



FLORIDA PAROLE COMMISSION

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Commissioner/Vice-Chair

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Commissioner/Secretary

FLORIDA PAROLE COMMISSION Monthly Accomplishments' Report

June 2012

~CHAIR'S MESSAGE~

Tena M. Pate

June 2012 was an extraordinary month for the Parole Commission. First, the staff of Governor Rick Scott's Legislative Affairs Office met with senior staff and me on June 6. The team of Jon Costello, Legislative Affairs Director; Angela Peterson, Deputy Legislative Affairs Director; and Andrew Ketchel, Legislative Analyst, spent the morning at the Commission's Central Office touring the various Commission offices and seeing firsthand the work of each key section. The Commission will submit its Legislative Proposals to the Governor's Office no later than August 1 and will meet with the Governor's staff on August 13 to review them.

Commission Holds Hearings in Broward June 13-14

Required by statute to hold hearings annually at cities in Florida other than Tallahassee, the Commission and staff traveled to Broward County June 13 and 14 holding hearings over a two-day period, with the majority of the docket containing cases originating out of South Florida. This was an excellent opportunity to continue with my Education Initiative and, to this end, area legislators, law enforcement officers, and transition program providers were invited to come view the Commission's work in person as the Commission had an unusually large docket with 485 cases scheduled to be heard. The Commissioners and staff also toured the FIU program at Everglades Correctional Institution while in South Florida. A special thanks to our Region IV staff for the incredible assistance provided in advance, during and after these hearings.

FPC Employee Recognition Ceremonies Held June 20

On June 20, the Commission held its annual Employee Recognition Ceremonies in the Commission's Hearing Room. Once again, there were several nominations, all very deserving, which made the Selection Committee's process of narrowing down its recommendations, even more difficult. As each nominee brought uniqueness as well as special skill sets for consideration by the group, as I made the final selections, I was so proud of the efforts made by the nominators to honor their fellow employees with the opportunity to be recognized by their peers. The winners for 2012 are as follows:

(1) Florida Parole Commission Employee of the Year: Steve Hebert, Director, Office of Clemency Investigations, Tallahassee Central Office

In announcing this award, I was struck by how well Steve is respected by his peers, co-workers, and subordinates. He leads by example and is conscientious and considerate as he carries out his duties. In doing so, he provides the necessary leadership and guidance so that the employees working in the Office of Clemency Investigations are able to produce an excellent work product. If the job requires working late, or on weekends, or taking work home, he does what is necessary to get it done. Additionally, he maintains an excellent relationship with the Commissioners and the Cabinet Members' Aides. And because of his vast knowledge in the area of clemency, he is totally trustworthy as a key source for information on this complex issue. Steve was nominated for this award by Steve Dawson, Jane Tillman, and Michelle Whitworth of FPC's Central Office. Steve, we are so proud and thankful for all you do – congratulations on being selected as the Commission's "best" for 2012!

(2) Field Office Employee of the Year: Cynthia 'Cindy' Zimmerman, Parole Examiner, Region IV, Broward

Nominated by her fellow supervisor Jayne Hayden, Cindy Zimmerman has served the Commission for 27 years as a Parole Examiner, Parole Examiner Supervisor, and a Revocations Specialist - and has demonstrated exceptional performance throughout her career. Her dependability and dedication to her job have allowed her to perform her latest revocation duties with little or no supervision. Additionally, her case management, organizational skills, and professionalism in dealing with the public and other criminal justice agencies serves as a model for all examiners. Her wealth of knowledge and honed, professional skills make her most deserving of this award. Congratulations, Cindy!

(3) Central Office Employee of the Year: Kim Dickey, Revocations Supervisor, Tallahassee Central Office

Kim was nominated for this award by co-workers Billie Zetrouer and Jane Tillman and is so deserving of this award as she has consistently proven herself to be one of the Commission's outstanding employees. She serves as a role model for others, representing the agency in a professional, charismatic, and confident manner. She is extremely cooperative when asked for assistance and is an excellent "troubleshooter." Her vast knowledge of the Commission's programs, functions, and issues allow her to constantly provide information and assistance to persons outside of the agency as well as to her co-workers. It is her dedication to this agency, the Commissioners, and her fellow employees that make her most deserving of this award. Great job, Kim!

