

Support Services

Division of Parole and Victim Services

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Overview

The Division of Parole and Victim Services is responsible for completing all administrative duties of the Kentucky Parole Board as determined by policies, statutes and regulations. The division was recently reorganized and now consists of four sections: Operations, Risk Assessment, Revocations and the newly added division, Hearings.

We continue to work closely with Victim Services staff members who are responsible for victim and prosecutor notification regarding parole as required by Kentucky statute KRS 439.340. They notify victims of upcoming parole eligibility hearings and coordinate victim impact hearings where they can voice their opinions and concerns with the Kentucky Parole Board members. They respond to questions, process impact statements, and provide hearing outcomes to the victims. They communicate with the Commonwealth Attorney offices throughout the state and offer them an opportunity to participate in the victim hearing process, whether they wish to represent the state at a victim impact hearing, or they encourage unregistered victims to have a voice in the process.

The Division of Parole Services works with the Administrative Law Judges (ALJ) who preside over our Parole Revocation Probable Cause Hearing process. These staff attorneys were formerly under parole services but are currently reporting directly to the Office of Legal Services.

Operations is responsible for incoming calls and correspondence, the processing of all requests for parole reconsideration, and ensures that open audio requests are responded to promptly. Operations provide clerical support during the parole eligibility and revocation hearings, enters all of the Parole Board's decisions, and provide general administrative support. Operations create and processes the weekly docket, compiles and maintains the monthly parole eligibility lists and create the monthly and weekly calendars. Operations facilitates all video conference hearings. The Program Administrator, in addition to managing staff is also responsible for writing and updating all Parole Board Policy, Procedures and Regulations.

The Risk Assessment Section is responsible for compiling Parole Guidelines for Risk and Need Assessments as required by KRS 439.331. This is an objective and validated tool utilized by the Parole Board since 2003 when making release decisions. All offenders seen by the Parole Board on parole eligibility lists are required to have a completed assessment. The Program Administrator, in addition to managing and training staff, is also responsible for keeping the Assessment manual updated.

The newly formed Hearing Section is responsible for scheduling all Probable Cause Hearings (Phase one) and all Final Revocation Hearings (Phase two) between the Administrative Law Judges and Defense Attorneys. The Hearings section process all Administrative Law Judge decisions, reviews the decision for accuracy, uploads the decision into KOMS and provides a copy of the decision to the appropriate parties. This section is also responsible for any parole violation warrants request as a result of the ALJ decision. Since July 2019, the Program Administrator is responsible for the Parole Board Sanction caseload that currently consist of 50

parolees and is also responsible for all Open Record request for Audio tapes of ALJ hearings.

The Revocation Section is responsible for issuing and processing supervision revocation warrants, processing and rescinding warrants as requested. The Revocation Section reviews all hearing waivers for accuracy, provides and prepare parole violator packets for the Parole Board to use during the final parole revocation hearings. The Program Administrator, in addition to managing staff, is responsible for scheduling all revocation hearings facilitated by the Parole Board members, scheduling all Final Disposition Hearings and all Parole Revocation File Reviews.

Highlights

On June 13, 2019, the Kentucky Supreme Court rendered an opinion in the Jones vs. Bailey case regarding the parole revocation process. The Court found that the current process violated due process therefore, the entire revocation process was revised which resulted in policy changes, amended regulations, hiring of new staff and the creation of new revocation forms. This new process began on October 24, 2019.

House Bill 189 went into effect on 06/27/2019. This created a supervision continuation option to be applied by the Parole Board at the final revocation hearing. This Parole Board Sanction (PBS) provides for the return of sanctioned individuals to a jail, prison, reentry service center or inpatient treatment facilities without revocation of supervision. The sanction can be up to nine months to complete one of the following events: Substance Abuse Treatment (SAP), Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) or Detention.

In October 2019, the Parole Board initiated a parole review process called the Consent Docket This is an expedited initial parole review process for Class D offenders who have a level two or lower risk needs assessment score, no disciplinary in the last two (2) years that is higher than Category 3-11 or Category 4 or above, no assaultive conviction within the last two years of review, no class A,B, or C detainer, no revocations within the last six months, current crime does not involve exploitation of a vulnerable population (elderly, disabled, child).

There were four new appointments to the Kentucky Parole Board in 2019. Program Director organized the interview process, coordinated the training for these new parole board members and their swearing in ceremony.

As of December 31, 2019, this division processed 20,781 Parole Board decisions, compiled 15,968 Risk and Needs Assessments, issued 5,811 Revocation Warrants and processed 3,661, parole revocation waiver hearing requests while also scheduling 200 Victim's Hearings, 14 Youthful Offender Hearings, 692 Parole Reconsideration Request, 15 Emergency Medical Parole Reviews, and 31 Re-entry Drug Supervision Parole Reviews. In lieu of parole revocation, the Parole Board rescinded 1,412 parole violation warrants for parolees who agreed to participate in discretionary sanctions as recommended by the parole officer staff and in lieu of parole revocation the Parole Board imposed 55 Parole Board Sanctions. The Division of Parole and Victim Services Staff continues to ensure that the Parole Board is able to fulfill their duty as part of the Criminal Justice System of Kentucky in accordance to KRS 438.380.