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Parole Commission
Staff Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 3rd, 2026
3099 East Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53704

Presiding: Melissa Roberts, Chair

Present: Regina Beloungy, Jennifer Kramer, Sara Tome, Oliver Buchino, OVSP, Ashley Payne OVSP, Diana Long OVSP, Laura Yurs, Angela Ransom, Wendy Heredia

The meeting began at approximately 9:00 AM over Zoom.

Chair Roberts introduced members of the Commission, and noted that at the next meeting Commissioner Kramer would share some of her work experience from prior to joining the Commission. The Chair then answered more questions from members of the public.

Questions:

When the Commission determines that an individual has not served enough time for the seriousness of the offense, what specific factors or criteria are you using to make that decision?

The Commission uses the statutory criteria from the DOC-1204 Notice of Parole Consideration Form, which is also posted on the Commission website. This includes input from registered victims, and the sentencing transcripts, to ascertain the sentencing judge's intent.

Are there objective guidelines, benchmarks, or timelines that help determine what 'enough time' is for a given offense?

This related to the previous question and the DOC-1204 form.

How does the Commission ensure consistency in these decisions across different cases and commissioners?

Each case has unique circumstances including the original offense, length of time served, institutional adjustment, programming completion, and other factors, so it is inadvisable to directly compare cases to one another.

How is personal growth, rehabilitation, and decades of positive institutional behavior weighed against the original offense when making that determination?

The Commission's goal in granting parole is to ensure that individuals are set up to be successful out in the community, and that they never return to prison. The accomplishments of individuals while incarcerated help inform those decisions.

Why are denials sometimes stated only as 'not enough time served' or 'because of the severity of crime' without further explanation, and is there a plan to provide more detailed reasoning to individuals and families?

Assessments of time served are based on the time served being sufficient so as to not diminish the seriousness of the original offense.

How does the Commission balance victim input with evidence of rehabilitation and decades of positive conduct when determining parole in old law cases? Is there a standard or guideline for how much weight victim input carries in parole decisions under the old law?

This is similar to questions above that were answered.

The meeting then transitioned to closed session, and the No-Action case presented was reviewed.