to revise and revisit some of the Special Codes that are currently being used. Chairman Felts asked that once the codes have been reviewed by the committee that those changes be brought back before the Board for approval.

There were no further concerns or questions regarding any New Business at this time.

Files for Review

There were no questions regarding the files for review.

Adoption of Recommendations

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

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, September 15th, 2016 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

August 2016

UNITS:

RATIFIED (X)

R.L. Williams/SEC



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 Shock Seconded by: Commissioner Wallace

Ratification Date: August 25th, 2016