

MINUTES
APRIL 9, 2018
RHODE ISLAND PAROLE BOARD
PUBLIC MEETING

- 1) **Call to Order**- Chairperson Pisaturo called the meeting to order at 3:27pm
- 2) **Roll Call**- Roll call taken by Board Administrator Matthew Degnan

Present: Chairperson Laura Pisaturo, Vice-Chairperson Victoria Almeida, Members Dr. Jorge Armesto, Dr. Bonita Cade, Ms. Marilyn Cepeda Sanchez, Dr. Anne Nolan, Major Oscar Perez.

- 3) **Adoption of Minutes** – adoption of minutes from the December 5, 2017 public meeting. Dr. Nolan moved to adopt the minutes, seconded by Dr. Armesto. With a voice vote all voted in favor, none abstained and the motion passed.

4) Review and adoption of Proposed 2018 Parole Guidelines

Chairperson Pisaturo reviewed aloud the redlined updates/edits to the Proposed 2018 Guidelines. Copies were available to those in attendance and also posted on the Secretary of State website in advance of the meeting.

Dr. Cade made a Motion to open the Public Comment portion of the meeting and Vice-Chair Almeida seconded the motion. With a voice vote, all voted in favor, none abstained and this Motion passed.

Lisa Holley, Esq. of Lisa Holley Law, 127 Dorrance Street, Providence, RI addressed the members of the Board to advocate for the passage of the special considerations for juvenile offenders; Ms. Holley also advocated for an additional provision, to cap at three (3) years the reconsideration timeframe for ‘youthful offenders’ – defined as those age 21 or younger at the time of their offense – who may be denied parole but reconsidered in the future.

The Chairperson noted Ms. Holley’s experience in law enforcement, as a former chair and member of the parole board and now as a private practitioner, and thanked her for her comments.

Steve Brown, Executive Director, ACLU RI Chapter, 128 Dorrance Street, Providence, RI addressed the members of the Board to advocate for the passage of the special considerations for juvenile offenders and commended the Board for its work in this area. The Chairperson thanked Mr. Brown and noted that he submitted, on behalf of the ACLU RI Chapter, a written letter which will become part of the meeting record. The Chair also noted that the Parole Board office received written comment (a letter, dated April 9, 2018) from The Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth in support of the Proposed

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2018 Guidelines and this letter will also be made part of the record for this public meeting.

There being no further public comment, Dr. Armesto made a Motion to Close Public Comment and Dr. Cade seconded the Motion. With a voice vote, all voted in favor, none abstained and this Motion passed.

The Chairperson asked if any Board members wished to consider the recommendations made by Ms. Holley and Dr. Armesto made a Motion to Add a Provision Under Section 1.4, subsection D and Adopt a Cap of Three (3) years for Youthful Offenders (defined as those inmates aged 21 years or younger at the time of their offense) for Reconsideration Hearings. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Almeida. There was no further discussion. After roll call vote, all voted in favor, none abstained and this Motion passed.

Next, the Chairperson made a Motion to Change Section 1.4, subsection E1 to Remove the Word “shall” and Replace it with “may” to give the Board discretion on whether or not to continue a parole consideration hearing for an inmate who also has a pending criminal charge. Vice Chair Almeida seconded the Motion. The Chair discussed that some inmates may have a pending charge but also a competing expiration of sentence under parole consideration or other variables that might be at play and which the Board may wish to consider and recommended the modified language to maintain the Board’s discretion to manage its cases. There was no further discussion and, after roll call vote, all voted in favor, none abstained and this Motion passed.

Dr. Nolan made a Motion to Adopt the 2018 Guidelines, As Amended. Seconded by Dr. Armesto. There was no further discussion and, after roll call vote, all voted in favor, none abstained and this Motion passed.

5) Announcements – there were no announcements made.

Adjournment: Dr. Nolan Motioned to Adjourn. Vice-Chair Almeida Seconded the Motion. With a voice vote, all voted in favor, none abstained and the meeting adjourned at 3:57PM.