

Our Mission

To serve the citizens of Louisiana through informed decision-making, thereby promoting public safety, addressing the needs of crime victims, and to facilitate successful reentry for offenders who have appropriately prepared for community supervision.

Our Vision

The Louisiana Board of Pardons & Parole, guided by evidence-based principles, shall: Render just determination in regard to parole release and revocations, thereby maximizing the restoration of human potential;

Ensure crime victims have a voice in the decision-making process;
Use appropriate Department of Corrections and community resources to facilitate an offender's successful transition from confinement to the community;
Impose reasonable conditions of release consistent with the goal of structured reintegration of the offender;

Hold accountable those offenders who violate the conditions of release;
Foster a positive relationship with all stakeholders;
Administer the clemency process with recommendation to the Governor fully commensurate with public safety and due consideration;
Strive to be a continuously learning organization

Our Values

We value Ethics, Integrity, Equity and Innovation.

In FY 2022: **11,696**

Actions Processed

125

Revocation Hearings were conducted

200 +

Applications Clemency Reviewed

1,696

Victim Notifications Issued

706

Victims Provided Testimony



Sheryl M. Ranatza, Chairman Pardon & Parole Sheryl Ranatza retired from the Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections in 2011, after serving over 30 years in DPS&C. She served in a variety of management positions throughout the Department, with her last position being that of Deputy Secretary. Sheryl Ranatza was the first female in Louisiana to achieve the designation of Certified Corrections Executive by the American Correctional Association and is a member of several corrections affiliated organizations. She was appointed as Chairman of the Louisiana Board of Parole in February 2012 and Chairman of the Pardon Board in August 2012. She was re-appointed as Board Chair by Governor John Bel Edwards in 2016.

On behalf of the Louisiana Board of Pardons & Committee on Parole, I am pleased to present the 2022 Annual Report. This fiscal year was defined by a return to normalcy as Louisiana overcame COVID-19. The Board has remained focused on our mission as we navigated the pandemic and returned to in-person operations.

The support of the Department of Corrections over the past decade has enabled the board to move from one that was heavily under resourced and relied on hard copy material to make its decisions, into one that is flexible, resilient, and embraces technology. It is this support that allowed for little to no interruption of our work as we navigated our way through the pandemic over the past 2-1/2 years.

During this past year, the board's administrative support staff worked tirelessly to support board members and the work of the board. They continue to demonstrate innovating and adaptive capability to facilitate the Board's work.

This report contains a snapshot of our work over the fiscal. year. In addition to pardon and parole hearings which require significant preparation and due diligence, the board performs other complex work.

We continue our commitment to the safety of our communities and the successful reintegration of prisoners back into society.



TONY MARABELLA, Vice Chairman Pardon & Parole

Tony Marabella is a graduate of LSU, obtaining his Juris Doctorate in 1973 from LSU's Paul M. Hebert Law Center. He has participated in all aspects of the Judicial Branch, serving as a Parish Attorney, City Prosecutor, Assistant District Attorney, and an Assistant Public Defender. He began his private practice in 1980 which was devoted almost exclusively to criminal defense. In 2003 he was elected Judge in the 19th JDC and presided over the District's Drug Court for 14 years. He retired from the bench in 2018 he has served as an adjunct faculty member at the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center for the last ten years.



ALVIN ROCHÉ, JR, Pardon & Parole

Mr. Roché served as the director of library services at Southern University Law Center from 1990 until his retirement in August of 2007. Prior to becoming the director of library services, Mr. Roché served a variety of roles in the Southern University System, including associate law librarian and associate professor at the University Library. Mr. Roché received his bachelor of sciences degree in social science-history with a minor in library sciences from Southern University and a masters of library services from LSU. Mr. Roché serves on the Board of Pardons and Committee on Parole as the victims' advocate.



Bonnie Jackson, Pardon & Parole

Judge Bonnie Jackson earned her Juris Doctorate from the Louisiana State University Law Center in 1978, one of five African American students to graduate from the law school that year. Judge Jackson worked for the East Baton Rouge Parish Public Defender's Office for 14 years. While there she became the Assistant Director, a position she held until the launch of her judgeship campaign. Bonnie Foster Jackson was a judge for Section 1, Division K of the Louisiana 19th Judicial District Court. She left office on December 31, 2020.

