

BOARD OF PAROLE HEARINGS

Executive Board Meeting

January 19 & 20, 2016

January 19, 2016

Meeting Called to Order at 1:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Commissioners Anderson, Chappell, Fritz, Garner, Labahn, Minor, Montes, Peck, Richardson, Turner and Zarrinnam present. Commissioner Roberts absent.

Commissioner ANDERSON stated that a majority of currently-appointed commissioners is present. He stated that Executive Officer Shaffer is attending the California District Attorneys' Association conference. He introduced Commissioner KEVIN CHAPPELL, whom the Governor appointed on January 4, 2016, and described his background.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Public Comment on the Consent Calendar

VANESSA NELSON-SLOANE, Life Support Alliance, stated that the minutes of the December, 2105 meeting contain an error. The video, referred to on page 3 of the minutes, is entitled, "Date to the Gate", and not, "Life to the Gate".

Commissioner MINOR moved to approve the consent calendar, including the amended video title. Commissioner MONTES seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Report from Chief Psychologist, Cliff Kusaj, Forensic Assessment Division

KUSAJ stated that, in January, 2016, FAD psychologists were assigned 251 comprehensive risk assessments, to be completed in February. Fifty-eight assignments are for hearings scheduled in March, 100 are for hearings in April and the remaining assignments are for hearings in May and June. The goal is to complete the assessments at least 60 days before the hearing. It is projected that approximately half of them will be distributed less than 60 days before the hearing. Thirty-seven assessments on the April calendar and 137 on the May calendar are unassigned. For several months, the FAD productivity has outpaced the hearing calendar by 30-40 assessments per month. KUSAJ stated that 10 psychologists have been appointed and psychologist JIM ROKOP will be leaving the board to serve as Chief Psychologist at the Department of State Hospitals.

PRESENTATIONS

The Role of Mental Disorder in Violence Risk Assessment and Management, presented by Dr. Laura Guy, Threat Assessment Specialist for Proactive Resolutions.

GUY gave a PowerPoint presentation and provided a handout.

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Commissioner MONTES requested an item be placed on future agenda. She asked for a presentation on a Division of California Correctional Health Care Services memorandum regarding panels' direct referral of inmates to the Statewide Mental Health Program for an assessment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

VANESSA NELSON-SLOANE, Life Support Alliance, gave an update on the Amends Project, which helps inmates to write appropriate remorse letters. The project has been invited into more than 12 institutions and the inmates' letters will soon be appearing in their central files.

SHAWN ROWLAND, licensed clinical social worker, stated that inmates often do not take their medications because there is a perception that doing so will prevent their being granted parole. Inmates also refuse to take the medications because they are ineffective or cause severe side effects. She asked panels to take these factors into account when assessing an inmate's failure to take prescribed medication.

Meeting recessed at 2:47 p.m.

January 20, 2016

Meeting reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

Roll Call: Commissioners Anderson, Chappell, Fritz, Garner, Labahn, Minor, Montes, Peck, Richardson, Roberts, Turner and Zarrinnam present.

Commissioner ANDERSON stated that a majority of currently-appointed commissioners is present.

Report from Executive Officer, Jennifer Shaffer

SHAFFER that she attended the California District Attorneys' Association conference. She took part in the victims' rights committee and the lifer parole committee.

SHAFFER reported that state's monthly report to the Three Judge panel was filed on January 15, 2016. From January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2015, there were 925 youth offender hearings. There were 249 grants, 581 denials, and 95 stipulations to unsuitability. An additional 985 hearings were waived, postponed, or cancelled. From January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015, CDCR referred 3,747 non-violent second strike inmates to the Board for parole review. The board approved 1,660 for release and denied 1,595. The remaining referrals are pending a decision because the Board does not consider a referral until the inmate is within 60 days of having served 50% of their sentence.

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C. FUNES, MAURICIO H-01028

MELODY SCHALLON, San Francisco County District Attorney's Office, recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

Referral, pursuant to Penal Code section 3041 to either grant or deny parole when there is a tie vote.

D. BAILEY, ANTOINE V-96661

No speakers permitted.

E. STEVENSON, JAMES J-69464

No speakers permitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

GAIL BROWN, Life Support Alliance, stated that there are continuing concerns about the LTOPP program. The screening contains questions that fail to take into account the fact that an inmate's family might be deceased. In the case of long-term inmates, a requirement to verify pre-incarceration employment is irrelevant to their current needs.

SHAFFER stated that several district attorneys had requested better information about the reasons for referring a case *en banc*. Inmates and inmates' counsel have also made the same request. The Board will be looking into the possibility of providing more information about *en banc* referrals.

Meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

Board of Parole Hearings

Scheduled and Backlog Hearings Report

Penal Code section 3041(d)

February, 2016

