

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, April 7th, 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: Elizabeth Lucas-OVSP, Ashley Payne-OVSP, Joan Streetar-OVSP, Megan Takahashi-OVSP, Garland Hampton, Ben Turk, Elena Bunger, Amanda Readman, Wendy Sisavath, Sabrina Taylor, Dominee Meek, Lisa Reid

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

The meeting began in open session at 10:00 AM.

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

The Chair gave guidance for language and further detailing the narratives in Parole Action Summaries. These included how Commissioners explain factors towards assessing the risk reduction requirement and programming needs.

Commissioner Drankiewicz described updates he had received regarding policy changes to SUD programming, and described the difference in impacts between persons-in-custody who are parole-eligible versus those enrolled in the Earned Release Program (ERP). Commissioner Drankiewicz noted that, as it affects parole-eligible individuals, the SUD program should be the final need addressed before transition to the Community.

Regarding the upcoming Association of Paroling Authorities International (APAI) conference in June, the Chair advised the Commissioners to plan on attending. Commissioner Drankiewicz described safety guidelines in light of the ongoing pandemic.

The Chair gave detail about the release planning process for persons-in-custody, noting the three-month defer timeline for Pre-Release Investigation (PRI) requests. The Chair also emphasized to the meeting guests who represent outside advocacy groups the importance of their assistance in establishing secure housing plans, as several parole grants had been put on hold following release plans that had fallen through.

The Chair advised the Commissioners to communicate to him in cases where PRIs have been approved well before a scheduled upcoming parole review, which may include Commission action prior to the scheduled review date.

Commissioner Kramer inquired about the timeline for returning to institutions to review files, as circumstances related to the pandemic dictate. The Chair noted in-person hearings would follow guidance from DOC and likely coincide with visitation resuming. Commissioner Drankiewicz noted that mask usage would also be a measure to consider.

ORA Buchino described recent guidance from the Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) regarding a victim request for a copy of the recording from a recent parole review. OLC advised that the Office of Victims Services (OVSP) can arrange for victims to listen to a recording, but cannot be provided a copy due to confidential information discussed in reviews.

The Chair outlined the process for the next staff meeting, which would answer questions from the public related to policy, practice, or process. The Chair invited viewers to submit questions no later than the Monday prior to the next scheduled meeting to the Parole Commission email address at ParoleCommission@wisconsin.gov.

The meeting concluded at approximately 10:40am.