PAROLE COMMISSION

Staff Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 1st, 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, Amanda Readman, Ben Turk

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 10:00 AM.

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

The Chair gave feedback to the Commissioners on using third-person language in Parole Action Summaries, and also noted updates to features in WICS.

Commissioner Kramer discussed holding parole reviews with the Planning and Operations Unit (POU) and needing Zoom access to set up meetings. Commissioner Kramer also described getting assistance from Commissioner Pierce.

Commissioner Drankiewicz described changes to cases that have both New Law and Truth-in-Sentencing (TIS) offenses, and how updated sentencing equations affect Commission scheduling of reviews. The Chair described the procedure of confirming this information with Institution Records Offices, as there are many variables to sentence structures.

Commissioner Drankiewicz detailed concerns he had regarding the mask policy and parole review procedure at RCI. This specifically included how PIOC are being required to wear a mask while alone in the room for reviews conducted by videoconferencing. The Chair acknowledged that this was a reasonable request about procedures that are interfering with the parole process, and noted he would address it with the institution.

The Chair then answered questions submitted by the public regarding parole policy, practice, or procedure.

**Question**: How can parole-eligible individuals who are endorsed for programming satisfy those expectations when the Program Review Committee (PRC) at the institutions may not prioritize their needs, due to their sentence structures and often distant Mandatory Release (MR) dates?

The Chair recognized that there is a limit to resources available for programming in the institutions. However, parole-eligible PIOC who receive endorsements do not automatically go to the bottom of the list for enrollment. The Commission continues to endorse and advocate for programming with PRC, and Commission decisions will often note an expectation that a PIOC be enrolled in programming during a given deferral period. The Chair recognized that despite the ongoing pandemic and its disruption to programming offered in the institutions, progress has been made with programming enrollment and completion.

**Question:** What information does the Chair look at when reviewing a Commissioner recommendation?

The Chair reviews everything deemed necessary. This includes but not limited to: PRC reports, conduct reports, and the pending Action Summary that is composed by the Commissioner conducting a review.

**Question:** When will minutes for the past several months of Commission staff meetings be included on the Commission website?

They will be posted shortly. ORA Buchino briefly described completing training to edit the Commission webpage to get minutes and other content posted.

The next staff meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, October 6th 2021, at 10am. Questions from the public about parole policy, practice, or procedure should be submitted by the Monday prior (10/04). The November staff meeting was scheduled for 11/3, and the December meeting for 12/1.

The open-session meeting concluded at approximately 10:20am.

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