Curtis "Pete" Fremin, Pardon & Parole

Curtis "Pete" Fremin is the former Director of Probation and Parole at the Department of Corrections and has 35 years of experience in Louisiana state government. In the past, he served as President of the Louisiana Probation and Parole Association, a State Representative of the Southern States Correctional Association, elected member of the Louisiana Civil Service Commission, and the Interstate Compact Commissioner for Louisiana. Mr. Fremin is also an LSU alumni and received his Bachelor of Sciences degree in 1983.



Pearl Wise, Parole

Mrs. Wise began her criminal justice career as a probation and parole officer in the Monroe District Office of the Division of Probation & Parole. Her career spanned over 20 years. She served as community resources coordinator for the district and also supervised a unit of probation and parole officers. Mrs. Wise received her master's degree in criminal justice from the University of Louisiana Monroe and is a veteran of the Louisiana National Guard. After her retirement from the Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections, Governor John Bel Edwards appointed Mrs. Wise to serve as an at-large member of the Committee on Parole.



Brennan C. Kelsey, Parole

Mr. Kelsey is a physical therapist with over 20 years of experience, with a private practice in Tangipahoa Parish. Throughout his career, Mr. Kelsey has worked in a variety of settings including mental health outpatient, rehab, and acute care. Mr. Kelsey received a bachelor of science in physical therapy from LSU Medical Center and a master's in general business and healthcare from Southeastern Louisiana University. Mr. Kelsey was appointed by Governor John Bel Edwards to serve as an at-large member of the Committee on Parole.



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Team Structure

Chairman of the Board

John Poche,

Executive

Management

Officer

Gail Guerin.

CVSB

Board Members

Governor Appointed

Jolie

Duarte,

Victim

Francis Abbott, Executive Director

Advocacy Consultant D'Anna Julie Lawton, Collura, 11 Victim Admin Licensed Assistance Coordinators Program Social Worker Specialist Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement Grant Funded

Gerri Garon, LAVO

Karla Williams, Administrative Program Director

Maggie Clark,
Administrative
Coordinator

Sharee Owens, Administrative Program
Manager

Whitney Troxclair, Administrative Program Manager

Galencia Darville, Investigative Specialist

Gracie Williams, Investigative Specialist Chiquita McQuirter, Investigative Specialist Betty Williams, Admin Coordinator Natalie Verbois, Investigative Specialist

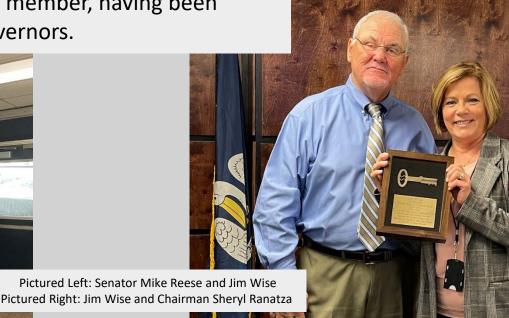
Markel Lewis, Investigative Specialist

Pansy Mercadal, Admin Coordinator

Parole Docket Prep and Revocations Pardon Docket Prep and Hearing Room

Recognizing Jim Wise

On April 25, 2022 we celebrated the retirement of Jim Wise. After studying criminal justice at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, and completing the Calcasieu Regional Law Enforcement Training Academy, Mr. Wise served as a deputy in the Vernon Parish Sheriff's Office for 18 years as supervisor over all uniformed divisions. He later served as an Investigator at Louisiana State Penitentiary. Mr. Wise was first appointed to the Louisiana Parole Board in 2004 and was appointed to the Pardon Board in August 2012. He is the longest serving member, having been appointed by four different Governors.



Improving Outcomes Through Education

Statutorily Members must have a bachelor's degree and at least five years of experience in the field of penology, corrections, law enforcement, sociology, law, education, social work, medicine, psychology or psychiatry, or a combination thereof. If the member does not have at least a bachelor's degree, he or she must have no less than seven years of experience in one of the aforementioned fields.

After their appointment, Board Members are required to participate in at least 40 hours of continuing education as part of our ACA Accreditation. Our team works diligently to provide training opportunities for Board Members and Staff.

