2016 Annual Report

Louisiana Board of Pardons & Parole

Message from the Board Chair

The 2016 Annual Report is submitted on behalf of the Louisiana Pardon Board and Committee on Parole. In this report, you will find information regarding the activities of the board and its staff throughout the year.

The year was one of change as early this year newly-elected Governor John Bel Edwards appointed three new board members to the Pardon Board and two new at-large members to the Committee on Parole. Two experienced members of the Pardon Board were re-appointed by Governor Edwards. Our primary focus during the first quarter of 2016 was to provide appropriate and relevant training to the board and committee members, with emphasis on evidence based principles and decision-making.

The year has been very productive with continued improvement in overall operations and business processes. The Pardon Board and Committee on Parole and its staff continue to work closely with the Department of Corrections to appropriately use resources to facilitate an offender's successful reentry to our communities. We also work closely with the Division of Probation & Parole and rely on this dedicated team of professionals as they make significant contributions to Louisiana's communities.

I am humbled to serve with such a dedicated and hardworking group of professionals. I look forward to our challenge of doing what it takes to achieve our mission while enhancing offender success and public trust.

We maintain our commitment to preserve and promote the public's safety.

Sheryl M. Ranatza
Board Chair
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Meet the Board

SHERYL M. RANATZA, Board Chair

Mrs. Ranatza retired from the position of Deputy Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections in 2011, after a career that spanned more than 30 years. She served as the first female Deputy Warden at Louisiana State Penitentiary for 15 years. She was appointed as Chairman of the Louisiana Board of Parole in February 2012 and Chairman of the Pardon Board in August 2012. She was re-appointed as Board Chair by Governor John Bel Edwards on January 20, 2016.

BRENNAN C. KELSEY, Committee on Parole

Mr. Kelsey is a Physical Therapist with over 20 years of experience. He has worked in a variety of health care settings including mental health, outpatient, rehabilitative, and acute care. Mr. Kelsey graduated from LSU Medical Center with a Bachelor of Sciences in Physical Therapy and from Southeastern Louisiana University with a MBA in General Business and Healthcare. Mr. Kelsey was appointed by Governor John Bel Edwards to serve as an at-large member of the Committee on Parole.

JAMES E. "JIMMY" KUHN

Retired Judge Jimmy Kuhn began his career in private practice, after graduating from Loyola Law School in New Orleans. He served as a State Prosecutor for 17 years. He was elected to the 21st Judicial District Court in 1990 and was there until he was elected to the First Circuit Appeals Court of Louisiana in 1994 and served in that capacity until 2008. Judge Kuhn served on the faculty at Southeastern Louisiana University from 1991 until 2010, teaching political science, political history, and criminal justice.

KENNETH A. LOFTIN

Mr. Loftin retired in August 2015 after serving as Executive Director of Ware Youth Center in Coushatta for 27 years. Prior to serving in his position at Ware, Mr. Loftin served as a Child Protective Investigator in the State of Louisiana's Office of Community Services. Mr. Loftin received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Behavioral Sciences with a concentration in psychology and sociology and a minor in religion from East Texas Baptist College.

ALVIN ROCHE', JR.

Mr. Roche' served as the Director of Library Services at Southern University Law Center from 1990 until retiring in 2007. Mr. Roche' previously served the Southern University System in a variety of roles. Mr. Roche' received his Bachelor of Sciences Degree in Social Science-History with a minor in Library Science from Southern University and a Masters of Library Services from Louisiana State University. Governor John Bell Edwards appointed Mr. Roche' to serve on the Board of Pardons and Committee on Parole as an advocate for victims.

JIM WISE, Board Vice-Chair

After studying criminal justice at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana and completing the Calcasieu Regional Law Enforcement Training Academy, Mr. Wise served as a Calcasieu Parish Deputy for 18 years, supervising all uniformed divisions. He later served as an Investigator at Louisiana State Penitentiary. Mr. Wise was first appointed to the Louisiana Board of Parole in 2004 and was appointed to the Pardon Board in August 2012. He was re-appointed by Governor John Bel Edwards on January 20, 2016.

PEARL WISE, Committee on Parole

Ms. Wise began her more than 20-year criminal justice career as a Probation and Parole Officer in the Monroe District Office. She served as community resources coordinator for the district and supervisor of a unit of officers. Ms. Wise received her Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Louisiana Monroe. She is a veteran of the Louisiana National Guard. After her retirement, Governor John Bel Edwards appointed Ms. Wise to serve as an at-large member of the Committee on Parole on February 12, 2016.

History of the Board

Pardon Board

The Governor's pardon power derives from the Common Law of England. The pardoning power has always been construed in this State in the same manner as England. Traditionally, the power to pardon, commute sentences, and remit fines came under the authority of the Governor.

1921: Section 10, Article V, of the 1921 Louisiana Constitution, gives the Governor the power to pardon offenders after receiving an affirmative recommendation from the Board of Pardons. The Board of Pardons consisted of the Lt. Governor, the Attorney General, and the sentencing judge of the pardon seeker.

1968: The Louisiana Constitution was amended to permit the Governor to pardon, without a Pardon Board recommendation, a first offender who had completed his sentence and was never previously convicted of a felony.

1974: The 1974 State Constitution changed the composition of the Board of Pardons. The Board of Pardons was to be composed of five electors appointed by the Governor, with the concurrence of the Senate. Their terms were to be concurrent with the appointing Governor.

The new 1974 State Constitution also provided that a first offender, never previously convicted of a felony, shall be pardoned automatically upon completion of the sentence without further action by the Governor.

1975: Act 17 of the 1975 special session of the Legislature further defined a first offender and conditions of eligibility for a first offender pardon. The Act also placed the responsibility with the Division of Probation and Parole to issue a first offender pardon certificate after verification that the offender has met the requirements of the Act.

1999: The first offender pardon provision was amended in 1999 to limit first offender pardons to those convicted of a non-violent crime, or other specifically enumerated crimes, who was never previously convicted of a felony. After December 27, 1999, only those crimes listed are eligible for an automatic first offender pardon.

2001: On March 16, 2001, Governor Foster issued an Executive Order decreeing all First Offender Pardons in which the offense occurred prior to 1975 must be referred to the Louisiana Board of Pardons.

2003: Due to the finding in *State of Louisiana vs. Moore*, 847 SO.2D 53 (La. App. June 2003), sex offenders are not eligible for a first offender pardon until after the completion of the applicable time frame for their registration requirements. The offender must request the first offender pardon.

2011: In 2011, Act 153 provided for the addition of an ex-officio member of the board if the clemency applicant is incarcerated at the time of his application. The ex-officio member is the warden, or in his absence the deputy warden, of the correctional facility in which the offender is housed. The ex-officio member is a non-voting member, but may provide information to the board during the proceedings. In addition, Act 153 placed comprehensive orientation and training requirements for board members.

2012: Act 714 of the 2012 Legislative Session, which became effective August 1, 2012, merged the duties, functions, and powers of the Board of Pardons with that of the Board of Parole, creating a Committee on Parole. Act 714 expanded membership to the Board of Pardons from five members to seven, with the additional 2 members serving at-large only on the Committee on Parole and who do not serve as a member of the Board of Pardons. All members of the Board and Committee must now have at least five years of experience in the field of penology, corrections, law enforcement, sociology, law, education, social work, medicine, or a combination thereof in addition to comprehensive orientation and in-service training requirements.

Parole Board

Prior to 1914, parole was a method of releasing prisoners from the penitentiary, granted by the Governor upon recommendation of the Board of Control at the penitentiary. An inmate was required to serve at least one year before being eligible for consideration for parole. Certain more serious offenses were excluded from consideration.

1916: A Board of Parole was established, which consisted of three members appointed by the Governor. They were empowered to make rules and regulations regarding granting and releasing prisoners serving indeterminate and certain other sentences. It was also during this year that Louisiana passed the indeterminate sentence law. Persons convicted of crimes exempted from the indeterminate sentences were not eligible for parole.

1918: Parole eligibility was extended in 1918 to any prisoner who had served at least one year and completed at least ¼ of his minimum sentence and had a commutation of sentence by good conduct.

1926: The 1926 Parole Law provided for a Parole Board of three members appointed by the Governor which met once a month and had a docket of approximately 30 persons.

1940: In 1940, the Board of Parole was abolished and its functions were transferred to the Department of Public Welfare. The Commissioner of Public Welfare appointed a committee composed of the Director of Social Services, the Department Attorney and the Consultant of Policies and Procedures. It was their duty to recommend to him all actions on all parole applications and revocations.

1942: In 1942, the Legislature established a new State Board of Parole consisting of three members: The Commissioner of Public Welfare or his representative, the Attorney General or his representative, and the Trial Judge or his successor. The indeterminate sentence law was replaced by a determinate sentence and parole eligibility was set at 1/3 of the maximum sentence imposed and that such sentence must be a felony to come under the jurisdiction of the Board of Parole.