(4) Superior Achievement Award: Donald Henry, Parole Examiner, Region IV, Miami

Nominated for this award by fellow co-worker Ayesha Carson, Don has excelled in demonstrating superior performance as a Parole Examiner, Parole Examiner Supervisor, and Regional Administrator during the 20 years he has served with the Commission. He has been a major contributor to the overall efficient operations of the Region IV-Miami Dade/Monroe County office through his dedication and exceptional performance. His positive attitude, fearless demeanor, and exceptional skills prepare him to tackle any assignment. Don is responsible for conducting all revocations work, averaging 25-30 cases a month. And his natural ability to lead and to inspire enables him to reach out to people and personally motivate them to be better. Congratulations, Don, and keep up the good work!

(5) Special Recognition for Outstanding Performance:

As Chair, one of the “perks” of my position as agency head allows me to bestow an award on an employee or employees when I believe that it is merited. This year, I selected Jack deRemer, Gina Giacomo, Mary Lynne Petroski, Sarah Rumph, and Jane Tillman to receive the Chair’s “Special Recognition Award” for their outstanding efforts in planning, organizing, and coordinating in concert with the executive board and staff of the Association of Paroling Authorities International (APIA), their 2012 Annual Training Conference as hosted by the Florida Parole Commission May 20-23 in Orlando. Their attention to detail, extensive work hours, and follow-through ensured a smooth, successful event. These individuals were selected by me for personal recognition for their exceptional service and representation of the Commission for their efforts in providing assistance to the APAI executive board and staff in preparation for their 2012 Annual Training Conference. Great job, Team!

In recognizing these outstanding individuals, it also provides me the opportunity again to acknowledge each and every employee of this hard-working agency and to thank you for all the work you do. These employees will be featured in the agency newsletter as well as the 2011-12 Annual Report.

Commissioner Vacancy and Appointments

On June 26, the Governor and Cabinet reappointed me to serve a second two-year term as the Florida Parole Commission’s chair and agency head and also named Commissioner Bernard R. Cohen, Sr. to serve a two-year term as the Commission’s vice chair. Additionally, the Governor and Cabinet appointed Melinda N. Coonrod as Parole Commissioner to serve a six-year term beginning July 1, 2012, and expiring June 30, 2018. Ms. Coonrod will fill the vacancy created by the expiring term of Commissioner Monica David. While we are sad to see Commissioner David leave, we welcome Commissioner-Appointee Coonrod and look forward to working with her for years to come! Ms. Coonrod has extensive experience in the criminal

justice field as both a state prosecutor and as an adjunct professor of law, which should allow her to easily transition to the role of Parole Commissioner.

Governor Scott, General Bondi Praise the Commission

At the conclusion of the June 26 Cabinet meeting, Governor Scott acknowledged the Commission and its employees as being a “hardworking agency” and that they (he and the Cabinet) have the opportunity to work with the Parole Commission every 90 days at the Clemency Board meeting. He stated that Chair Pate and the staff are always “professional and prepared” and that they show “compassion for both the victims of crime and the applicants” at Clemency Board hearings. General Bondi offered additional praise for the Commission, stating that the Commission worked “equally as hard,” and that she has attended the Commission’s parole hearings and knows “personally of the fine work the Commission does.”

I can’t agree with them more. Thank you for all you do. It is greatly appreciated.

Clemency Hearing

On June 28, the Governor and Cabinet, sitting collectively as the Clemency Board, held its second quarterly Clemency Board Meeting at the Capitol on June 28, 2012. The Commission completed and submitted 81 in-depth clemency investigations for Full Pardons, Firearm Authority and Restoration of Civil Rights for consideration by the Board. The Coordinator of the Office of Executive Clemency presented the cases to the Board, as the Commission provided detailed information related to the Confidential Case Analyses and processes to the Board Members in response to their inquiries.

June 29 Luncheon Held to Say Farewell to Commissioner David

Friday, June 29, the Commissioners, staff and guests joined me in honoring Commissioner Monica David at a farewell luncheon on the occasion of her second six-year term expiring on June 30, 2012. Over 80 guests, including former Commissioners, Commission employees, and current Commissioners and employees turned out to say goodbye and wish her well in her future endeavors. The Commission honored Ms. David’s service to the Commission and to the citizens of Florida by presenting her with an engraved plaque containing her official Commissioner badge. She also received several gift cards and presents from the staff.