2022 Training Topics Included:

- The Hunter & the Hunted; Understanding Predatory Behavior
- Mental Health Evaluations
- Overview of Prison Operations & Transfers
- Specialized Community Supervision Programs
 - Pay for Success Initiative
 - Exit 318 and Whole Health Partnership
- Trauma Informed Victim Support
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion as it Relates to Board Decisions
- Legislative Updates
- Statistical Analysis of Recidivism in Long Serving Offenders



Pictured From Left: Administrative Program Director Karla Williams, Vice-Chairman Marabella and Administrative Program Manager Sharee Owens

Improving Outcomes Through Education

American Correctional Association



The Louisiana Board of Pardons & Committee on Parole is was recently reaccredited by the American Correctional Association (ACA). This achievement reflects our staff's commitment to their work to support Louisiana's discretionary releasing authority. ACA sets standards that create an environment that promotes fairness in our processes. These standards help ensure public confidence in our criminal justice system, the rights of incarcerated individuals are preserved, and that procedures

are constantly reviewed and updated so that our organization can continue to progress.

ACA hosts training conferences annually which our staff regularly attend. These venues provide an opportunity for professional development in the field of corrections. With the 2022 ACA Summer Conference held in New Orleans, our staff was able to participate in a variety of ways; three staff members volunteered in the conference operations, and two Board members and five staff members attended professional development courses.

Additionally, Executive Director Abbott worked with representatives from other jurisdictions' paroling authorities to make revisions to ACA's *Standards* for *Adult Parole Authorities*. The goal of this team is to conduct a comprehensive review and present recommendations to the Standards and Accreditation Committee at the 2023 ACA Winter Conference.



Improving Outcomes Through Education

Association of Paroling Authorities International

Board Members and staff are also very active in the Association of Paroling Authorities International (APAI). The benefits of the Board's participation in APAI are invaluable to all of it's stakeholders. APAI is a global association dedicated to the accomplishment of public safety and successful offender reentry through training, education, standards of evidence-based research and best practices. This network of professionals from discretionary releasing authorities from around the world provide peer-based technical assistance and support in collaboration with strategic partners.





APAI held it's 2022 Annual Training Conference in San Diego, California. In attendance were three Board Members and two staff members. This conference offered training in the overarching theme of Innovative Trends Globally Impacting the World of Discretionary Parole.

Executive Director Abbott currently serves as the Secretary for APAI and hopes to run for reelection at the 2023 Annual Training Conference in Kansas City, Missouri.

Clemency Process

The Governor may grant reprieves to persons convicted of offenses against the state, and upon recommendation of the Board of Pardons, may commute sentences, pardon those convicted of offenses against the state, and remit fines and forfeitures imposed for such offenses. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the governor shall not grant any pardon to any person unless that person has paid all of the court costs or fees imposed in connection with the conviction of the crime for which the pardon is to be issued.



Application – Application is submitted. Incarcerated individuals submit programs of completion, disciplinary conduct, and reentry plan. Released individuals submit current employment status.

Administrative Review – Application is granted (hearing scheduled) or denied.





Investigation – Investigation is ordered. Victims are interviewed. Input from District Attorney, Judges, and Law Enforcement.

Hearing – Offender interviewed. Victim testimony or Victim Impact Statement. District Attorney, Judges, and Law Enforcement participate in hearing.



