



FLORIDA PAROLE COMMISSION

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Commissioner/Vice-Chair

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Commissioner/Secretary

FLORIDA PAROLE COMMISSION Monthly Accomplishments' Report August 2012

~CHAIR'S MESSAGE~ Tena M. Pate

The month of August started in the most refreshing of ways in that I was able to take the first week and travel with my sons to the hills of Tennessee and participate in various mission and service-related projects for the 5th most poverty-stricken county in the United States. We were quickly reminded of how blessed we are and what a privilege it is to be in a position to help others. A special "thank you" to Commissioners Cohen and Coonrod for filling in during my absence.

The Commission held three hearings in the month of August: August 8, August 15, and August 29. On August 9, I chaired a conference call with members of the Association of Paroling Authorities' (APAI) Subcommittee on victims' issues as we began making plans for the 2013 annual training conference of the Association of Paroling Authorities International.

On August 13, Brian Logan, Sarah Rumph, Gina Giacomo, and I met with the staff of the Governor's Legislative Affairs Office and Office of Policy and Budget where I presented the Commission's Agency Legislative Proposals for consideration in the upcoming 2013 Legislative Session. The Commission's 2013 Session legislative package includes proposals for (1) Extended Interviews for Specified Crimes of Parole-eligible Offenders; (2) Mandatory Supervision for **ALL** Violent Offenders; and (3) Swift and Certain Response to Willful and Substantial Technical Violators (with a potential cost savings to the State of \$340,000). The Commission, along with other criminal justice stakeholders, also met with the Office of the Governor and presented its position on various topics of interest.

That evening I attended a Town Hall Meeting held in Tallahassee and sponsored by the Florida Department of Corrections for persons seeking to re-enter the community. FPC's Region I Administrator, Tom Hamilton, and Director of Operations, Shana Lasseter, along with other FPC employees, manned the Commission's information table and provided information to the attendees. This was one of many Town Hall Meeting events held by the Department this summer in which the Commission participated.

On August 20-23, Commissioners Bernard R. Cohen, Sr., and Melinda N. Coonrod, and I attended the 83rd Annual Criminal Justice Training Institute at the Hilton Hotel, Clearwater Beach. The theme of this year's annual conference was "Looking to the Future While

Remembering the Past.” I participated as a panelist for the session “Reentry Efforts at the National, State, and Local Levels: A Multi-Agency Discussion,” which focused on the many different approaches on re-entry and transitioning offenders being taken by departments and agencies at the national, state, and local levels. Other breakout sessions of interest included: “Homegrown Terrorism: The Emerging Threat From Within”; “Recognizing and Managing Symptoms of Mental Illness”; “Interviews and Interrogation”; and “The Hidden Crime of Human Trafficking.” At Wednesday evening’s Awards Banquet, the announcement was made that the Commission’s own Gina Giacomo, Director of Administration, was elected to serve as Secretary for the statewide organization beginning October 1. Congratulations, Gina, on a great and successful campaign!

As *Tropical Storm Isaac* threatened to do major harm to the State and the Republican National Convention being held in Tampa the week of August 27-30, six Commission employees, including myself, answered phone calls made to the Florida Emergency Information Line (FEIL), which was activated Saturday, August 25. During the five-day activation, the FEIL fielded more than 900 calls from citizens, local responders, and other interested parties. The Commission, along with specified employees who serve routinely when an emergency response is activated at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), has a list of employees who have volunteered for duty on the SEOC’s FEIL agency rotation list.

In closing, I would again like to recognize the many contributions of the Commission’s “Activities Committee.” On Friday, August 24, I treated the committee members to lunch at Florida State’s University Club as a “thank you” for their efforts on behalf of the Commissioners and employees, as they make the Commission’s “extra-curricular” events such a pleasure – and usually with very little notice.

As we approach the month of September, we are in preparation for the Commission’s hearings, and in particular, the September 13 FPC semi-annual Business Meeting and the September 20th Clemency Board meeting.

COMMISSION SECTION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Operations

Shana Lasseter, Director

- During the months of June, July, and August, the Florida Department of Corrections hosted eight Re-Entry Partnership Public Forums throughout the state. The meetings provided an opportunity to discuss ways in which many groups can work to facilitate the positive re-entry of offenders back into the community. Commission staff participated in the majority of the

meetings across the state by being available to answer questions about the Commission and providing information on the restoration of civil rights to interested parties.