COMMISSION SECTION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

OPERATIONS

Jack deRemer, Director

- The upgrade to Microsoft 2007 has commenced. Our Central Office is currently being upgraded, and as soon as we complete our Field Office computer inventory these offices will also receive the upgrade.
- Our Release Services section has been renamed the 'Office of the Commission Clerk'.
- The Commission held Hearings in Broward County on June 13 and 14, 2012, with the very capable assistance of our entire Region IV staff.
- All Field offices brought or sent their archivable Clemency records to Central Office for archive processing.

Office of the Commission Clerk:

Cases Docketed:

Parole	64
Conditional Medical	1
Conditional Release	301
Addiction Recovery	58
TOTAL	424

Month	Paroles		Conditional Medical Release	
	Granted	Denied	Granted	Denied
June	1	0	0	0

The June 13-14 votes in Broward County were very successful. The Release Services staff would like to publicly thank the FPC Region IV staff for their amazing support and assistance during the Commission's visit to Broward County.

Revocations

Statistics:

Warrants Issued	160
Cases Reviewed and Prepared for Docket	178

**** Sample includes Parole, Conditional Release, Addiction Recovery Release, and Control Release cases ****

Case of Interest

The Escambia County Sheriff's Office put out a police alert for Jerry Wilson after it was reported that the offender attacked and beat several people with a metal pipe.

Offender Wright was convicted of Aggravated Assault w/Weapon and sentenced to 2 years in the Department of Corrections on December 28, 2009. He was released to conditional release supervision on July 13, 2011, to remain under supervision until October 30, 2011. His release plan was to the Harbor House Group Transition House, Pensacola, Florida. Wright violated his conditions of supervision by changing his address without permission and absconding supervision, resulting in a FPC warrant being issued on August 29, 2011. On June 23, 2012, the offender was arrested. He has waived his revocation hearing.

Activities:

Supervisor Kim Dickey, received the award for Central Office Employee of the Year 2012.

Victims' Services:

	June 2012
Victims' requests for information on parole, conditional release, and conditional medical cases	310
Victims Located	54
Status updates to victims on parole, conditional medical and clemency cases	345
Assisted victims who attended parole or clemency hearings.	37

During June, Victims Services has been busy. During the last month we handled 310 victims requests for information on parole, clemency, conditional medical and conditional release cases. In addition, we located and made initial contact with 54 victims on parole and clemency cases. We did 345 status updates on parole and clemency cases by giving early notice of hearings and by letting victims know the outcome immediately after the hearings by telephone or e-mail. We assisted 37 victims who attended parole hearings and 1 victim who attended the clemency hearing but elected not to speak.

Daphne Asbell traveled to Broward County for parole hearings on June 13 and 14 to assist victims who attended and read letters for those who could not attend. We have completed our selection process for our new vacant victims advocate position and look forward to filling that position right away.

Field Services

Field Services' Statewide Activity Totals

Monthly Interviews and Hearings Conducted:	May 2012
Parole Interviews	92
Revocation Interviews	205
Revocation Hearings	48
Total Interviews and Hearings for the Month	345

Region I:

- Examiner Russ Gallogly participated in a re-entry seminar at Santa Rosa Annex on June 13, 2012.
- Tom Hamilton, Russ Gallogly, and Matt Braxton participated in a fundraiser lunch for Correctional Officer Richard Parrish on June 22, 2012.
- Nell Simmons attended a farewell breakfast for Warden Tiff at Santa Rosa CI on June 22, 2012.

Region II:

- Parole Examiner Sara Bowie resigned on June 14, 2012 to take a position with the Federal Pretrial Services in Ft. Myers, Florida.

- The Examiner position vacated by Sara Bowie has been advertised and that advertisement closed on June 22, 2012.
- Parole Examiner Eric Baker participated in the Re-entry Seminar on June 13, 2012 at Mayo CI.