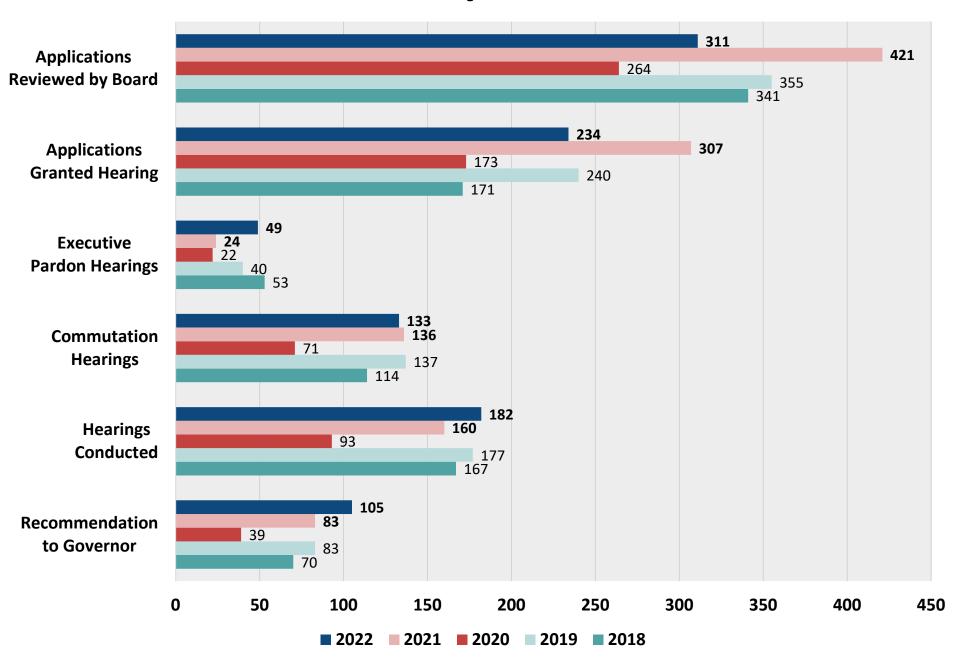


Outcome – Application denied or recommendation is made to the Governor.

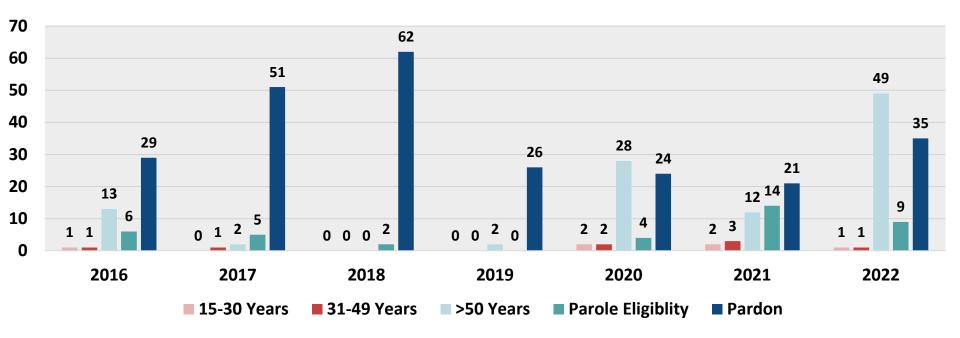
"As a long time staff member, our mission statement and determination to give all sides equal stakes in every hearing, makes this job very rewarding. We get to interact with all parties involved, and help guide them through the Pardon and Parole process."

-Executive Management Officer John Poche

Clemency Statistics



Governor's Actions



The above chart shows what recommendations the Governor approved for clemency. Pardons restored applicants rights while commutations alter an applicants sentence and provides parole eligibility. The relief in sentence length received by incarcerated applicants is reflected in the year ranges.

"It gives me great satisfaction working for the Louisiana Board of Pardons and Committee on Parole. Playing a part in the lives of many individuals, whether offender or victims, aligns with my belief that the love for people is important in society." The Committee on Parole makes a variety of critical decisions concerning the timing of release, conditions to be imposed, and supervision strategies. Determination of release suitability of eligible offenders is made through decisions that promote fairness, objectivity, and public safety and are responsive to the concerns of victims, members of the community, and other entities within the criminal justice system.

Parole Process

"I am excited to continue my career with the Board. I enjoy seeing our team's hard work and dedication be presented during pardon hearings. I know the work we do helps the panel make the best decision for public safety."

-Administrative Program Manager Whitney Troxclair



Eligibility – DPS&C submit statutorily eligible offenders to be considered for parole. This is for an offender's initial hearing only.

Administrative Review – Subsequent hearings must be requested by the offender. This request is granted (hearing scheduled) or denied.





