

**Tony Evers**  
Governor



Mailing Address

Post Office Box 7960  
Madison, WI 53707-7960  
Telephone (608) 240-7280  
Fax (608) 240-7299  
E-Mail:

**John Tate II**  
Chairperson

## State of Wisconsin Parole Commission

ParoleCommission@Wisconsin.Gov

---

PAROLE COMMISSION  
Staff Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, August 4th, 2021  
3099 East Washington Avenue  
Madison, WI 53704

Presiding: John Tate II, Chair

Present: Doug Drankiewicz, Jennifer Kramer, Shannon Pierce, Sara Tome, Oliver Buchino

Guests: Alaina Bunger, Chris Donahoe, Joyce Ellwanger, Ashley Payne-OVSP, Amanda Readman, Roy Rogers, Ben Turk, Hillary Vedvig

This meeting was conducted in-part through Zoom Videoconferencing due to social distancing guidelines because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The meeting began at approximately 10:10 AM.

Chairman Tate opened by introducing himself and members of the commission.

The Chair gave feedback to Commissioners regarding descriptions in the Action Summaries, noting that they represent Commissioner recommendations, and not the final decision for a given review. The summaries should also include the number of prior appearances a person-in-custody has had before the Commission and the previous length of deferral.

The Chair noted that in a recent case a grant hold had been lifted, as suitable housing had been secured.

The Chair gave an update regarding the ongoing pandemic, noting that the Commissioners have continued flexibility for conducting reviews either in-person or through videoconferencing.

ORA Buchino described the recent feedback from the Office of Legal Counsel regarding who can receive audio recordings of parole reviews, and the need to ensure this information is made available to the security directors at their respective institutions. The Chair requested to hold on implementing that feedback and that a memo including this institution guidance be drafted for consideration.

The Chair answered a submitted question regarding the Commission's implementation of Executive Directive 31. The Chair outlined how ED 31 narrowly applies to the parole-eligible population, and has limited application to individuals serving life sentences. ED 31 waives a statutorily-set Parole Eligibility Date (PED) to provide earlier parole consideration, and does not apply to persons-in-custody with court-ordered PEDs, persons-in-custody serving life sentences who have not yet reached their PED, or those who have already reached their initial PED. The mere presence of extraordinary circumstances does not inherently diminish the necessity of meeting the parole criteria. In instances

where a PED has already been reached, Extraordinary Circumstances are described as those that effectively mitigate the risk, in the absence of satisfying all criteria, of an individual reoffending upon release.

The Chair also detailed working to develop a mechanism within WICS to capture cases that are eligible for ED 31, and described some of how BTM was working on this process. The Chair further described the feedback received from Wardens who are evaluating ED 31 petitions. Finally, the Chair is exploring options to update ED 31 with the Office of Legal Counsel.

The next staff meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 1st, 2021, at 10am. Questions from the public about parole policy, practice, or procedure should be submitted by the Monday prior (08/30).

The open-session meeting concluded at approximately 10:35am.

The meeting then transitioned into closed session, and the No Action case presented by Commissioner Pierce was reviewed.