1948: In 1948, parole functions were transferred from the Department of Public Welfare to an independent Board of Parole. An Act was also passed by the Legislature to enable immediate parole eligibility for first offenders with a sentence of less than five years. Life offenders were still excluded from parole consideration.

1952: In 1952, a new Parole Act was enacted increasing the members of the Board of Parole to five members, three of which were appointed by the Governor. The Attorney General or his representative and the Commissioner of Public Welfare or his representative were the other two members. The administrative functions of parole were also transferred to the Department of Public Welfare.

1956: In 1956, parole was changed, placing parole functions under an independent board. Administrative functions were under the Secretary of the Parole Board and the Board now consisted of five members appointed by the Governor to terms concurrent with that of the Governor. Parole hearings were conducted at the State Capitol without giving the offender the benefit of a personal interview. These hearings were conducted with an investigation reflecting social history, circumstances surrounding the offense, residence, employment, etc.

1960: Parole law was amended to merge probation and parole functions under the Department of Institutions in 1960. Although not required by law, the Parole Board met once monthly at each adult penal institution and personally interviewed each inmate when eligible for parole. Eligible

inmates serving sentences in the parish jail were considered without an interview at Probation and Parole Headquarters in Baton Rouge.

1968: In 1968, the legislature created a Department of Corrections composed of adult and juvenile institutions and the Division of Probation and Parole. Act 191 of 1968, also created a Parole Board of five full-time members. No specific educational or experience qualifications were required. Four of the members were appointed to six year staggered terms; the fifth member, the Director of Corrections, was appointed to a four-year term concurrent with that of the Governor. The Director acted as an ex-officio chairman of the Parole Board. The new law made post sentence/pre-parole studies mandatory. Another feature of the parole law was a mandatory personal interview of the inmate by the entire Parole Board when considered for parole or revocation, which required the Parole Board to interview parish jail applicants as well.

1972: Parole Law was amended in 1972 to permit one Parole Board member to conduct the interview with the parish jail parole applicant. The law was further amended to remove the Director of Corrections as Chairman of the Board of Parole. The new law required that the Chairman be appointed by the Governor to a term concurrent with that of the Governor.

1981: In 1981 law was amended to authorize and require the Parole Board to order victim restitution where the victim's loss consists of personal damage or loss of property.

1982: Parole eligibility was redefined by 1982 legislation. Prior to 7/1/1982 offenders who were parole eligible became eligible for parole consideration after serving 1/3 of their sentence, regardless of offender class. After 7/1/1982 parole eligibility varied, depending on the offender class (1st offender after serving 1/3 of their sentence; 2nd offender after serving ½ of their sentence; a 3rd offender was ineligible for parole).

Another major legislative change in 1982 was a change made to the good time statutes. Prior to the change, an offender could earn good time and be discharged sooner than the full-term date. Offenders released in this manner were considered to have satisfied their sentence. The change in law, however, now required that offenders released on their good time date be supervised, as if on parole, until their full-term date. This is a mandatory parole process which has been termed “good time parole supervision (GTPS)” or diminution of sentence. Release on GTPS is non-discretionary and requires no action by the Parole Board, although the Board has jurisdiction once the offender is released on GTPS.

1983: In 1983, law was amended to require the Parole Board to order, as a condition of parole, payment of unpaid court costs, fines, and/or cost of prosecution.

1984: The Department of Corrections and the Department Public Safety were combined into one agency, the Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections.

1990: In 1990, a new section to the parole statutes was added, allowing the Parole Board to grant parole to offenders, otherwise ineligible for parole, who are terminally ill or permanently incapacitated.

1995: The Board of Parole was expanded from five to seven members in 1995 which was likely due to the increase in volume of cases appearing before the Board.

2011: In 2011, the Louisiana Legislature adopted Act 153, which provided for the addition of an ex-officio member of the board. The ex-officio member is the warden, or in his absence the deputy warden, of the correctional facility in which the offender is housed. The ex-officio member is a non-voting member, but may provide information to the board during the proceedings. In addition, Act 153 placed comprehensive orientation and training requirements for all members of the Board.

2012: Act 714 of the 2012 Legislative Session, which became effective August 1, 2012, abolished the Board of Parole, created a Committee on Parole, and merged the duties, functions and powers of the Board of Pardons with the Committee on Parole.

Committee on Parole

2012: The Committee on Parole was created by Act 714 of the 2012 Legislative Session. This Act merged the duties, functions, and powers of the Board of Pardons with that of the Board of Parole, creating a Committee on Parole. Members of the Board of Pardons serve as members of the Committee on Parole. In addition to the 5 members of the Pardon Board, the Act added to at-large members who only serve on the Committee on Parole.

Board of Pardons and (Committee on) **Parole**:

2012: Act 714 expanded membership to the Board of Pardons from five members to seven, with the additional 2 members serving at-large only on the Committee on Parole and who do not serve as a member of the Board of Pardons. All members of the Board and Committee must now have at least five years of experience in the field of penology, corrections,

law enforcement, sociology, law, education, social work, medicine, or a combination thereof in addition to comprehensive orientation and in-service training requirements.

Our Mission

To serve the citizens of Louisiana through informed decision-making, thereby promoting public safety, addressing the needs of crime victims, and to facilitate successful reentry for offenders who have appropriately prepared for community supervision.

Our Vision

The Louisiana Board of Pardons & Parole, guided by evidence based principles, shall:

- Render just determination in regard to parole release and revocations, thereby maximizing the restoration of human potential;
- Ensure crime victims have a voice in the decision-making process;
- Use appropriate Department of Corrections and community resources to facilitate an offender's successful transition from confinement to the community;
- Impose reasonable conditions of release consistent with the goal of structured reintegration of the offender;
- Hold accountable those offenders who violate the conditions of release;
- Foster a positive relationship with all stakeholders;
- Administer the clemency process with recommendation to the Governor fully commensurate with public safety and due consideration;
- Strive to be a continuously learning organization

Our Values

We value Ethics, Integrity, Equity and Innovation.

Strategic Highlights

STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS

- ***10 PRACTICE TARGETS FOR RISK REDUCTION:***

Since 2013 the Committee on Parole adopted 10 practice targets for paroling authorities. The current board reviewed the practice targets and embraced them as best practices. These practice targets are designed to assist the parole decision makers to:

The 10 targets and the Committee's progress toward meeting each of the 10 targets is indicated below:

(**NP**=no progress; **SSP** – some significant progress achieved; **FI** = full implementation)

1. Use good, empirically-based actuarial tools to assess risk and criminogenic needs of offenders. SSP

For each offender that appears before a parole panel, the Louisiana Risk Needs Assessment (LARNA) instrument is reviewed. The Board is currently working with the Louisiana Prisoner Reentry Initiative's Implementation Steering Committee to test the newly developed TIGER risk/needs assessment instrument which has recently been validated for the Louisiana population.

2. Develop and use clear, evidence-based, policy-driven decision-making tools, policies and guidelines that reflect the full range of a paroling authority's concerns. SSP

Policy provides written guidance on the decision-making process which includes factors considered in making release decisions. The decision-maker considers unique conditions in each case.

3. Maintain meaningful partnerships with institutional corrections and community supervision to encourage a seamless transition process and availability of sound, evidence-based programs. SSP

The Committee works closely with the Department of Public Safety & Corrections (DPS&C), both institutional corrections and community supervision, in a variety of ways. Routine participation by the Board's Executive Director in the DPS&C Secretary's Management Meetings as well as Probation & Parole District Administrator meetings helps to strengthen collaboration and coordination with the DOC.

4. Use influence and leverage to target institutional and community resources to mid- and high-risk offenders to address their criminogenic needs. FI – work is ongoing

Each parole panel member considers program participation in release decision making. During this calendar year, the board has attempted to refrain from requiring risk reduction programming for low risk offenders, understanding that services should be targeted for moderate to high risk offenders.

5. Consider for release at the earliest stage possible—in light of statutes and other sentencing interests – offenders assessed as low risk. SSP

Offenders who are parole eligible are generally considered for parole release no sooner than six months prior to their parole eligibility date. To expedite the pre-parole investigation process for low risk offenders, the panel has worked with the Division of Probation & Parole for special processing of these cases.

6. Use the parole interview/hearing/review process as an opportunity to, among othe3r goals, enhance an offender's motivation to change. SSP – training opportunity

During the orientation for new board and committee members, they were exposed to the principles of motivational interviewing techniques to strengthen their interview skills. The Board and Committee will continue to seek to identify, learn and use interview techniques that have been shown through research to have the ability to enhance an offender's motivation to change.