Region III:

- Will Whitehouse did a presentation on the RCR process at a Citizen's Outreach town meeting held by Senator Gary Siplin in Apopka, Florida on Saturday, June 2, 2012.
- Felix Ruiz was a presenter on the RCR process as part of the Re-Entry Seminar held at Sumter CI on June 4, 2012.
- Will Whitehouse, representing the Florida Parole Commission, attended the Re-Entry Partnership Public Forum held by the Florida Department of Corrections in Ocala, Florida on June 14, 2012.
- Terry Turner, Regional Administrator- Region III, retired on Friday, June 29, 2012.

Region IV:

- The Commission held hearings in Region IV, Broward County on June 13th and 14th, 2012. The hearings were held at the Ft. Lauderdale City Commission Chambers, 100 North Andrews Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.
- On June 14, 2012, Chair Tena Pate, Commissioners Monica David and Bernard Cohen, along with several central office and Region IV staff visited the FIU-CTP program at Everglades C.I.
- Cynthia Zimmerman, Parole Examiner, Region IV, Broward, received the Field Office Employee of the Year Award. Mrs. Zimmerman has served 27 years with the Commission. She is dedicated, dependable, and her professionalism in dealing with the public and criminal justice agencies is a model for all examiners. Her wealth of knowledge and skills make her most deserving of this award.
- Donald Henry, Parole Examiner, Region IV, Miami, received the Superior Achievement Award. Mr. Henry has served 20 years with the Commission as a parole examiner, parole examiner supervisor, and Regional Administrator. Mr.

Henry is a major contributor to the overall efficient operation of the Region IV Miami-Dade/Monroe County Office. Mr. Henry has a remarkable ability to touch people personally, to inspire giving, and to lead.

Region V:

- 2012 Clemency Archive Project has been completed. Region V will be sending ninety-eight 2006/2007 boxes to CO for storage. Thank you Cathy, Lori, Jerry, Scott and Linda.
- Region V staff is collecting teddy bears to be donated to the FCCD Annual Conference in August. Melinda Strickland will be in charge of collecting.
- King Astrom will attend the June 28 FERC Meeting.
- Region V – Office completed the move to the new location on June 22, 2012.

ADMINISTRATION
GinaGiacomo, Director

- Received 100% prompt payment
- Completed and submitted the PRIDE report.
- Completed and submitted the State facilities Operating Cost report
- Florida Parole Commission Co-location and County summary submitted to DMS.
- Completed the NCIC/FCIC Audit Report
- Attended training on the FACTS statewide contracting system.
- Executed a contract with DMS for the Tampa Regional office space.
- Answer numerous question and provided documents to AG Auditors
- 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.
- Provided staff with safety tips as agency safety coordinators
- Submitted Staples survey to DMS.

COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
Jane Tillman, Director

Governor Rick Scott's Legislative Affairs Office team met with the Chair, CLA staff, and other senior staff on June 6 to review the process for submitting the Agency's Legislative Proposals for consideration by the Governor's Office in preparation for the 2013 Legislative Session in March. All state agency legislative proposals are vetted first by the Governor's Office, and if approved, are allowed to move forward in the legislative process.

The team of Jon Costello, Legislative Affairs Director; Angela Peterson, Deputy Legislative Affairs Director; and Andrew Ketchel, Legislative Analyst, spent the morning at the Commission's Central Office touring the various Commission offices and seeing firsthand the work of each key section. The Commission will submit its Legislative Proposals to the Governor's Office no later than August 1 and will meet with the Governor's staff on August 13 to review them.

The CLA Office worked with the Clemency Team to draft, finalize, and distribute the report by the July 1 deadline.

CLEMENCY INVESTIGATIONS
Steve Hebert, Director

MONTHLY CLEMENCY PENDING CASE UPDATE

As of July 1, 2012, there were 28,022 pending clemency cases which include 21,197 RCR cases and 6,825 non-RCR clemency cases such as Full Pardon, Specific Authority to Own, Possess or Use Firearms, Remission of Fines, Commutation of Sentence and Request for Review.

	June 1, 2012	July 1, 2012	Change
RCR Without a Hearing Cases	11,428	10,655	-7.25%
RCR With a Hearing Cases	10,414	10,542	1.21%
Total	21,842	21,197	-3.04%

NOTE: In addition to the 28,022 pending clemency cases, there were also 1,056 EOS/TOS RCR cases for a total of 29,078 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.