- Effective August 10, 2012, Kristin Lambert was promoted to Supervisor, Office of the Commission Clerk. Ms. Lambert's career with the Commission began in October 2007 as a Parole Examiner, a position in which she developed an expertise in determining eligibility for post release supervision. Ms. Lambert is a 2001 graduate of Florida State University, having earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology with a minor in Criminology.
- Effective August 24, 2012, Kevin Tiller was hired as the Regional Administrator, Region III, Cocoa Office. A 2001 graduate of Elizabeth City State University, Elizabeth City, North Carolina, Mr. Tiller received a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. He later earned two Masters Degrees from the University of Central Florida – one in 2006 in Criminal Justice and one in 2009 in Public Administration. Prior to coming to the Commission, Mr. Tiller's served the Department of Juvenile Justice, for ten years, as Juvenile Detention Officer, Juvenile Probation Officer and a Juvenile Probation Officer Supervisor. Additional criminal justice experience for Mr. Tiller includes working as a Correctional Officer at Pasquotank Correctional Institution in North Carolina. Mr. Tiller also served three years in the United States Navy.
- The Florida Emergency Information Line (FEIL) was activated Saturday, August 25th in response to Tropical Storm Isaac. Six Parole Commission employees, including Chair Tena Pate, answered calls to the FEIL on Sunday, August 26, 2012. During this activation, the FEIL fielded more than 900 calls over the 5 day activation. The State Emergency Operations Center moved back to Level Two activation on Wednesday, August 29th and the FEIL was deactivated. The experience proved to be a very rewarding experience for the Commission volunteers.
- Central office staff conducted PPRD training for the Milton and Quincy field staff on August 23, 2012 in the Quincy office. All staff benefited from the training session and additional sessions are planned for the near future.

Office of the Commission Clerk:

Cases Docketed:

Parole	143
Conditional Medical	2
Conditional Release	655
Addiction Recovery	123
TOTAL	923

Month	Paroles		Conditional Medical Release	
	Granted	Denied	Granted	Denied
August	0	5	0	1

Activities:

- Rachael Waltman started with the Office of the Commission Clerk on August 20, 2012, as a Staff Assistant.
- Interviews for the vacant Parole Examiner position in the Office of the Commission Clerk were conducted on August 22, 2012. Megan Higgins was promoted to the position effective September 1, 2012.

Imaging

- Monthly totals for Imaging Inmate Records (IRIS)

Completed Documents	August 2012
	8,650

Revocations

Statistics:

Warrants Issued	156
Cases Reviewed and Prepared for Docket	134

Cases may include Parole, Conditional Medical Release, Conditional Release, Addiction Recovery Release and/or Control Release

Victims' Services:

	August 2012
Victims' requests for information on parole, conditional release, and conditional medical cases	331
Victims Located	86
Status updates to victims on parole, conditional medical and clemency cases	461
Assisted victims who attended parole or clemency hearings.	67

Field Services

Field Services' Statewide Activity Totals

	August 2012
Monthly Interviews and Hearings Conducted:	
Parole Interviews	93
Revocation Interviews	225
Revocation Hearings	62
Total Interviews and Hearings for the Month	380

Region I:

- Regional Administrator Tom Hamilton attended a Town Hall Meeting in Quincy on August 13, 2012.
- Regional Administrator Tom Hamilton attended a Town Hall Meeting in Panama City on August 15, 2012.
- Examiner Nell Simmons attended the FCCD conference in Clearwater Beach August 20th through August 23rd.

Region II:

- Parole Examiner Zollie Clifton Rowan filled the vacant position in Lawtey on August 13, 2012.

- Mills Rowland, Cliff Rowan and Dian Morin attended the Community Partnership Event at Lawtey CI on August 15, 2012.

Region III:

- Region III welcomed its new Regional Administrator, Kevin P. Tiller. Kevin is waiting to get full online access, but is already accompanying his staff to conduct interviews for Conditional and Parole release violations. He is learning the complex world of the Parole Commission and wants to thank Helen Lester-Williams and Will Whitehouse for their assistance.
- Will Whitehouse attended a four-hour TAC training class, presented by FDLE at the Ocala Police Department. He learned about the many responsibilities of the Terminal Agency Coordinator and will be better prepared for the next FDLE audit.