7. Fashion condition setting policy to minimize requirements on low risk offenders, and target conditions to criminogenic needs of medium and high risk offenders. NP – policy revision

The general conditions of supervision are established in statute. The Committee works to limit the imposition of special conditions, if any at all, on those offenders assessed as low risk. The Committee also sets conditions that allow for the completion of some programming in the community – when realistically available – rather than requiring all programming to be completed prior to release.

8. Develop policy-driven, evidence informed responses to parole violations that incorporate considerations of risk, criminogenic needs and severity, assure even-handed treatment of violators, and utilize resources wisely. FI

The Committee works closely with the Division of Probation and Parole on the response to violations that are quick, certain, and consistent using administrative sanctions. The response to violations is based upon the severity of the violation and the risk of the offender.

9. Develop and strengthen case-level decision making skills/capacities in these areas. SSP

Board and committee members work to sharpen their case decision making skills through routine discussions regarding the use of decision making tools. Orientation for new board and committee members included familiarization with the format and significance of information contained in case files.

10. Develop and strengthen agency level policy making, strategic management and performance measure skills/capacities. SSP

Data collection is an important aspect of measuring the board's performance as well as member performance. The data collected monthly is made available to board members, board staff, and DOC management. Each board and committee member completed a self-assessment in the fall. The compilation of all assessments will be utilized to develop a training curriculum for 2017.

2016 STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS

	Objective	Progress Achieved
1.1	Limit the number of cases on each docket to allow ample time for case review	Dockets are limited to 25 cases, **FI**
1.2	Strengthen performance measurement/skills capacities	Work is ongoing
1.3	Measure caseload versus decisions	This info is made available to individual members quarterly. **FI**
2.1	Maintain ACA accreditation	Ongoing
2.2	Pursue staggered terms for board members	**NP** in 2016. Legislation requested for 2017
2.3	Continue to develop improved efficiencies of operations	**SSP**; ongoing
3.1	Build training dates into the annual schedule	**FI** on annual basis
3.2	In-depth training on structured decision making	**NP**. To be scheduled after TIGER implementation
3.3	Collaborate to determine training needs/opportunities	**FI.** Accomplished through annual self-assessment
4.1	Develop educational outreach program to include police, community corrections, corrections, victims	**NP**. Executive Director is developing a written plan for 2017
4.2	Educate key legislators	**NP** This will be included with Outreach Plan referenced in 4.1
4.3	Build relationships with other criminal justice players	**NP**. This will be included with Outreach Plan referenced in 4.1

(**NP**=no progress; **SSP** – some significant progress achieved; **FI** = full implementation)

LA Board of Pardons & Parole
2017 Strategic Plan

Mission Statement Goal		Objective	
1	Promote Public Safety	1.1	Develop outreach program to include police, community corrections, prosecutors
		1.2	Use actuarial tool to assess risk and criminogenic needs of offenders, link offenders with interventions to address criminogenic needs
		1.3	Pursue staggered terms for board members
		1.4	Maintain ACA accreditation
2	Informed Decision Making	2.1	Build training dates into the annual schedule
		2.2	Continue to develop improved efficiencies of operations
		2.3	Maintain ACA accreditation
3	Address Needs of Crime Victims	3.1	Develop educational outreach program to include police, community corrections, corrections, victims
		3.2	Collect data that tracks contact with victims
		3.3	Maintain ACA accreditation
4	Facilitate Successful Reentry	4.1	Determine appropriate conditions of parole
		4.2	Educate key legislators and build relationships with other criminal justice players
		4.3	Target risk reduction interventions to offenders according to assessed level of risk and criminogenic need
		4.4	Maintain ACA accreditation

Operating Highlights

BOARD TRAINING

In January, the Board Chair and Executive Director attended the American Correctional Association's winter training conference hosted by the Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections (DPS&C) in New Orleans.

In February, an orientation training was conducted for all new board and committee members. This 40-hour training session was provided in collaboration with the DPS&C and included a site visit to Louisiana State Penitentiary.

Preparation for a training program, "Orientation Training for New Parole Board Members" provided by the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) began in May. This 40-hour program is designed to help new parole board members gain knowledge and skills in informed decision making through evidence-based principles and practices for determining offender risk and motivation for change. It is also designed to help new board members evaluate the efficacy of release plans. The program emphasizes the critical role of collaboration and partnerships with stakeholders to increase offender success and public safety. The program uses a peer interaction process. Mandatory course components included online sessions, face-to-face training, and independent work. The independent work included a ride-along session with a Louisiana Probation & Parole Officer. In July, all new members of the Pardon Board and 1 of the new committee members completed the NIC training in Aurora, Colorado.

A full day board and committee training session was conducted in August at DPS&C headquarters. The training session included a roundtable discussion with DPS&C Secretary Jimmy LeBlanc, along with his Chief of Operations and wardens from Louisiana State Penitentiary, Elayn Hunt Correctional Center, and Raymond Laborde Correctional Center. This session provided board members with useful insight into the challenges and issues faced by the DPS&C as well as meaningful discussion about the parole process.

In October, board and committee members were asked to complete a self-evaluation of their own performance as well as that of the Board and Committee as a team. The purpose of the evaluation was to stimulate communication among members to discuss the level of performance associated with their job duties and responsibilities. The Board Chair and Executive Director will use the evaluations submitted to develop a plan for training opportunities in 2017.

In November, as a follow-up to the August roundtable discussion and training event, the Board Chair and the Board's victim advocate participated in a meeting with DPS&C Secretary Jimmy LeBlanc and his key staff. The issues raised during August were reviewed and possible solutions were discussed.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

With 2 senior staff members retiring in February and March, the Executive Director faced many staffing challenges. Positions were filled either through internal promotion or outside recruitment efforts. During the periods where vacancies were lengthy, existing staff responded positively to ensure that board operations were uninterrupted.

In March, board staff launched its local outreach by visiting a local Probation & Parole field office, visiting with staff and observing their processes. Also during this month, the Executive Director began attending regular monthly meetings of the DPS&C Secretary's Management Team.

The Executive Director and Principal Assistant to the Board worked together and in collaboration with their DPS&C liaison and the Office of the Louisiana State Register to learn the rulemaking authority of the Board and the process required for promulgating administrative rules.

As part of staff development, all staff were involved in the annual review of all board policies and directives. This review provides staff with the opportunity to recommend any revision that may more accurately describe the current practice of staff and/or the board, as well as any recommendation that may improve efficiency, while maintaining compliance with ACA standards.

In October, the Executive Director along with board management staff attended the Louisiana Correctional Association annual training conference in Baton Rouge. It provided staff with a unique networking opportunity in addition to the timely training sessions.

2016 LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

House Bill 7
CRIMINAL/PROCEDURE: Provides with respect to expungement;
Signed by the Governor - Act 125

House Bill 142
WEAPONS/FIREARMS: Provides with respect to eligibility requirement for concealed carry permits
Signed by the Governor - Act 212

House Bill 172
PARDON/PAROLE: Provides with respect to credit for time served pending a technical parole Violation
Signed by the Governor - Act 213

House Bill 254
CRIMINAL/PROCEDURE: Provides with respect to certain electronic tracking devices;
Signed by the Governor - Act 308

House Bill 366
CORRECTIONS: Provides with respect to parole supervision fees
Signed by the Governor - Act 111

House Bill 403
CORRECTIONS: Provides for membership of the reentry advisory council
Signed by the Governor - Act 113

House Bill 802
CRIMINAL/SENTENCING: Creates a procedure for designating certain crimes in the court

minutes as a crime of violence and provides relative to the benefits and restrictions based on such designation
Signed by the Governor - Act 509

House Bill 931
CRIME: Amends provisions of law regarding domestic abuse battery
Signed by the Governor - Act 452

House Bill 953
CRIME: Amends the provisions of law regarding hate crimes
Signed by the Governor - Act 184

House Bill 1022
COURTS/DISTRICT: Provides for the suspension of certain sentences upon completion of reentry court
Signed by the Governor - Act 421

Senate Bill 24
CRIMINAL PROCEDURE: Provides relative to parole eligibility.
Signed by the Governor - Act 469

In July, members of the Board and board staff met with staff at Louisiana State Penitentiary to review the *Miller v Alabama* Supreme Court ruling regarding meaningful opportunity for parole consideration for juveniles sentenced to life imprisonment. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss program opportunities for this group of offenders and expectations of the Committee on Parole.

There were several bills introduced during the legislative session to address the retroactivity of the Supreme Court ruling in *Miller v. Alabama*. The measure that advanced was House Bill 264; however, the bill failed to pass the Senate during the last moments of the legislative session.