Highlights/Accomplishments - Office of Clemency Investigations:

- The Governor and Cabinet, sitting collectively as the Clemency Board, held its second quarterly Clemency Board Meeting at the Capitol on June 28, 2012. The Commission completed and submitted 81 in-depth clemency investigations for Full Pardons, Firearm Authority and Restoration of Civil Rights for consideration by the Board. The Coordinator of the Office of Executive Clemency presented the cases to the Board, and the Chair provided detailed information related to the Confidential Case Analyses and processes to the Board Members in response to their inquiries.
- This office researched the specific reasons why applicants requested restoration of their civil rights. We reviewed the 58 Restoration of Civil Rights cases heard at the June 28, 2012 Clemency Board Meeting. Several applicants indicated multiple reasons in their statements to our examiners, and the following information is a brief summary of what their statements revealed:
 - 67% of the applicants specifically indicated that they were interested in regaining their right to vote, sit on a jury or hold public office.
 - 26% of the applicants specifically indicated that they were interested in obtaining their civil rights to help them with employment, ranging from specific licenses or occupations to general job opportunities.
 - 22% of the applicants did not provide any specific reason for requesting their civil rights.
- Restoration of Civil Rights (RCR) "EOS/TOS" cases are those cases of individuals expiring their sentences (EOS) or terminating their supervision (TOS), which were sent electronically each month, by the Department of Corrections to the Commission, prior to the March 9, 2011, amended Rules of Executive Clemency. During the month of June, approximately 9,700 letters were generated and mailed to individuals advising them of the eligibility criteria under the amended Rules.
- This office coordinated with the regional field offices to prepare closed clemency files in accordance with approved retention schedules for shipping and processing to the storage records center. In June 2012, there were a total of 192 boxes including 5,084 clemency files that were boxed and indexed by the five regions, labeled and picked up by the Storage Records Center.

- Staff has continued to review all RCR cases for eligibility prior to sending them out to field offices for in-depth field investigations to be conducted; conduct Request for Review investigations for commutation of sentence applications; conduct capital punishment clemency investigations; and provide quality assurance reviews of all clemency investigations completed by regional field offices.
- The Director assisted in the development of clemency information for the annual RCR Recidivism Report due to the Clemency Board by July 1, 2012, as required by Rule 18 of the Rules of Executive Clemency.
- On June 15, 2012, the Office of Clemency Investigations welcomed Melissa Calixte as she was hired as a full-time OPS Parole Examiner to conduct eligibility investigations on Restoration of Civil Rights Without a Hearing cases.

EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY
Julia McCall, Clemency Coordinator

Staff prepared for the June 28th Clemency Board Hearing, which started at 8:00 a.m. Many applicants whose cases were being heard came to speak directly to the Clemency Board. In total, nine Pardons were granted, three Firearm Authority requests, and twenty Restoration of Civil Rights cases. Staff will now notify all of the persons on the agenda of their status and provide information as to when they may reapply.

LEGAL
Sarah Rumph, General Counsel

Even though I enjoyed some time off this month, the Legal office has still been busy. We received so many court orders since the last Legal Summary, that I tried to attach ones that show a variety of issues. They are as follows:

1. Donovan v. FPC: This parolee challenged his revocation of parole and also sought transcripts of his revocation hearing from the Commission; the Court found that there was no abuse of discretion and the Commission is not obligated to provide transcripts.
2. Merritt v. DOC, et al.: This is a lengthy Federal opinion upholding the Commission's revocation of parole where the parolee violated by failing to report for a urinalysis as instructed.
3. Walker v. DOC, et al.: In this case, the releasee argued that the Commission erred by placing him on conditional release when he was also subject to probation. The Court rejected the releasee's arguments and upheld the eligibility determination.

4. Hall v. Pate: In this final case, the individual was requesting the Commission process his clemency application quickly and interview him for parole. The Court upheld the Commission's determination that the inmate was not eligible for parole and dismissed the clemency contentions as a solely executive power.

June launches our new rules committee and a thorough review is definitely needed. We will be meeting and working on updating those rules over the next couple of months. If you have any suggestions, please let me know and I will bring it to the committee as appropriate.