

# Board of Parole

## Mission and philosophy

The mission of the Wyoming Board of Parole is to conduct prompt, fair, impartial hearings on the matters brought to its attention and take appropriate action. Consideration will be given to public safety, victims and the treatment and control of the offender.

As of July 1, 2003, the Board was statutorily authorized to hire an Executive Director and an Administrative Assistant, and the Wyoming Department of Corrections (WDOC) employees previously assigned to provide administrative support for the Board became employees of the Wyoming Board of Parole.

The Board's parole decisions are made with public safety considerations foremost. It considers the information given by the victim(s), the extent of the offender's rehabilitation efforts, the seriousness of the crime, the offender's criminal history, the offender's behavior and rule infractions while incarcerated, family support, the recommendation from WDOC staff and whether it is believed the offender can comply with the terms and conditions of parole.

In paroling offenders, the Board reduces the cost of imprisonment and unifies the offenders with their families, which in turn reduces the state's cost to support the offender's family while he or she is incarcerated.

By releasing offenders to parole to be supervised by the Probation and Parole agents employed by WDOC, public safety is enhanced, as the offender is supervised in the community instead of leaving the institution without any supervision. The release of offenders to supervision also allows them to pay restitution to the victims for financial loss resulting from the crime.

## Results of outcomes

The Board had 46 hearing days. At each hearing day there are three Board members in attendance and a fourth member attends for commutation hearings scheduled during the year. Each attending member is allowed one preparation day for each hearing day and a day for travel to the hearing location. The Board members travel to all in-state prisons and to some out-of-state institutions where Wyoming inmates are housed by WDOC, to conduct review hearings, parole hearings and interview those that have been forwarded to a quorum for consideration of a commutation recommendation. The Board also conducts revocation of parole hearings and considers other matters brought to its attention.

The Board interviewed 818 inmates. Of the 642 eligible inmates, the Board paroled 397. The Board also conducted

### General information

Patrick M. Anderson, Executive Director

### Agency contact

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### Year established and reorganized

1971; 2003

### Statutory references

Wyo. Stats. §§ 7-13-401 and 7-13-402

### Authorized personnel

Six full-time employees

### Organizational structure

Separate Operating Agency with no Divisions

### Clients served

Public, victims and felony offenders

### Budget information

General Fund.....	\$463,390
Other.....	0
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$463,390</b>

### Agency to which group reports

Governor's Office

### Number of members

Seven members appointed by the Governor

### Meeting frequency

One to two parole hearing meetings per month and Administrative Meetings as needed

120 parole revocation hearings and heard 33 cases under special circumstances.

The Board interviewed 22 inmates to consider recommendations to the Governor for commutations of their sentences. Twelve of those cases were referred to the Governor and three commutations were granted.

The staff notified 177 certified victims of the review hearing for ineligible inmates and informed 185 certified victims of those inmates eligible for parole consideration. Six hundred seventeen victims were informed of their rights and how to become certified victims.

In October of 2003, the Board's staff assumed full responsibility of notifying certified victims of paroles granted to offenders, releases to parole and from parole, warrants issued for a parole violations, results of parole revocation hearings, restitution matters, commutation recommendations and commutation grants. The Board's staff informed 137 certified victims regarding those matters.

Board rules have not yet been posted on the website as they are currently undergoing review and revision to accommodate other statutory and regulatory changes.

The Board actively engaged in efforts to enhance professional development for members and staff. Five members and two employees attended a conference conducted by the Association of Paroling Authorities, International and one member attended new member training conducted by that organization. Three employees attended Word training.

## **Strategic plan changes**

No significant changes have been formalized. The process for development of a new strategic plan has begun with completion of training of two employees in the "Results-Based Accountability" strategic planning methodology endorsed by the Governor's Office. That methodology will be utilized by the Board for preparation of its Agency Strategic Plan in 2005.

# Board of Parole organization chart