As there were over 300 juvenile lifers subject to the *Miller* ruling, the board initiated promulgation of an emergency administrative rule to establish a procedure for the board to consider should any retroactive *Miller* cases who had been re-sentenced by the Court appear before a parole panel. The rule mirrored the requirements established in current law for *Miller* cases sentenced after 2012. However, the Board's oversight committee, Judiciary C, rejected the emergency rule.

It is anticipated that a measure will be offered during the 2017 regular legislative session that will resolve the *Miller* retroactivity issue. The Board is committed to working with all interested parties in providing information to assist in that policy development.

In September, the Board Chair and Executive Director collaborated with the DPS&C to develop a process for the implementation of Act 469, which became effective August 1, 2016. This act provides an opportunity for parole consideration for offenders sentenced as a habitual offender for certain crimes.

The Board Chair and Executive Director met with the DPS&C Medical Director in December to discuss the process for obtaining the statutorily required mental health evaluations for juvenile lifers. This evaluation is to be provided to the parole panel considering the case for parole.

VICTIMS SERVICES

In April, the DPS&C received notice from the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement of a VOCA grant award. The purpose of the grant is to provide assistance to the Board of Pardons & Parole to collect data on services provided to victims. The data will then be used by the Board to enhance its services to victims. The DPS&C hired a contractor in August to serve as the liaison between the Department's Crime Victims Services Bureau and the Board. Data collection began in September. In early November, the contractor position became vacant and the DPS&C is working to recruit for the position.

The Board Chair and the Executive Director developed a reporting format to measure performance relative to contacts with victims. This report has been incorporated into the monthly statistical data reported to the DPS&C.

Late in the year, the Board Chair worked with the DPS&C webmaster to update the information posted to the DPS&C website and the Board's webpage to assist victims.

TRANSPARENCY

The Board of Pardons & Parole continues to provide information to the public through its webpage. All dockets, hearing decisions, and current policies and directives are posted at www.doc.la.gov.

BUSINESS PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

As part of the ACA accreditation process, there is a continuous review of policies, procedures and practices. Throughout the year, improvements to processes were accomplished:

- All ACA files were converted to electronic format and made available to all staff.
- The Executive Director worked with the DPS&C information technology staff to create an internal shared drive for staff to efficiently share information.
- The Executive Director developed an Access database for use in tracking all clemency applications and other clemency data to provide more accurate and readily available information.
- All Board policies and directives were posted to the staff shared drive for easy access of the most current policy information.
- In connection with the newly created clemency database, in April the Board Chair began testing the availability of information in an electronic format for review by board members in preparation for clemency hearings.
- In early spring, the Board began to engage in discussion with the Division of Probation & Parole regarding the possibility of issuing warrants in an electronic format.
- As a cost savings measure and to improve efficiency, in early summer the Board began to explore opportunities for a more streamlined method of processing single member actions by Board members. This work is ongoing and in 2017 it is anticipated that DPS&C will realize a cost savings, as dissemination of the Board's orders will occur electronically and in a more timely manner.
- With numerous staffing changes throughout the year, as parole hearing dockets were being developed, it was learned that the DPS&C were no long submitting the required

information to the Board on offenders who were eligible for parole consideration. Staff met with the DPS&C and worked with the Chief of Operations to resolve this critical issue.

- In August, an internal procedure for the use of electronic signature by Board and Committee members was developed. The Executive Director began the work of developing the application that would be used for this purpose.
- In the fall, the Board obtained a criminal justice student intern to assist with board operations. The intern completed short-term projects that were relevant to the student's field of study while assisting with data collection and data entry.
- To improve efficiency and better streamline the parole case information provided to board members, in the fall of 2016 the Executive Director initiated weekly team meetings to discuss upcoming parole cases. This has resulted in more complete and accurate information provided to board members in advance of parole hearings.
- In November, board members began testing the application used for electronic processing of single member actions. Full implementation is expected in early 2017.
- In December, prior to pardon hearings, all docket information and case records were made available to board members electronically. This measure results in cost savings and increased efficiency for both staff and board members.
- A new and more detailed clemency application was developed and disseminated among staff and board members for review. It is anticipated this new application will become effective in January 2017.
- The Board worked with its attorney and staff to develop an internal procedure for an offender and/or an offender's counsel to request a continuance or withdrawal from parole or pardon consideration. This new procedure will ensure that all such requests are handled consistently.

OUTREACH

It is critically important that the Board maintain meaningful partnerships with institutional corrections, community supervision and other key partner agencies to strengthen collaboration and coordination. Outreach is a critical component of those partnerships and included the following activities throughout the year.

- The Board Chair participated in quarterly meetings of the Implementation Steering Committee of the Louisiana Prisoner Reentry Initiative (LPRI).
- The board conducted live parole hearings at Elayn Hunt Correctional Center in St. Gabriel, Louisiana and at Dixon Correctional Institute in Jackson, Louisiana. This provided personal interaction between institutional staff and board members as well as the parole panel's personal interaction with the offender, their families, and victims.
- The Executive Director attended the Louisiana Probation & Parole Association's Info Fête event. This annual event provides a networking opportunity with parole officers, legislators, and others who influence policy in Louisiana.
- To explain the board's processes and expectations, the Board Chair and key board staff met with an offender reentry class at Elayn Hunt Correctional Center (EHCC). The Board Vice-Chair and Executive Director also met with another reentry class. In addition, one of the at-large members of the Committee on Parole met with a reentry class to explain the board's process and answer pertinent questions.
- The Board Chair met with the Louisiana State University Law School's Parole Clinic students to discuss the parole process. The parole clinic is comprised of 2nd and 3rd year law students who represent offenders they select during parole proceedings.

- The Governor appointed the Board Chair to serve on the newly re-organized Reentry Advisory Council.
- A delegation composed of the Board Chair and key board staff met with representatives of Louisiana State Penitentiary's Classification, Mental Health, Education, and upper management staff to discuss implementation of Act 469 of the 2016 regular legislative session, the failed juvenile lifer legislation, and the parole and pardon processes in general.
- The Board Chair and board's management staff met with representatives of the offender population at Louisiana State Penitentiary to discuss the parole and pardon processes in general.
- The Board Chair participated in a live radio interview with KLSP at Louisiana State Penitentiary. The broadcast was for the benefit of the offender population at Angola.
- The Board Chair, as an invited participant, made a presentation at the National Convening for the Fair Sentencing of Youth in Washington, D.C.
- The Board Vice-Chair and Executive Director addressed students in the Division of Probation & Parole's Training Academy Class #36. The Board Chair later attended the graduation ceremonies for Class #36.
- The Board has reached out to the Louisiana District Attorneys' Association regarding training opportunities for its members as well as making parole case records available to district attorneys in advance of parole hearings.

Looking Ahead

Planned improvements include

- Continued efforts to inform and educate public safety partners on best practices, including the supervision and sanctioning of offenders in the community;
- Incorporating research-based principles into conditions of supervision and release planning processes to gain greater reductions in recidivism over time by targeting services to high-risk offenders and setting conditions of evidence-based interventions to address criminal risk factors;
- Continued enhancements to the agency website and printed materials to better meet the needs of victims, offenders on supervision and their families, local supervising authorities and others;
- Improvements to the victim notification process;
- Continuing agency efforts to improve all agency processes and practices in support of increased public safety.
- Long-term efficiency/quality improvements will be gained by increasing electronic records management of Board case files, and ensure full and ongoing compatibility of sharable information with the Department of Corrections and other Public Safety partners.

Facts and Statistics

Average Number of Offenders Under the Jurisdiction of the Board of Pardons & Parole

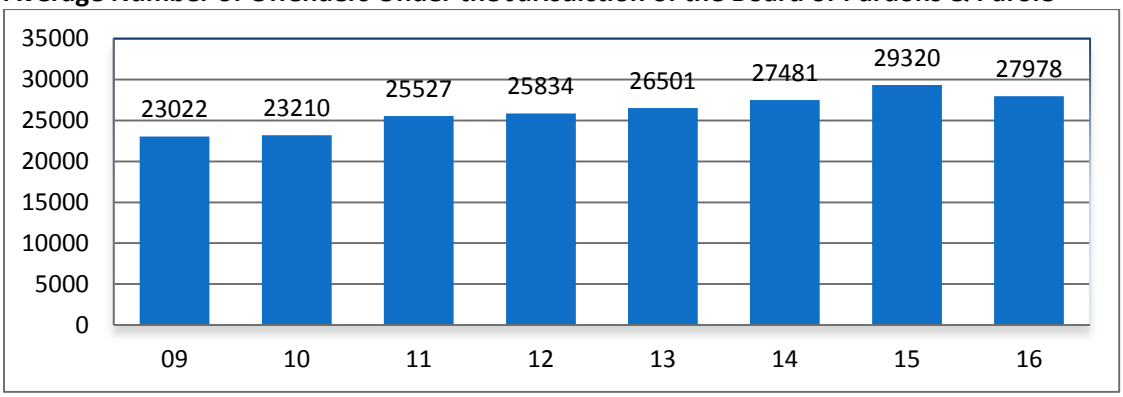

Figure 1: The chart above illustrates the average number of offenders who are under the jurisdiction of the Board for each fiscal year indicated.

