PAROLE COMMISSION

Staff Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 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, Claire Lamal, Elizabeth Lucas (OVSP), Amanda Readman, Lisa Reid, Roy Rogers, Joan Streetar (OVSP),

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, Commissioners, and Commission staff reviewed their vacation scheduling for the month of December. The Chair also noted that Commission attendance of the upcoming January staff meeting will likely be done virtually, to account for winter weather and to avoid unnecessary travel.

The Chair highlighted need for the Commission members to complete DOC online training modules by the end of the month.

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

**Questions**:

**Would the commission be able to provide a general overview of what factors and requirements that they consider in determining deferral length?**

Defers lengths take many individual factors into consideration. These include which programs persons-in-custody have satisfied, and what the timeline would be to complete any outstanding programs. It also includes institution conduct. If conduct is unsatisfactory, a defer may reflect a length of time needed to sustain acceptable conduct. Deferral lengths also reflect timelines of when an institution transfer may occur.

Defer lengths also codify to the rest of the DOC what progress an individual is making towards satisfying the requirements for a parole grant. Deferrals greater than 18 months generally indicate a lack of significant progress. Defers of between 12 and 18 months can mean things such as support for a reduction in custody upon programming completion, as well as active engagement in other risk reduction strategies. Such reductions do not require Commission endorsement, as they fall under the Program Review Committee (PRC) at a given institution.

The shortest defers, being less than 12 months, indicate active risk reduction strategies. These frequently include Commission endorsements for reductions in custody or institution opportunities such as work-release.

One caveat to the deferral lengths is Sex Offender Treatment (SOT) programming, which takes a longer time to complete. For individuals who have such needs, longer deferral lengths factor in the time needed for enrollment and completion of SOT programming.

The next staff meeting was scheduled for January 5th, 2022, at 10am. Questions from the public about parole policy, practice, or procedure should be submitted by the Monday prior (1/3).

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