



Association of Paroling Authorities International

www.apaintl.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Dear APAI Members,

Fall is upon us, and as we enter the final quarter of 2016, the Executive Committee at APAI is excited about the hard work that has taken place over the summer to help strengthen and better serve our membership. When the Annual Training Conference in Daytona Beach concluded, I pledged that we would take action on the feedback we received from our international members to consider and recommend organizational changes. The Ad Hoc Committee for Constitution and By-law Revisions was formed this past summer to consider organizational and membership changes, and is being led by co-chairs Jeff Peterson and Renee Collette. The committee will present its recommendations to the Executive Committee in the very near future, and if approved by a majority of EC members, will be presented to the membership for a vote to adopt. I am confident that a considered and thoughtful review has occurred, and that any recommendations presented to the membership will help to strengthen and fortify APAI's future.

I am also pleased to inform you that APAI's support from the Center for Effective Public Policy (CEPP) through the National Parole Resource Center (NPRC) will continue. NPRC is a valued partner, and their willingness to provide training and Technical Assistance to our members is greatly appreciated. I would like to once again thank the Correctional Management Institute of Texas (CMIT) for graciously hosting the most recent NPRC training event at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. The training focused on assessing risk and needs in justice-involved women, and proved to be an extremely informative and relevant session. We are excited about future events and opportunities offered through NPRC to enhance and enrich our members' practices.

It is hard to believe, but it has been almost one year since our former Chief Administrative Officer(CAO) Keith Hardison turned over the reins to our new CAO Monica Morris. Monica has transitioned into the role with remarkable ease, and has continued the great service

established by Keith. In addition to managing the various committees and daily administrative functions, Monica has been active in fostering our relationships with our stakeholders, and is passionate about organizing former or retired members in a way that can serve as a resource for our current members. This idea is filled with potential, and as it continues to shape and materialize, we will be certain to keep you informed of its progress.

Monica is also working hard on conference planning alongside the Professional Development Committee and Secretariat Ashley Koonce of CMIT. If you are not aware, the 2017 Annual Training Conference will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. We are extremely excited that our Canadian members agreed to host next year's conference. Workshop and general session submissions have been received and the agenda for both the conference and the preceding Chairs' meeting will be announced sometime over the next few months. We look forward to presentations supported by familiar participants such as NPRC, the Robina Institute and the Council of State Governments, as well as those who will bring an added international dimension to the agenda. This will be a conference you will not want to miss!

As always, I must thank the Executive Committee for their hard work and dedication, and all of the members who volunteer to work on our various committees and support APAI when called upon. I understand how valuable the (little) free time is that you have, and I am grateful that you devote a part of it to APAI! I wish you all the best as we close out 2016. Enjoy!

Warm regards,

Cynthia Mausser
APAI President

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Things to Do in 2016

- Renew APAI Membership
- Serve on an APAI Committee
- Urge a fellow organization to join APAI
- Make plans to attend the 2017 Chairs Meeting and Annual Training Conference in Vancouver, BC, Canada April 23-26, 2017

APAI's Membership Fees

Individual - \$65

Organizational
(up to 8 members) - \$375
(9 to 13 members) - \$475
(14 to 20 members) - \$575

Associate - \$40

Student - \$15



PAROLE HEARING EXAMINERS

BY: DAN FETSCO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WYOMING BOARD OF PAROLE & APAI SECRETARY



Hearing examiners play a vital role in the parole process, whether it be in the pre-parole process or following parole, in the context of a parole sanction or revocation hearings. While serving as a member of the APAI Executive Committee, we have discussed what APAI can do for our members who may not be parole board members or commissioners, but

serve as parole hearing examiners in some capacity. Beginning with this issue of the newsletter, I will begin contributing a recurring article that features hearing examiners in some fashion, focusing on individual stories, interviews, legal analysis and discussion, and other areas of interest to our members.

To introduce myself and give a little background, I am the Executive Director of the Wyoming Board of Parole. I am also an attorney, having worked as a public defender and prosecutor, both at the trial and appellate level. I have worked for the Wyoming Board for nearly 10 years where one of my primary duties has been to conduct preliminary parole revocation hearings. It was in 1972 that the United States Supreme Court decided *Morrissey v. Brewer*, 408 U.S. 471, which required that parolees facing parole revocation must be afforded both a preliminary and final revocation hearing. The *Morrissey* decision announced several other guiding principles in the work of parole hearing examiners, such as the requirement that preliminary parole revocation hearings be conducted in front of an “independent officer” who need not be an attorney or judicial officer, 486-487.

The vast majority of the hearings I engage in consist of preliminary parole revocation proceedings. Wyoming is a large geographic state, and my Deputy and I conduct all of the parole revocation preliminary hearings for the entire state. As such, we do the majority of the hearings telephonically. We do hold in-person preliminary hearings at the local jail here in Cheyenne, and our final revocation hearings are held in-person, in front of a panel of 3 parole board members at the state penal institution.

Board staff in Wyoming does not conduct any pre-parole interviews or hearings, as those functions are fulfilled by the Department of Corrections. In other jurisdictions, however, parole hearing examiners serve in different areas of the parole process. For instance, in Nevada, parole hearing examiners present case summaries and make recommendations to the Board of Parole Commissioners regarding parole decisions, conditions of community supervision, and reasons for denying parole. Nevada Hearing Examiners interview multiple stakeholders including the inmate and victim(s); review reports, risk and assessment data; and, render determinations on the impact of the release upon the community along with other factors to be considered.