Investigation – Investigation is ordered. Victims are interviewed. Input from District Attorney, Judges, and Law Enforcement

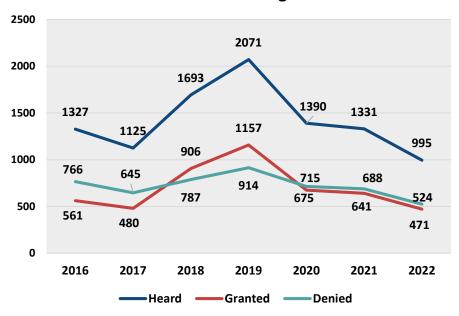
Hearing – Offender interviewed. Victim testimony or Victim Impact Statement. District Attorney, Judges, and Law Enforcement participate in hearing.





Outcome – Parole Denied or Parole Granted with Standard Conditions and may include Additional Conditions which can be completed prior to or after release.

Parole Hearings



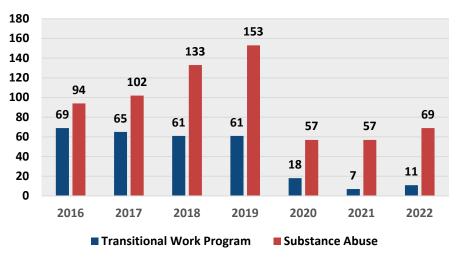
Parole by the Numbers

Parole Hearings show the number of hearings conducted by year and paroles granted. The increase in parole hearings in 2018 & 2019 is a result of the 2017 Criminal Justice Reform package of legislation. The decrease in hearings in 2022 is due to additional Clemency hearings being conducted.

Conditional Releases shows the number of offenders that were required to complete programming prior release on parole.

5 Year Parole Release Recidivism shows the comparative recidivism rates between parole releases and regular prison releases. The results are significantly better for the parole population.

Conditional Releases



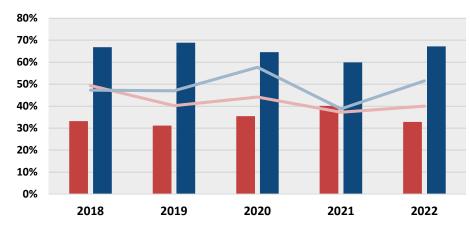
5 year Parole Release Recidivism

(DPS&C Briefing Book, 2022)

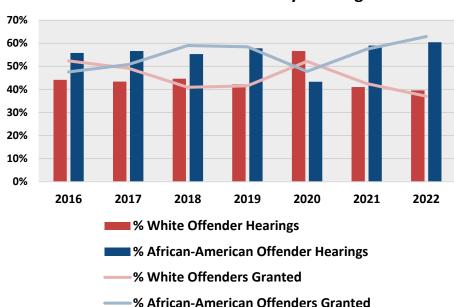


Ensuring Equitable Outcomes

Racial Profile of Parole Hearings



Racial Profile of Clemency Hearings



Recognizing the role that race has played in the criminal justice system and how our Board can ensure fair and equitable hearings for offenders is at the forefront of what we do each day. The current make-up of our Board is the most diverse in our history. 43% of our seven members identifying as African-American and 43% of our seven members are female. The staff we have assembled is no different with 50% of our full-time employees identifying as African-American.

These charts depict the racial make-up of the offenders provided hearings and the decisions made by the Board since 2018. The columns represent the percentage of hearings by race. The horizontal line represents the percentage of offender hearings by race that were granted as it relates to the number of hearings for that race. The racial profile of parole hearings closely mirror the racial profile of the incarcerated population.

"Facilitating the transfer of offenders from incarceration to community supervision is one of the most rewarding highlights of my job."

> -Investigative Specialist Chiquita McQuirter

An Aging Population

Medical Parole

To be considered for Medical Parole the offender must be determined to be permanently disabled (unable to engage in substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical impairment which can be expected to result in death or which is or can be expected to be permanently irreversible) or terminally ill (any offender who is diagnosed with a terminal illness and death is expected within one year; the medical condition is usually permanent in nature and carries a poor prognosis).

