



Montana Board of Pardons and Parole
1002 Hollenbeck Road, Deer Lodge, MT 59722 || 406-846-1404

Greg Gianforte, Governor

Steven K. Hurd, Board Chair

BUSINESS MEETING NOTICE

The Montana Board of Pardons and Parole conducted a business meeting, Deer Lodge, Montana, on Friday, November 22, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

Present at the meeting were:

Board Members: Chair Hurd, Member Patelis, Member McElroy, Member Etchemendy, Member Newman

Operations Staff: Victim/Witness Coordinator Brackenbury, BOPP Institutional Screening Coordinator Peek, Chief of Staff Buckley

The agenda occurred as follows:

9:30 am: Discussion of Parole Guideline Scores/Possible Revisions – Member Brad Newman.

Member Newman discussed the process for consideration of changes to GLS and listed statutory authority granted to the Board Members. He covered the factors that the Board considers and could consider. He summarized the work that was conducted with the Criminal Justice Institute and the recommendations that were received from them. He also mentioned that the Administrative Rules need to be modified to clean up language that includes the Womens Risk and Need Assessment that was recently eliminated by the DOC. The options to be considered by the Board were presented.

A Motion was made to continue to collect data on GLS now that the data that is being received has been determined to be valid for a period of three years prior to further discussion about revisions to GLS. Motion was seconded. Vote was unanimous. The BOPP will work to clean up references to WRNA in A.R.M. 20.25.507.

10:00 am: Review of proposed biennium report to the Legislature – COS

The biennium report was reviewed. Motion to approve. Motion seconded. Vote was unanimous to release the report publicly once the appropriate distribution has been determined by the Chair and Vice-Chair.

10:30 am: Questions/Discussion on any current items relating to BOPP Operations that Members or Operational staff would like to bring forward (Budget, Operations, Procedures, etc.)

Member McElroy brought forward the issue of Dead Time for discussion. The Board has not been implementing Dead Time since 2019 but does have the statutory authority to do so. The Board sees many cases with new felonies where the County dismisses the charge because the offender is being revoked on parole, therefore the offender is not being held accountable. Implementing Dead Time when appropriate would add accountability in these cases. Because the practice did not get suspended by a formal Board vote and the Board has statutory authority, this does not fall under a formal change to Board practice and did not require a Board Vote. All members discussed and agreed that they will resume proposing Dead Time on appropriate cases where they are the lead.

NO BUDGET ITEMS WERE PRESENTED

11:30 am: Public Comment

NO PUBLIC COMMENT WAS MADE ON ANY ITEMS UNDER THE BOPP AUTHORITY.

Adjourn

Please contact the Montana Board of Pardons and Parole for directions on accessing this meeting on or before 2:00 p.m., Thursday, November 21, 2024.

You can contact the Board by email at mt.bopp@mt.gov or call 406-846-1404.