Average Number of Offenders Under Jurisdiction of the Board by Type of Supervision

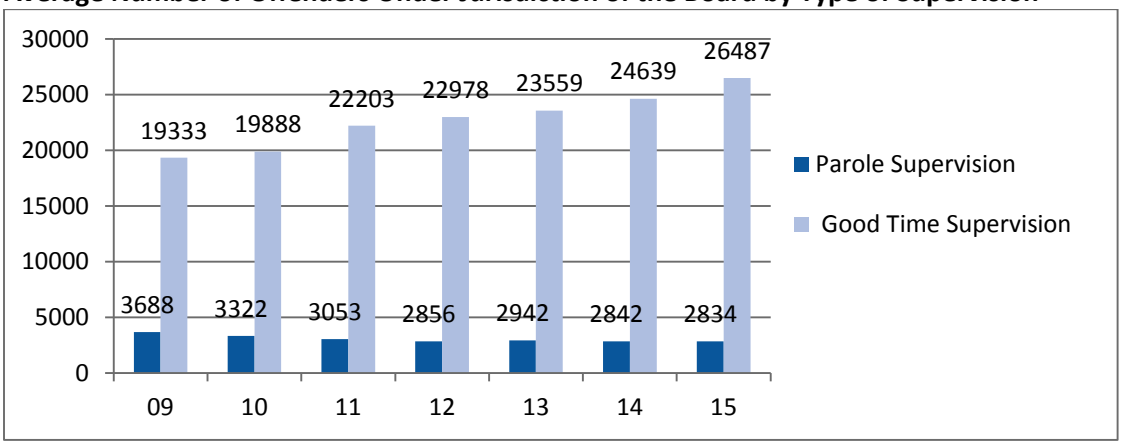

Figure 2: The chart above illustrates the average number of offenders who are under the jurisdiction of the Board for each fiscal year indicated, by type of supervision.

Parole Revocation

Parole revocation is the administrative act of committing a parolee back to prison for his/her failure to comply with the conditions of parole supervision. The revocation process is essential to the Board's mission to ensure public safety. The violation process begins when law enforcement or the Division of Probation & Parole notifies the Board that an offender under supervision has allegedly violated one or more conditions of their supervision. The Division of Probation & Parole (P&P) Headquarters staff reviews the reported violation(s) and submits the request for warrant to the Board. Once the warrant is signed by a board member, P&P updates the National Crime Information Center/Louisiana Crime Information Center databases; responds to requests from law enforcement agencies; and coordinates the extradition of out-of-state violators. In FY 2016, there were 8,340 warrants issued by the Board.

Parole Revocations FY 2009 – 2016

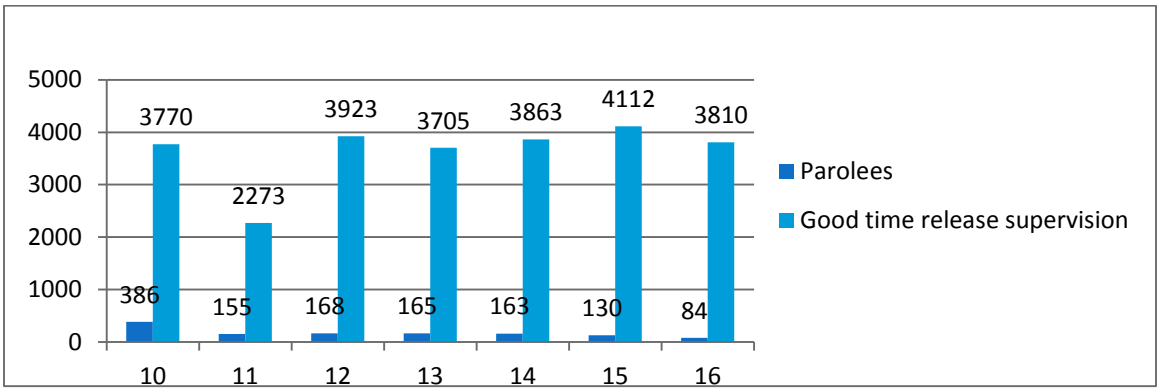

Figure 3: The chart above illustrates the number of offenders whose parole supervision was revoked for each fiscal year indicated, by type of supervision. These offenders were returned to prison. The significant decrease in parolees whose supervision was revoked can be attributed to the Board's use of alternatives to revocation (program participation, transitional work program, etc.)

Technical Violations

To reduce incarceration for technical violations, Act 402 of 2007 was unanimously approved by the Louisiana legislature. Act 402 set a 90-day limit on the incarceration in jail or prison of those whose parole has been revoked for the first time for violating the rules of their community supervision. This measure allowed the prioritization of jail and prison beds for more serious offenders and for the direction of lower-level offenders to less expensive and potentially more effective alternatives.

	Parole			**Good Time Release**			**Act 402 Revocation-ILR**		
Fiscal Yr	Total Pop	Revoked	% Revoked	Total Pop	Revoked	% Revoked	Total Pop	Revoked	% Revoked
2010	3322	386	11.6%	19888	3770	19.0%	23210	1574	6.8%
2011	3054	155	5.1%	22203	2273	10.2%	25257	1156	4.6%
2012	2880	168	5.8%	23281	3923	16.9%	25806	1244	4.8%
2013	2942	165	5.6%	23559	3705	15.7%	26501	1283	4.8%
2014	2842	163	5.7%	24640	3863	15.7%	27482	1418	5.2%
2015	2834	130	4.6%	26487	4112	15.5%	29320	1333	4.5%
2016	2758	84	3.0%	27763	3810	13.7%	27978	1560	5.6%

Figure 4: The chart above shows the percentage of the population under the jurisdiction of the Board whose parole was revoked for the period indicated. The use of Act 402 revocations remained steady, while the percent of the total population under the Board's jurisdiction who were returned to prison has shown a decrease.

Act 299 Revocations - 2nd or subsequent technical violations

Act 299 of the 2015 legislative session extended the board's authority to use a short-term jail sanction for second or subsequent technical violations of the conditions of parole. Act 299 became effective August 1, 2015.

July 2015	0
Aug 2015	3
Sept 2015	13
Oct 2015	19
Nov 2015	10
Dec 2015	19
Jan 2016	17
Feb 2016	12
Mar 2016	15
Apr 2016	28
May 2016	17
Jun 2016	9
	162

Figure 5: The chart above shows the number of times the Board imposed revocation under Act 299 for a 2nd or subsequent technical violation of the conditions of supervision, since the law became effective in August 2015.

	FY 12	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16
Population					
Parolees	2856	2942	2842	2834	2758
Good Time Parolees	22978	23559	24640	26487	27559
New Cases					
Parolees	790	1131	632	667	474
Good Time Parolees	14303	14128	15352	14674	13484
Revocations					
Parolees revoked	168	165	163	130	84
Good Time Parolees revoked	3923	3705	3863	4112	3810
Total number of revocations	4091	3870	4026	4242	3894
% of Total Revocations Parolees	4.1%	4.3%	4.0%	3.1%	2.2%
% of Parolee Population Revoked	5.9%	5.6%	5.7%	4.6%	3.05%
% of Total Revocations Good Time Parolees	95.9%	95.7%	96.0%	96.9%	97.8%
% of Good Time Population Revoked	27.4%	26.2%	25.2%	28.0%	28.3%
Revoked - New Felony Conviction (NFC)	782	682	641	703	756
% of all Revocations revoked for NFC	19.1%	17.6%	15.9%	16.6%	19.4%
% of offenders under supervision revoked for NFC	5.2%	4.5%	4.0%	4.6%	5.4%
Waivers of final hearing	3802	3635	3734	3984	3634
% of Total Revocations Waived Hearing	92.9%	93.9%	92.7%	93.9%	93.3%

Figure 6: The chart above provides information on the population under the jurisdiction of the board. The number of new parole cases shows a decrease which may be attributed to more offenders taking advantage of program opportunities and earning good time credit for program completion (which moves their good time date ahead of their parole eligibility date). The revocations shown in this chart do not include those under Act 402 or 299 for 1st or subsequent technical violations. It also shows that consistently over 90% of offenders waive their right to a final revocation hearing.

Administrative Sanctions

In 2012, the board authorized P&P Officers to respond swiftly and consistently to violations of supervision through the use of a performance grid and administrative sanctions. The sanction could include a period of incarceration not to exceed 10 days.