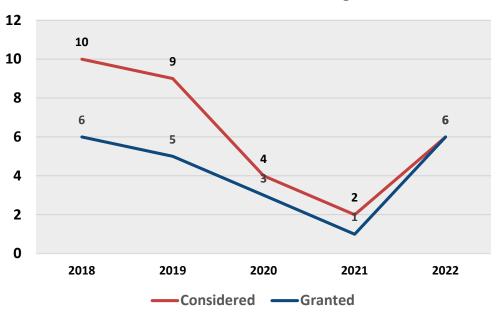
Medical Treatment Furlough

An offender who is determined to have limited-mobility offender may be considered by the Committee on Parole for medical treatment furlough release to an off-site medical facility appropriate to the offender's medical treatment needs. The offender may only be released to a medical facility and may not be released to a residential setting. "Limited—mobility" is defined as an offender who is unable to perform activities of daily living without help or is bedbound, including but not limited to, prolonged coma and medical ventilation. Medical treatment furlough is not available to any offender serving a sentence for a conviction of first-degree murder.

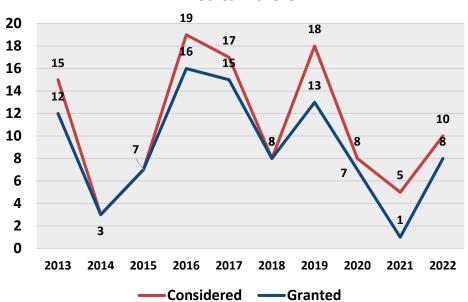
Coming to a Decision

The Committee on Parole considers the offender's crime and criminal history, length of time served in custody, institutional conduct, whether the offender represents a low risk to himself or society, as well as an assessment of the offender's condition. In the assessment of risk, emphasis is given to the medical condition and how this relates to the overall risk to society. Medical Parole is not available to any offender serving a sentence for a conviction of first or second-degree murder. If the offender's condition improves such that he is no longer eligible for medical parole, the medical parole may be revoked and the offender returned to custody.

Medical Treatment Furlough



Medical Parole



Special Populations

Over the past few years the Legislature has provided relief for certain incarcerated populations. The Board continues to work with DPS&C to provide meaningful opportunities at parole as legislatively required. Below is the grant rate for these populations since passage of legislation.

2017 Regular Session

Act 277 Juvenile Lifers – 67% Grant Rate
Act 280 Parole Eligibility for 2nd Degree Murder After Serving 40 Years – 61% Grant Rate

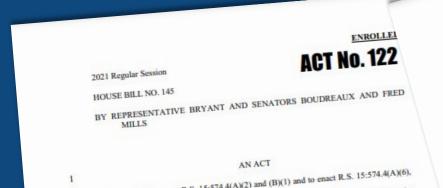
2020 Regular Session

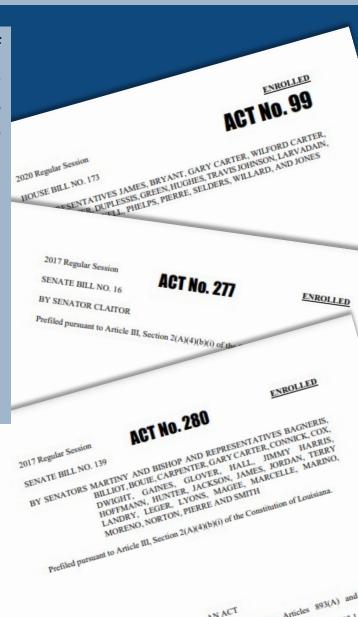
Act 99 Parole Eligibility for Juveniles w/o Life After Serving 25 Years – 70% Grant Rate