Region IV:

- On July 27, 2012, Tara Tracey joined the staff in the FPC Stuart Office. Ms. Tracey has served 12 years as a Juvenile Probation Officer Supervisor with the Department of Juvenile Justice. She has a bachelor's degree in Psychology/Sociology from Louisiana State University.
- During July, 2012, Parole Examiner Richard Konior joined FCCD.
- On August 2, 2012, Richard Konior received his CJIS TAC Certification.
- On August 15, 2012, Tara Tracey, received CJIS FCIC/NCIC Certification.
- During the week of August 20th – 23rd, 2012, Parole Examiner Donald Henry attended this year's FCCD Conference at the Clearwater Hilton.

Region V:

- A DC Town Hall Meeting, "Partnering for Fewer Crimes, Less Victims, and Safer Communities," was held on August 6, at the Falkenburg Road Jail. Melinda Strickland represented FCCD and Region V was represented by Helen Williams and Cathy Aylstock, who provided RCR information. There was a large turnout.
- On August 9, Region V staff met with Pinellas County Jail staff and provided FPC information and training on procedures relating to the VOP process in an effort to make the working relationship and process more effective. This will be offered to all Region V county jails.

- Kip Astrom attended the August Pinellas Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition meeting and briefed Region V staff at the August staff meeting.
- Region V staff donated blood at the Blood Drive held at Park Trammell on Thursday, August 9.
- Senator Arthenia Joyner's "Rights Restoration Resource Fair" was held on August 18 at the Lee Davis Service Center in Tampa. Helen Williams, Cathy Aylstock, and Melinda Strickland represented Region V providing RCR information to attendees.
- Melinda Strickland and Cathy Aylstock will attend the FCCD State Conference from August 20-23 at the Clearwater Hilton.
- Region V staff collected teddy bears that were taken to the FCCD Annual Conference in August for donation.
- In the effort by Central Office to streamline the PB2 Report Region V examiners will track and record their monthly work time and travel time. Linda made a spreadsheet to record Region V monthly travel time for the next three months.
- Region V staff collected and donated two boxes of school supplies to a kindergarten class at Palm River Elementary School. We will be recycling printer cartridges to earn reward points at some stores that will enable us to purchase additional school supplies for the 2012/2013 school year.

Administration

Gina Giacomo, Director

- Received 100% prompt payment
- Participated in the work group for automating the commissioner's docket and electronic files.
- Attended the Interagency advisory council meeting, purchasing meeting, HR meetings and Director of Administration meeting.
- Participated in drafting the Long Range Program Plan
- Provided staff with safety tips as agency safety coordinators
- Prepared Budget projection for FY 12/13
- Responded to the Fire Marshal report
- Conducted research on multiple subjects
- Attended the FCCD training institute
- Completed the Law enforcement survey
- Attended the Keiser Criminal Justice Advisory Board

- Responded to CFO on the Commission P-card procedures.
- Attended training for the Schedule 1 and Schedule 1C for the budget.

Office of Clemency Investigations
Steve Hebert, Director

Pending Clemency Cases September 1, 2012

Types of Clemency Cases	September 2012
RCR Cases	19,761
Without a Hearing Cases (8,813)	
With a Hearing Cases (10,948)	
Non-RCR Cases*	7,030
Total Pending Clemency Cases	26,791

* Full Pardon, Specific Authority to Own, Possess or Use Firearms, Remission of Fines, Commutation of Sentence and Request for Review.

NOTE: In addition to the 26,791 pending clemency cases, there were also 1,055 EOS/TOS RCR cases for a total of 27,846 pending clemency cases. These EOS/TOS cases are known to be ineligible since they do not meet the RCR eligibility requirements of either the 5 or 7 year waiting period of the amended Rules. However, there is still a workload component involved in processing these cases as ineligible in our clemency database which will include data entry and generation of letters to be mailed to all individuals.

- Continued to review Restoration of Civil Rights cases for eligibility prior to sending them out to field offices for in-depth field investigations to be conducted.
- Prepared Confidential Case Analyses for the upcoming September 20, 2012 Clemency Board Meeting.
- Conducted Request for Review investigations for commutation of sentence applications.
- Conducted capital punishment clemency investigations for death row inmates.
- Conducted quality assurance reviews of all clemency investigations completed by regional field offices.
- Assisted in the development of clemency information for agency reports such as the Long Range Program Plan and Performance Measures.

Ms. Debbie Sue Fleck was hired to fill a vacant Staff Assistant position and will begin employment on September 5, 2012. She comes to us from the Orlando area where she has over 10 years of experience working with the Orange County Clerk of Court.