In the Federal system, parole hearing examiners conduct a wide variety of proceedings for prisoners convicted in Federal and District of Columbia courts as well as those convicted by a military court and transferred to the Federal Bureau of Prisons. The type of hearings include initial parole hearings, parole revocation hearings and hearings to determine whether parole supervision shall be terminated. In the Federal system, hearing examiners also conduct hearings to set release dates for prisoners sentenced in foreign courts who are transferred to the United States Prison system per a foreign treaty. Currently, there are only 9 Federal hearing examiners that provide service to the 13 Federal Judicial Districts. The Federal Parole Commissioners do not conduct hearings themselves, but make decisions after review the recommendations provided by the hearing examiners. Clearly, a Federal hearing examiner is tasked with many duties, the performance of which is absolutely essential for the Federal Board to function.

Joe Pacholski, the APAI Treasurer, is employed as one of these Federal hearing examiners, and he reports that he and his colleagues travel on average 14 weeks a year, visiting various Federal prisons to conduct hearings. Federal hearings are also closed to the public, and the hearing examiners have the discretion to control who participates in or observes the proceedings.

This is the first in what I hope will be many articles dealing with parole hearing examiners. If you have any comments or suggestions for future articles, please do not hesitate to email me at daniel.fetsco@wyo.gov. Until next time, I wish you the best as you continue the important work you do in furtherance of enhancing public safety and promoting offender reentry.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: KANSAS PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

BY: JONATHAN OGLETREE, CHAIRMAN, THE KANSAS PRISONER REVIEW BOARD



The Kansas Prisoner Review Board started early this year reviewing our process of receiving comments from people in support or opposition of an offender's release. Sessions are open to the general public which typically brings the Victim and Offender's family. These sessions are tied to our Open Records Act. The times and locations are posted and we never have an idea of who

would be in attendance. Our Office of Victim Services allows groups/individuals to sign up to see us as they come

in. There is no separation or privacy offered to anyone that speaks to us. We have held these sessions in this fashion for a number of years. In the past few years we have had concerns with how we hold these sessions due to tension in the room from opposing families as well as towards the board members. In an effort to enhance this service we reached out to other boards through Association of Paroling Authorities International (APAI). The response we got through the help of APAI was amazing. Boards from across the nation responded with information concerning their process. The information received from the State of Ohio led us to a conversation with our stakeholders of the possibility of changing our format in Kansas.

Kansas sought out a Technical Assistance Grant through National Institute Of Corrections (NIC) to be able to meet with the Ohio Board in person and see this process up close. A small team from Kansas included Audrey Cress (Director of Victim Services), Ashley Maxwell (Administrator, Prisoner Review Board) and Jonathan Ogletree (Chair, Prisoner Review Board). The grant was subsequently approved and we set up a date for a site visit.

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NPRC, NRCJIW, URBAN INSTITUTE, CMIT, AND APAI: TEAMWORK

BY: MONICA MORRIS, APAI CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

What do you get when you combine the National Parole Resource Center (NPRC), the National Resource Center on Justice Involved Women (NRCJIW), the Urban Institute, the Correctional Management Institute of Texas (CMIT), and the Association of Paroling Authorities International (APAI)? The answer is excellent training as a result of teamwork. Let's not forget about the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles who provided transportation and participants for this event. We want to share with you what we accomplished and how we did it.

On August 30-31, 2016 Sam Houston State University welcomed participants to the National Parole Resource Center's Trending Issues in Parole: Justice-Involved Women, Assessing Risk and Needs, and Innovations in Practice training event at the Correctional Management Institute of Texas. CMIT provided the meeting space and other services in support of this training. The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles provided transportation from the airport to the training hotel and back, as well as several participants. CEPP provided the coordination, funding, and faculty, and APAI provided support, not to mention coffee and great snacks! Participants walked away with two days of: gender specific training and more knowledge about how to deal with the

ever growing population of women we work with in the criminal justice system; a clearer understanding about the science of risk assessment and its application to parole decisionmaking; and an overview of the ten "practice targets" for excellence in parole.

Instructors Richard Stroker, Project Director of the NPRC, Becki Ney, Project Director of the NRCJIW, Leilah Gilligan, Project Manager of the NPRC, Jesse Jannetta, Senior Research Associate of the Urban Institute, did a fantastic job of presenting the facts.

The presenters also facilitated smaller working group discussions with trainees. In the end, the goals were accomplished and everyone learned about the challenges and barriers of working with women, as well as how Boards can better use or enhance the use of risk assessment information in their decisionmaking.

Training is so important to all of us not to mention the benefits of networking with others in the field. I encourage all of you to look around and take advantage of any and all training opportunities that may come your way.



A GLOBAL LOOK FORWARD

INTERNATIONAL & DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES ON PAROLE

2017 ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE
VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA
APRIL 24-26, 2017





MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: KANSAS PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

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Ohio Parole Board Chair Andre Imbrogno brought key people into the conversation to prepare for our visit. Once we arrived they had information prepared in binders to give concrete examples of how their process worked and the statues they are associated with. We were able to meet with Board members, Victim Services and Parole Board Staff. In our meeting we were able to discuss key components of the process and address concerns/questions directly.

We were able to identify several areas that could enhance our process in Kansas.

- Privacy of sessions
- Scheduling of session that included who would be in attendance and for which case
- Preparation of the session by Board Members that included reviewing of case
- Safety for all involved in process
- Increase comfort level for the public to share information or give statements

Our next steps are to move forward to introduce some proposed changes to our process in Kansas. We will be meeting with Key Stakeholders to share information from our observation from Ohio. We are looking to implement these changes within the next year.

As a new Chair, the support shown by APAI, NIC and the Ohio Parole Board is a reflection of how we can all work together to make the changes necessary to continue to grow as a profession. It is simply amazing to experience the level of support these individuals shared doing this experience. Thank you all so much from the Kansas Prisoner Review Board and the State of Kansas.

Executive Committee

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