Levels of Administrative Sanctions

Figure 7 above indicates the recommended actions in response to violations.

These actions are gradual and proportionate with the level of violation. Although there is a wide range of available actions, the supervising officer may determine that a departure from the recommended actions may be an appropriate response to a violation. The reason for the departure is documented.

	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16
Count of Parolees authorized for Admin Sanctions (AS)	26512	27722	28785	31035
Number of AS imposed for parolees	1955	2440	2346	2357
Level 1 Action: Community Service Work	76	81	54	60
Level 1 Action: Jail Sanction (1-3 days)	186	338	324	285
Level 2 Action: Community Service Work	87	81	64	63
Level 2 Action: Curfew	176	190	176	154
Level 2 Action: Ordered Services	132	157	214	196
Level 2 Action: Ordered Treatment	578	621	600	517
Level 2 Action: Day Reporting Center	159	113	190	327
Level 2 Action: Jail Sanction (3-7 days)	343	521	473	414
Level 3 Action: Electronic Monitoring	14	22	38	15
Level 3 Action: Inpatient Treatment without Detention	49	45	84	71
Level 3 Action: Jail Sanction (7-10 days)	46	67	71	76
Level 3 Action: Arrest/Detain with Inpatient Treatment	109	204	58	179

Figure 8: The data illustrated in the above chart was provided by the DPS&C from the quarterly Measures by Reform report.

Administrative Sanctions: Level 1 Actions

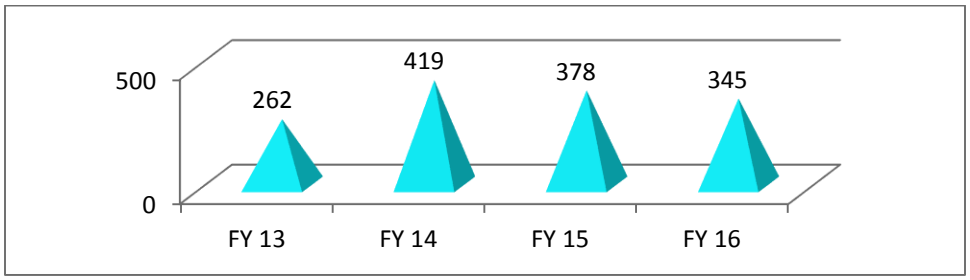

Figure 9: The above figure shows the number of Level 1 Actions imposed on offenders under the supervision of the board. Information in this chart was provided by the DPS&C from the quarterly Measures by Reform report.

Administrative Sanctions: Level 2 Actions

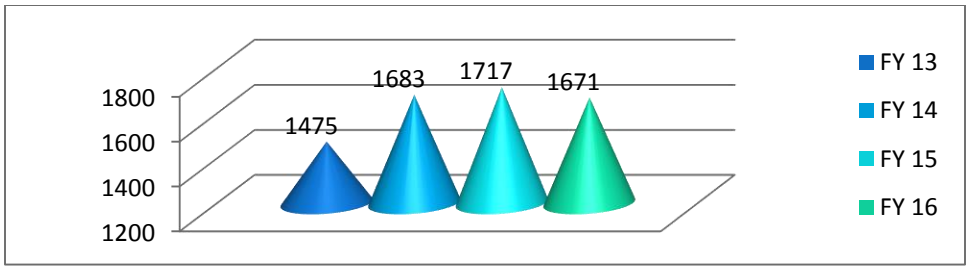

Figure 10: The above figure shows the number of Level 2 Actions imposed on offenders under the supervision of the board. Information in this chart was provided by the DPS&C from the quarterly Measures by Reform report.

Administrative Sanctions: Level 3 Actions

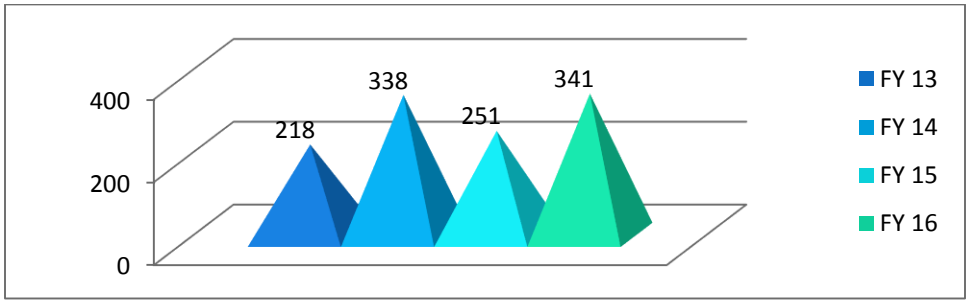

Figure 11: The above figure shows the number of Level 3 Actions imposed on offenders under the supervision of the board. Information in this chart was provided by the DPS&C from the quarterly Measures by Reform report.

Recidivism (Data Source: DPS&C April 2015)

In Louisiana, the DPS&C defines recidivism as the return to custody following conviction for a new felony or technical revocation of supervision after having been released from incarceration through completed sentence, released on parole, conditional release, or split probation sentence. Offenders released to a detainer, released in error, deceased, or transferred to another jurisdiction are not included. An offender may be released multiple times but is only counted once per release year. Offenders are tracked for a period of time from date of release based on the year of return (1st year returns: 12 months; 2nd year returns: 24 months; 3rd year returns: 36 months; 4th year returns: 48 months; 5th year returns: 60 months).

Recidivism - All Releases

	Total Releases	1st Year Returns	%	2nd Year Returns	%	3rd Year Returns	%	4th Year Returns	%	5th Year Returns	%
2004	13,691	2,736	**20.0%**	4,374	**31.9%**	5,295	**38.7%**	5,892	**43.0%**	6,328	**46.2%**
2005	13,550	2,485	**18.3%**	4,188	**30.9%**	5,124	**37.8%**	5,762	**42.5%**	6,234	**46.0%**
2006	13,032	2,301	**17.7%**	3,827	**29.4%**	4,736	**36.3%**	5,376	**41.3%**	5,875	**45.1%**
2007	12,650	2,235	**17.7%**	3,732	**29.5%**	4,646	**36.7%**	5,265	**41.6%**	5,731	**45.3%**
2008	12,833	2,141	**16.7%**	3,676	**28.6%**	4,643	**36.2%**	5,277	**41.1%**	5,727	**44.6%**
2009	12,933	2,026	**15.7%**	3,579	**27.7%**	4,543	**35.1%**	5,103	**39.5%**	5,519	**42.7%**
2010	14,738	2,195	**14.9%**	4,055	**27.5%**	5,135	**34.8%**	5,777	39.2%		
2011	14,176	2,165	**15.3%**	4,005	**28.3%**	5,065	**35.7%**				
2012	14,429	2,256	**15.6%**	4,061	**28.1%**						
2013	15,193	2,349	15.5%								

Figure 12 above shows the rate of recidivism for the entire DPS&C population based on year of return. Includes releases from state prisons, local jail facilities, and transitional work programs. The five year recidivism rate of the entire DPS&C population is shown at 42.7%

Recidivism - Parole Board Releases

	Total Releases	1st Year Returns	%	2nd Year Returns	%	3rd Year Returns	%	4th Year Returns	%	5th Year Returns	%
2004	1,048	158	**15.1%**	302	**28.8%**	383	**36.5%**	424	**40.5%**	454	**43.3%**
2005	1,004	152	**15.1%**	305	**30.4%**	382	**38.0%**	427	**42.5%**	454	**45.2%**
2006	1,015	113	**11.1%**	243	**23.9%**	309	**30.4%**	363	**35.8%**	398	**39.2%**
2007	1,119	137	**12.2%**	272	**24.3%**	364	**32.5%**	415	**37.1%**	453	**40.5%**
2008	620	52	**8.4%**	147	**23.7%**	188	**30.3%**	216	**34.8%**	237	**38.2%**
2009	378	34	**9.0%**	76	**20.1%**	101	**26.7%**	118	**31.2%**	130	**34.4%**
2010	370	22	**5.9%**	67	**18.1%**	94	**25.4%**	103	**27.8%**		
2011	391	29	**7.4%**	75	**19.2%**	104	**26.6%**				
2012	696	59	**8.5%**	143	**20.5%**						
2013	600	49	**8.2%**								

Figure 13 above shows the rate of recidivism for offenders who were granted parole by the Board of Pardons & Parole and were subsequently released on parole supervision, based on the year of return. The five year recidivism rate for parole board releases is shown at 34.4% which is significantly less than that shown in Figure 12.

Other Actions

In addition to due diligence in hearing preparation, a single member of the Board may act upon matters in accordance with established policy. A single member may act upon activity/violation reports which have been reviewed and a recommended action has been made by the Division of P&P, consider delaying an offender's revocation hearing beyond 30 calendar days from detainment for good cause only, rescind parole pending another parole hearing, add or remove special conditions of supervision. These actions do not require review by a parole panel unless the single member fails to follow the recommended action of the parole officer. During fiscal year 2016, there were 19,820 actions acted upon by a single member.