Office of Communications
Jane Tillman, Director

August 17-18, Brian Logan, Director of Legislative Affairs, and Jane Tillman attended, together with senior staff from the Tampa Regional Office, a "Rights Restoration Resource Fair" at the Lee Davis Service Center in Tampa. This program was a RCR Community Outreach program sponsored by Senator Arthenia Joyner (D-Tampa) and State Representative Betty Reed (D-Tampa), and the ACLU. Along with Helen Williams, Cathy Aylstock, and Melinda Strickland of FPC's Tampa Office, this event featured representatives from the Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections' Office; Julianne Holt, Public Defender, and staff of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit's Office of the Public Defender; representatives from the Tampa Office of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); and community representatives involved in voter outreach activities.

Senator Joyner and Representative Reed and their staff gratefully acknowledged the work of Chair Tena Pate and the staff of the Parole Commission, and particularly the Tampa Regional Office staff, for their contributions and support in assisting individuals to get their civil rights restored.

Senator Joyner acknowledged her efforts and the efforts of other legislators who were instrumental in securing \$350,000 in recurring General Revenue funds for the Commission beginning July 1, 2012, which was earmarked for reducing the RCR *Without a Hearing* caseload.

The event was well attended with approximately 150 individuals from the area participating, along with an additional 15 or more persons providing assistance.

In August, I also participated in the drafting of the Long Range Program Plan with other senior staff and took calls and provided responses (where approved) to public records requests and media calls as a result of the Republican and Democratic National Conventions that were held in Tampa, Florida, and Charlotte, North Carolina, respectively, as well as routine public and media inquiries.

Executive Clemency
Julia McCall, Clemency Coordinator

This month both Executive Clemency and Clemency Investigations celebrate the 5-year anniversary of the search site for RCR grants. The search site became operable in August 2008. Since that time there have been 970,082 visits, 764,620 actual searches for RCR grants with 80,332 names located and 53,652 printed. This search capability has proven very valuable in saving time for staff and convenience for applicants.

There are currently 374,652 certificates available online available for printing by the applicant.

Legal Office
Sarah Rumph, General Counsel

For this report, I have only included 2 orders: one on parole revocation and another on a Presumptive Parole Review Date (PPRD) review. The following is a discussion of a somewhat misunderstood process: aggravation of a PPRD.

First, as unpopular an idea as this may be, I wanted to say that aggravation is NOT required. If there is any doubt that the aggravator may be properly assessed or that the evidence may not be competent and persuasive (that is, specific and reliable), then do not use the information and do not assess the aggravator. It is not necessary to assess aggravators that may not be clear or supported, only to see how high the PPRD can go. The inmate will still have to come back before the Commission every few years, could still have a PPRD reduced any of those times, and could still be denied parole when, and if, the date arrives. An extremely high PPRD, set merely for that purpose, does not save the victim or inmate any of those realities.

Second, aggravation has a specific purpose and should be applied when “deemed necessary” by the Commission. The same goes for mitigation. The purpose of aggravation is to focus on the actual circumstances of the primary offense and those facts that indicate possible problems of being successful on parole. Rule 23-21.010(5) (a), Florida Administrative Code, provides excellent guidance which has been upheld in the courts.

Office of Legislative Affairs
Brian Logan, Director

- Presented the Agency's 2013 Legislative proposals to stakeholder groups garnering their support prior to the August 13th meeting with the Governor's office.

- Presented the Agency's 2013 Legislative proposals to the Governor's Office for their support and consideration. Completed several follow up requests for information made by the Governor's Office in regards to the Commission's Legislative proposals.
- Traveled with Communications Director to Tampa to attend a Restoration of Civil Rights Resource Fair sponsored by State Senator Arthenia Joyner (D-Tampa) and State Representative Betty Reed (D-Tampa). Met with and worked with Region V staff in preparation for the RCR event.
- Attended meeting with the Governor's Office, State Courts, and the Department of Corrections to discuss status of Juvenile Parole in Florida.
- Met with House and Senate Staff Directors who handle Criminal Justice policy and budget issues to cultivate these important relationships. Discussed Agency's policy and budget proposals. Also talked with Senate staff on Ethics and Elections Committee in reference to Commissioners' Cohen and Coonrod's confirmations.
- Began the drafting process for the Long Range Program Plan (LRPP) for FY 2013-14 through FY 2017-18 in preparation for the 2013 Legislative Budget Requests. Completed and submitted the first draft of the LRPP to the Chair on August 30th.
- Scheduled a meeting with incoming Speaker Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel) to discuss the Commission's 2013 Legislative Proposals.