2021 Regular Session

Act 122 20 Years Served and Over the Age of 45 – 48% Grant Rate

*All Parole Hearings Since 2017 - 49% Grant Rate





Risk Factors & Program Opportunities

Substance Abuse

Mental Health

Employability

Education

Long Term and Short Term Programming

Medical Assisted Treatment

Evaluations

After Care Plan Specialize Parole Agents Transitional Work Program

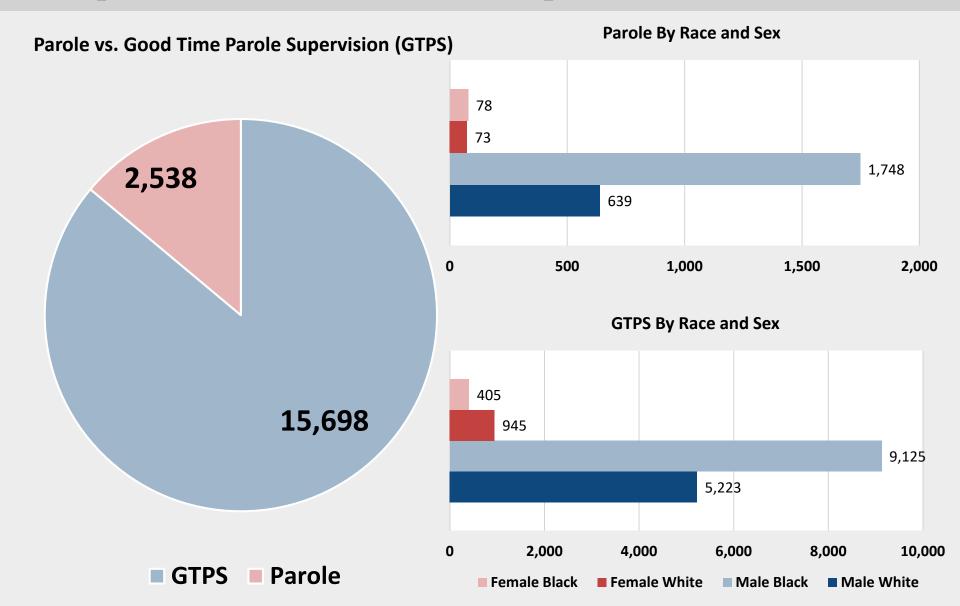
Vocational Training Literacy Programming Adult Basic Education High School
Diploma
Equivalency



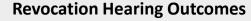


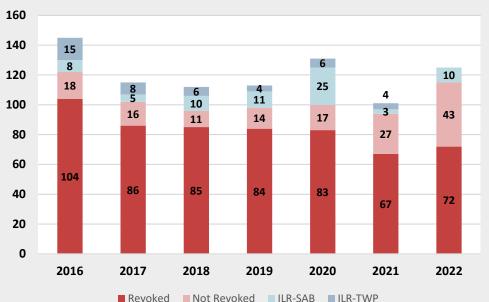
While many of the offenders who appear before a parole panel have been exposed to DOC certified treatment and rehabilitative programs, some still have not received programming that addresses their reasons for incarceration. The Board's support staff reviews offender records prior to parole hearings to identify offenders who may have special needs. The ultimate goal in these situations would be to place the offender in appropriate programming at a facility close to their post-release residence plan so they can maintain and strengthen family ties.

Supervision Snapshot

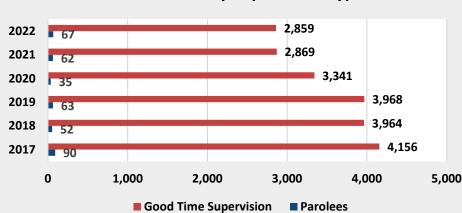


Supervision Snapshot





Revocations by Supervision Type

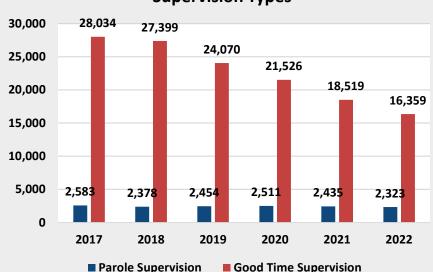


Revocation Hearing Outcomes or other actions ordered In Lieu of Revocation (ILR) such as Substance Abuse Treatment (SAB) or participation in Transitional Work Program (TWP).

Revocation by Supervision Type shows a decrease in revocations as the use of alternatives to incarceration have increased. These alternatives include administrative sanctions that the parole officer can put in place.

Average number of offenders under jurisdiction of the Board by type of supervision. Parole supervision reflects discretionary releases by the Committee on Parole. Good time supervision reflects mandatory releases via diminution of sentence.

Average Number of Offenders by Supervision Types



Victim & Survivor Services

Throughout 2022, Louisiana Victim Outreach Program (LAVO) continued to provide victim/survivor services remotely. LAVO staff delivered counseling, advocacy, and survivor-focused events to community members across the state via Zoom and phone. In challenging circumstances, LAVO staff worked diligently to provide support and resources to victims and survivors of crime.

