

2014-16 Strategic Plan

Virginia Parole Board [766]

Mission

The Virginia Parole Board's mission is to protect public safety and contribute to a fair and effective justice system by ensuring that persons who remain a threat to society remain incarcerated and those who have been sufficiently punished and no longer present a risk are released to become productive citizens.

Vision

The Parole Board vision is make parole and related decisions in a timely manner consistent with public safety, victim concerns, inmate rights and the wise use of state resources.

Values

Finance

Financial Overview

All funding provided for Virginia Parole Board is through the Commonwealth's general fund.

Biennial Budget

| | 2015 General Fund | 2015 Nongeneral Fund | 2016 General Fund | 2016 Nongeneral Fund |
|--|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Initial Appropriation for the Biennium | 1,397,033 | 0 | 1,397,297 | 0 |
| Changes to Initial Appropriation | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

(Changes to Initial Appropriation will be 0 when the plan is created. They will change when the plan is updated mid-biennium.)

Customers

Anticipated Changes to Customer Base

Current Customer List

| Predefined Group | User Defined Group | Number Served Annually | Potential Number of Annual Customers | Projected Customer Trend |
|------------------|---|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Inmate | Clemency petitioners | 0 | 0 | Increase |
| Inmate | Discretionary parole eligible inmates | 0 | 0 | Increase |
| Inmate | Geriatric release petitioners | 0 | 0 | Increase |
| Inmate | Inmates eligible for parole annually including discretionary parole and geriatric release | 0 | 0 | Increase |
| Probationer | Parole/Post-release supervision violation cases | 0 | 0 | Stable |
| Victim | Victims seeking meeting (appointment) with Board member | 0 | 0 | Increase |
| Victim | Victims to be contacted annually | 0 | 0 | Stable |

Partners

| Name | Description |
|------|-------------|
|------|-------------|

Agency Goals

- Render decisions on cases before the Board in a just and timely manner.

Summary and Alignment

It is the responsibility of the Parole Board to make decisions regarding whether offenders convicted of serious crimes should be released from incarceration prior to the completion of the sentence imposed by the court. It also has to decide whether offenders released on parole, but who have violated conditions of their parole supervision, should be returned to prison. In making each decision, the Board must weigh

numerous competing factors: • the interests of society in seeing that justice is served for the commission of a criminal offense • the interests of victims of crimes • whether public safety would be compromised by the release of an offender • the interests of the offender and the extent of his rehabilitation In addition to these factors, it is in everyone's interests that decisions be made as expeditiously as possible so as to minimize uncertainty. This goal is directly related to the Board's mission of protecting public safety and contributing to a fair and effective justice system.

Objectives

- **Provide Board Appointments for 100% of all victims requesting appointments.**

Summary and Alignment

Objectives

- **Seek victim input in 100% of discretionary grant cases in which there are victims involved.**

Summary and Alignment

Objectives

Major Products and Services

The Parole Board primarily provides services to inmate families, victims, attorneys and other parties interested in the release of an offender. The agency is responsible for:

- Decisions on parole applications from offenders
- Decisions on parole eligible offenders
- Decisions on parole revocations
- Recommendations to Governor on clemency petitions
- Decisions on appeals relating to "three-time loser" law
- Conducting appointments with victims
- Notifications to victims of possible parole grants
- Meetings with inmates' families for parole input

Performance Highlights

PAROLE – The function of the Parole Board is to make decisions regarding the granting of discretionary parole. There are Currently 4,300 inmates eligible for parole, a number that will increase and peak at 6,800 in 2016.

REVOCATIONS – The Parole Board reviews those who are in violation of the conditions of their parole or post-release supervision and determines which individuals should be returned to custody and which should be continued on supervision. There are approximately 300 violators reviewed annually.

GERIATRIC PETITIONS – Inmates who have reached age 60 and served 10 years or who are age 65 and have served 5 years may petition the Board for geriatric release. There are approximately 666 inmates who meet these minimum requirements. The total geriatric population is increasing. Approximately 20% of the eligible geriatric offenders petition for release each year.

CLEMENCY PETITIONS – At the request of the Governor, the Board investigates the facts and circumstances of the original crime and other relevant information and makes a recommendation to the Governor. The Board evaluates approximately 700 petitions annually.

APPEALS OF 3X LOSER STATUS – A person convicted of three murders, rapes or armed robberies that were not part of a common scheme or plan is not eligible for parole. The decision as to whether a person falls under the "3x loser" statute is made by the Department of Corrections and may be appealed to the Parole Board.