Period	Rev-NFC	Rev-Wvr	Unsat	Act 402	Act 299	Def PH	Warrant	Reprimand	SC	Total
FY 12	782	3802	640	1080	0	1792	7428	1500	1656	18686
13	682	3635	831	1074	0	1710	7474	1329	1569	18304
14	641	3734	806	980	0	1929	7291	1213	1183	17777
15	703	3984	934	879	0	2284	7886	1221	1164	19055
16	756	3634	1204	1239	162	2491	8340	1142	1014	19820

Figure 14 above is reflective of actions taken by a single member of the board for the period indicated.
Rev-NFC: Revocation of supervision for new felony conviction
Rev-Wvr: Revocation of supervision when the offender waived his/her final revocation hearing
Unsat: Termination of supervision in an unsatisfactory manner
Act 402: Revocation under Act 402 for 1st technical violation – short term jail up to 90 days
Act 299: Revocation under Act 299 for 2nd or subsequent technical violation – short term jail up to 90 days
Warrant: Warrants issued by the Board
Reprimand: Reprimands issued by the Board
SC: Special conditions of supervision added, removed, or modified
Total: The total number of actions taken by a single member of the Board

Medical Parole

In June 2016, the DPS&C revised its policy regarding medical parole to ensure that an efficient mechanism was in place to identify DPS&C offenders who represent a low public safety risk to themselves and to society due to their significant health conditions and whose needs would be better served in a non-correctional setting so that these offenders could be considered for medical parole. Medical parole is in addition to any other parole for which an offender may be eligible. The offender must be determined to be **permanently disabled** (*unable to engage in substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical impairment which can be expected to result in death or which is or can be expected to be permanently irreversible*) or **terminally ill** (*any offender who is diagnosed with a terminal illness and death is expected within one year; the medical condition is usually permanent in nature and carries a poor prognosis*). The Board also revised its policy and internal process for processing recommendations for medical parole and saw a significant increase in the number of individuals who were considered for medical parole over the past two fiscal years.

Medical Parole	Considered
FY 12	15
13	13
14	3
15	7
16	19

Figure 15 above illustrates the number of offenders considered for medical parole for the period indicated.

Paroles Granted by the Board

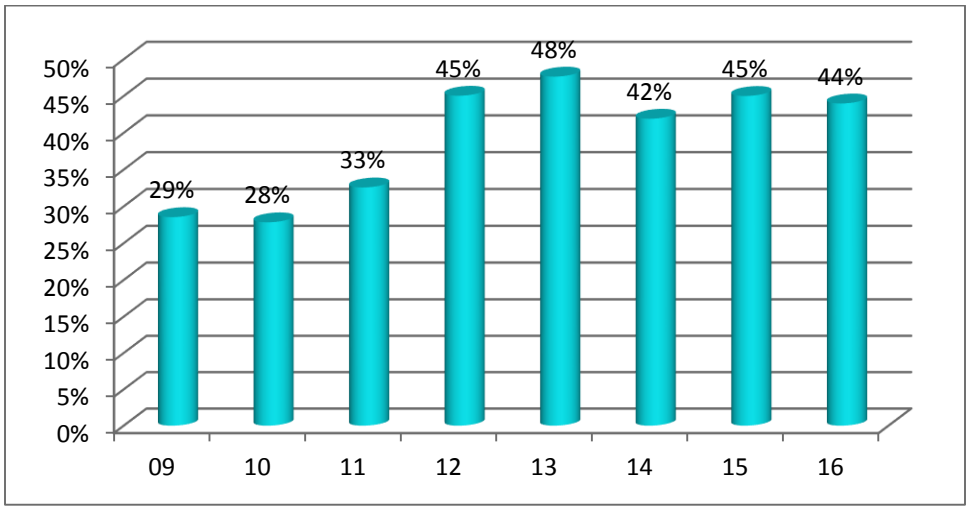

Figure 16 above if reflective of the percentage of paroles granted by the Board for the period indicated.

Paroles Granted with Contingency

Often, when a need is identified during the parole hearing process, the Board may grant parole with the condition that the offender complete specific programming prior to release. Under no circumstance may an offender who has been granted parole be held in jail longer than six months from the date parole was granted.

Fiscal Yr	TWP	SA	GED	Pre-Release	Total Granted Parole	Total Granted With Contingency	% Granted With Contingency
2012	86	168	15	0	673	269	40.0%
2013	150	120	8	14	671	292	43.5%
2014	125	101	17	20	610	263	43.1%
2015	91	93	7	10	516	201	39.0%
2016	69	102	8	10	647	189	29.2%

Figure 17 above reflects paroles that were granted with a contingency. The dramatic reduction in "grants with contingencies" may be an indication that the offenders are better prepared when appearing before the board now, as compared to FY 2012).
TWP: Transitional Work Program
SA: Substance Abuse Education or Treatment Program
GED: High School Equivalency Certification
Pre-Release: 100 hours DPS&C Pre-Release Curriculum

Parole Releases

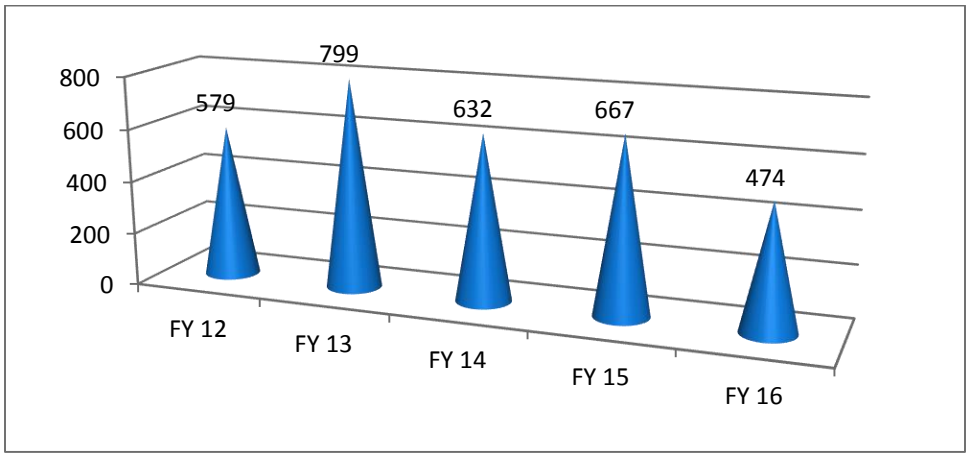

Figure 18 above reflects the number of offenders who were granted parole by a parole panel and who were released on parole. The reduction in parole releases may be due to offenders taking advantage of program opportunities and earning good time credits for program completion (moving their good time release date ahead of their parole eligibility date).

Parole Completions

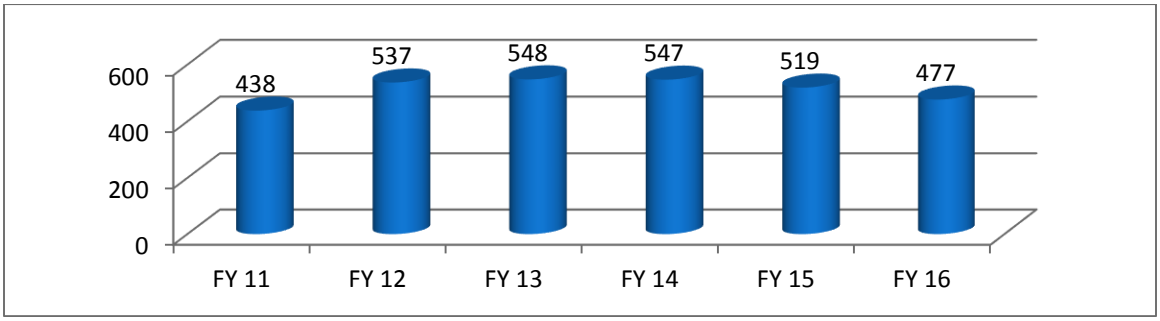

Figure 19 above reflects the number of offenders were released on parole and who completed their term of supervision (full term).