VICTIM ISSUES – The Parole Board seeks victim input prior to releasing any inmate on discretionary parole. This effort is accomplished by attempting to locate the victims and families to obtain information about the impact of the crime.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS – The Parole Board offers both victims and inmate families the opportunity to meet with a member of the Board to personally express their feelings about the inmate's possible parole. After the Board appointment, each victim is contacted personally to inform them of the Board's decision.

Staffing

| | |
|---|---|
| Authorized Maximum Employment Level (MEL) | 0 |
| Salaried Employees | 0 |

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Wage Employees | 0 |
| Contracted Employees | 0 |

Key Risk Factors

Offenders released on parole pose a risk to public safety, especially considering that the majority of offenders eligible for parole have committed violent crimes. In the process of making the decisions, the Board must weigh numerous competing factors, including the interests of society in seeing that justice is served for the commission of a criminal offense; the interests of victims of crimes; whether public safety would be compromised by the release of an offender; and the interests of the offender and the extent of his/her rehabilitation. The decisions must be made as expeditiously as possible so as to minimize uncertainty from inmates, victims, and inmate advocates.

The Parole Board must also consider the aging inmate population, as the costs involved to taxpayers for medical services will increase. The Board must give this consideration but never at the expense of public safety.

Management Discussion

General Information About Ongoing Status of Agency

Parole eligible inmates receive a personal interview by a Parole Examiner; however, non-parole eligible geriatric offenders receive only a “desk” review. The Board is currently exploring ways in which Board members can interview individual offenders as part of the consideration process. The agency is in the process of setting up an office at Deerfield Correctional Center where the majority of the geriatric offenders are housed. This will enable the Board to conduct thorough investigations of these cases on-site and offer the same consideration process as the parole eligible offenders.

The Board members frequently meet personally with offenders to gain insight as to an offender’s suitability for parole prior to casting a vote of their case.

The Parole Board Chairman or other Board Member personally contacts crime victims for notification of a not grant or grant decision.

Information Technology

The Department of Corrections maintains a single Information System (VirginiaCORIS) that stores all offender related data. The Parole Board’s module was recently integrated and is an integral part of this system, as the Board relies on much of the offender data for its decision-making process. The Board has, and will continue working with the CORIS Project Management Team to resolve current system issues and efforts to enhance user productivity.

Estimate of Technology Funding Needs

Workforce Development

The Board encourages staff to increase its knowledge through training and in visiting facilities and programs.

Physical Plant

The Virginia Parole Board is strategically located within the Department of Corrections’ Headquarters. The facility is well-maintained and centrally located offering easy access for interested parties to meet with Board members. This allows direct contact with Department of Corrections units such as Classification & Records, Parole Release, Medical Unit, etc., as well as easy access to DOC records.

The Board holds Board appointments with victims and inmate families in other areas of the state in order to accommodate them and make travel easier.

Supporting Documents

| Title | File Type |
|-------|-----------|
|-------|-----------|

Adult Probation and Parole Services [35201]

Description of this Program / Service Area

This service area encompasses the following activities:

- granting or denying parole for those offenders who are eligible for parole
- deciding whether to revoke the parole of those offenders on parole who have violated the conditions of their parole supervision
- making recommendations to the Governor on petitions for clemency
- hearing appeals of offenders for whom the "three-time loser" statute has been applied
- meeting with those victims who request an appointment with a Board member to discuss an offender's possible parole
- notifying crime victims prior to the release of an offender on parole

Mission Alignment

In carrying out activities in this service area, the Board promotes its mission of protecting public safety and contributing to a fair and effective justice system by considering the possible impact on public safety created by the release of an offender, the interests of society in having justice served, the impact of the crime on victims, and the extent of the offender's rehabilitation and his possible contribution to society, if paroled.

Products and Services

Description of Major Products and Services

- Decisions on parole applications from offenders
- Decisions on parole revocation
- Recommendations to Governor on clemency petitions
- Decisions on appeals relating to "three-time loser" law
- Appointments (meetings) with victims
- Notifications sent to victims of possible parole of offender
- Meetings with inmates' families to discuss possible parole of inmates

Anticipated Changes

Factors Impacting

Financial Overview

All of the funding provided for the Parole Board in the Appropriation Act comes from the general fund.

Biennial Budget

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