Good Time Release - Completions

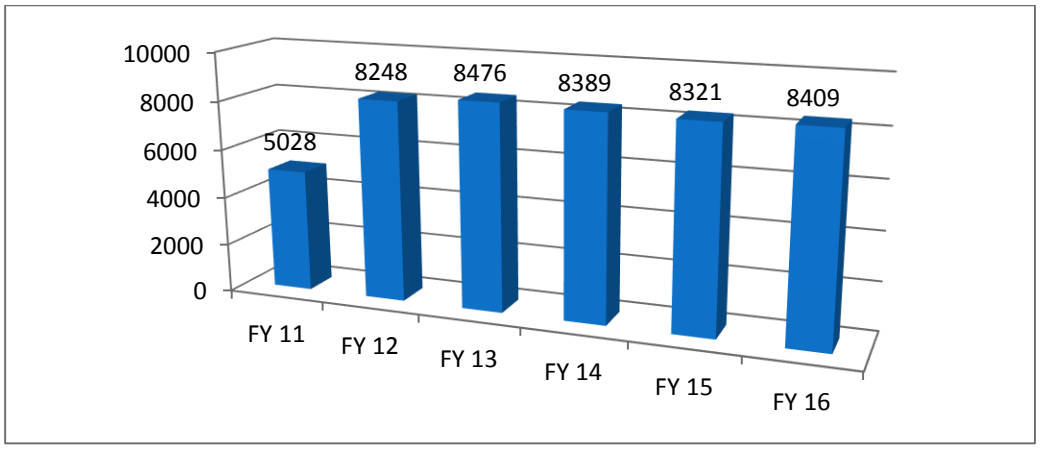

Figure 20 above reflects the number of offenders were released on diminution of sentence (good time, non-discretionary release) and who completed their term of supervision (full term).

Overall Completion Rate – Parole and Good Time Releases

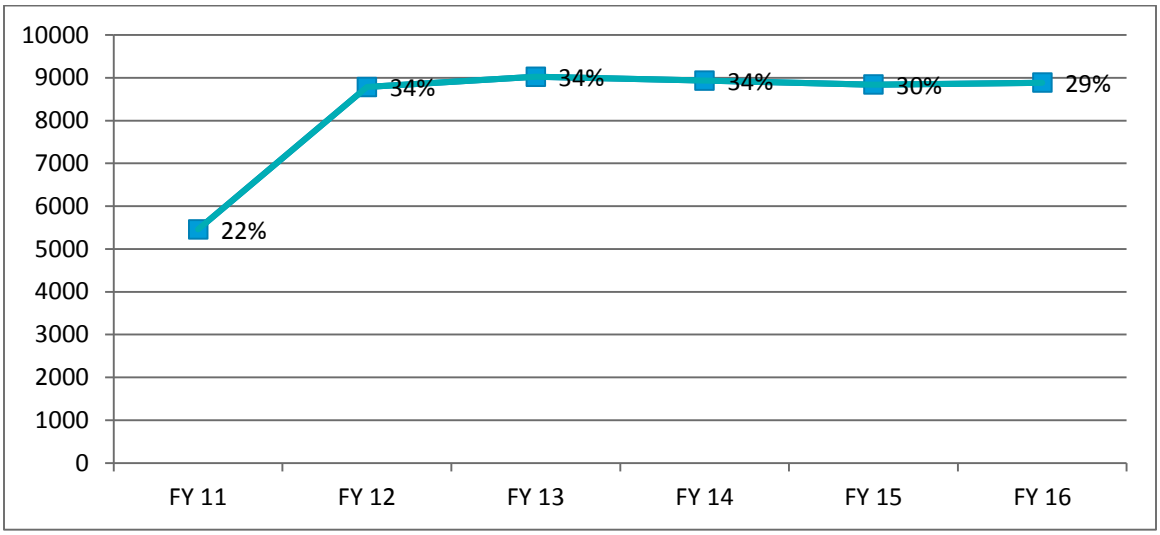

Figure 21 above illustrates the overall completion rate for both parole releases and good time releases.

Costs Avoided

For the purpose of calculating the estimated cost avoidance, it is assumed a parolee will, on average, be released at least four months prior to the offender's mandatory release date. As the majority of offenders who appear before a parole panel are housed in a local jail facility, cost avoidance was calculated using the average cost per day for housing an offender in a local jail facility. The DPS&C average cost per day for incarceration in a local jail facility is $24.39. The average cost per day for parole supervision in the community is $2.32. The cost avoidance is calculated as follows: 120 days x local jail facility cost minus parole supervision cost (# of improved parole releases x 120 days early release x $22.07).

YEAR	PAROLE COMPLETION RATE	COMPLETION RATE OVER BASELINE YEAR	ANNUAL COMPLETIONS IMPROVED OVER BASELINE YEAR	Annual COMPLETIONS IMPROVED AND COST AVOIDANCE OVER BASELINE YEAR		Cumulative COMPLETIONS IMPROVED AND COST AVOIDANCE OVER BASELINE YEAR	
FY 11	14%	Baseline year	438	Baseline year	Baseline year	Baseline year	Baseline year
FY 12	19%	4%	537	99	$262,191.60	99	$262,191.60
FY 13	19%	4%	548	110	$291,324.00	209	$553,515.60
FY14	19%	4%	547	109	$288,675.60	318	$842,191.20
FY 15	18%	4%	519	81	$214,520.40	399	$1,056,711.60
FY 16	17%	3%	477	39	$103,287.60	438	$1,159,999.20

Figure 22 is an estimate of costs avoided with improved completions over the baseline year (FY 2011). The calculation considers parole completion rates only.

Parole Dockets

As we collect and review statistical data on a regular monthly basis, it became apparent during the fiscal year that staff were experiencing a substantial increase in dockets needing to be revised once the cases has been set and scheduled for parole hearing. The result of these changes was an increase in workload by all parties involved in the process. Although previously this data was available but not tracked and reported, a review of the historical data for the current fiscal year and past 4 fiscal years was initiated, with interesting results as indicated below.

Parole Hearings - change in docket after being scheduled						
	Hearings	Continued	Removed	Withdrew	% of docket changed	Total Docketed
FY 12	1923	85	270	not tracked	15.6%	2278
13	1732	47	238	33	15.5%	2050
14	1647	58	307	40	19.7%	2052
15	1255	10	251	31	18.9%	1547
16	1219	59	486	48	32.7%	1812

Figure 23 reveals that during fiscal year 2016 there was a substantial increase in the number of cases removed from a parole docket after having been scheduled. This data is now being tracked on a weekly and monthly basis.

Reason Continued or Removed:				
	PendChg	Ineligible	Other	Withdrew
FY 13	reason not tracked			33
FY 14	35	162	179	40
FY 15	5	114	152	31
FY 16	7	174	379	48

Figure 24 drilled further down into the specific reason cited for cases that were removed from a parole docket after having been scheduled. "Ineligible" indicates that the offender was deemed by DPS&C to not be eligible for parole consideration after the case had been scheduled for a hearing. "Other" will be more carefully tracked going forward as this can include reasons such as the offender was not transported to the hearing location, the offender was transferred to another housing location prior to the scheduled parole hearing, the parole officer requested an extension of time to complete the pre-parole investigation, the hearing may have been re-scheduled by board staff due to technical difficulties with video equipment, etc.

Clemency

During the fiscal year, the Board of Pardons reviewed 456 applications for clemency. Of those reviewed, the Board determined that 221 warranted a clemency hearing. During the year, the Board conducted a total of 184 clemency hearings. The results of those hearings are indicated in the following chart. The recommendation by the Board to the Governor is non-binding.

Clemency Data	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16
Applications received	879	931	804	1247
Applications reviewed by Board	406	472	302	436
Clemency hearing opportunity granted	96	205	180	221
Clemency hearing opportunity denied	310	280	159	205
% of applications granted clemency hearing	23.6%	43.4%	59.6%	48.5%
Clemency hearings conducted	136	133	171	185
Relief Requested				
Reprieve - Capital Case	1	0	0	0
Commutation	34	41	101	112
Executive Pardon	101	92	70	73
Action Taken by the Board				
Favorable Decision	69	64	103	103
Unfavorable Decision	58	62	51	68
Taken Under Advisement	9	7	17	14
Cases Sent to the Governor	69	64	89	103[1]
Act 340 of 2014 Case Activity				
Act 340 cases reviewed by Parole Committee			20	153
Act 340 cases heard by Pardon Board			0	8
Act 340 cases granted favorable			0	3
Act 340 cases denied-unfavorable			0	5
Act 340 cases sent to Governor			0	3

[1] 47 cases were sent to Governor Jindal July 2015-Dec 2015,
56 cases were sent to Governor Edwards Jan - June 2016

Figure 25 shows the activity undertaken by the Board of Pardons during FY 2015 and 2016. Act 340 cases require a recommendation by the Committee on Parole to the Board of Pardons for ameliorative penalty consideration. If approved by the Board of Pardons a recommendation for commutation of sentence was sent to the Governor. In 2016 Act 469 was passed which also provides for ameliorative penalty consideration but provides parole eligibility without the necessity of a Pardon recommendation to the Governor.

For more information, please visit:

doc.la.gov/Louisiana-board-of-pardons-and-parole/

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