In February Jolie Duarte, Victim Services Advocate, along with Executive Director Abbott and EHCC Deputy Warden Darryl Campbell sat on a panel for University of Louisiana – Lafayette's Criminal Justice Week. The panel addressed the needs of victims and survivors throughout the criminal justice process, while answering questions related to our experiences working within the criminal justice system.



Pictured: Victim Assistance Coordinator
Darius Credit engaging stakeholders at our
Survivor Support Services Soiree

During National Crime Victims Rights' Week LAVO hosted the Survivor Support Services Soiree, an outreach and awareness event to inform community members in Baton Rouge of the support services available in their communities. We hosted various agencies and service providers form across the city at the Department of Corrections Headquarters, among them were Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response (STAR), the Baton Rouge chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office Sex Offender Registry, Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV), Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), and the Capital Area Family Justice Center (CAFJC). This event allowed service providers to connect with individuals in the community in need of their services, as well as with other organizations to further future collaboration efforts.

Victim & Survivor Services

Trauma-Informed Tuesday

Beginning in June, LAVO implemented a new training opportunity for service providers across the nation with the help of Myra Strand, owner of Strand Squared Solutions. On the second Tuesday of each month, we hosted live training webinars conducted by Myra Strand addressing the numerous challenges facing individuals working within the criminal justice system face. These trainings provided education on professional wellness and the importance of taking care of ourselves to better care for the people we serve, while addressing the delicate areas of our jobs working with victims and survivors. Topics included Collaboration Safety Planning and Lethality Assessment, Strangulation/Asphyxiation and Domestic Violence, and Organizational Wellness and Trauma. From July to December over 400 service providers, corrections involved employees, and community support providers representing over 50 agencies from across the country. To date we have conducted seven different trainings, and continue to provide this training opportunity as we move into 2023.

Internship Program



LAVO was able to expand its staff with the implementation of an intern program with the Louisiana State University Sociology Department. From September through December, student intern Luanne Nguyen, was able to provide necessary support to our program while learning more about the inner workings of the pardon and parole process.

DN/ PARDON/ PAROLE HEARINGS

Pictured Top Left From Left: Licensed Social Worker Julie Collura, Crime Victim Services Bureau Director Gail Guerin, Executive Director Abbott, Chairman Ranatza P&P Director Jamie Lee, Louisiana District Attorney Association Victim Services Liaison Penny Davis and Mrs. Paulette Prince

LAVO's Licensed Social Worker was very beneficial in helping me process my journey through the parole system. Without their valuable insight and guidance I wouldn't have been as emotionally prepared for my hearings. I appreciate their hard work and dedication to the crime victims in Louisiana.

-Survivor

New Space

Dedicated to Serving Victims & Survivors

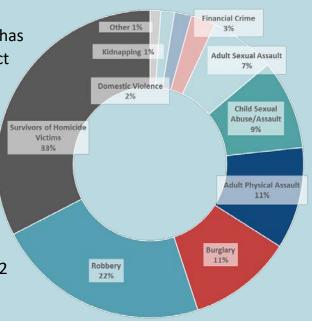
On the same day as the Survivor Support Services Soiree, the Board also celebrated the opening of its new Hearing Room and Victim Services workspace with a ribbon cutting. This area focuses on giving victims and survivors navigating the post-conviction criminal justice process a safe space to receive services. Recognizing that the way our staff conducts business was forever changed in the wake of the Covid-19 Pandemic, we designed this space to host participants in-person or virtually and in a fair and equitable manner.



Victim & Survivor Services

Victim Assistance Coordinators

Since its implementation in April 2020, the Victim Assistance Program has expanded to eleven employees and currently secures victim impact statements for upcoming pardon and parole hearings in a trauma informed manner. The ten Victims Assistance Coordinators and Program Administrator are stationed around the state and work with each Probation and Parole Office to secure comments on all upcoming hearings related to a sex or violent offense. This trauma-informed approach has proven beneficial to victims and also provided Probation and Parole with additional time to focus on offender supervision. This chart identifies the victimization categories that we use when working with victims and survivors. In calendar year 2022 we provided services to 2,042 victims and survivors, up 19% from 2021.



Victim Offender Dialogue

The Victim Offender Dialogue Program (VOD) provides victims and survivors the opportunity to give voice to their trauma regarding the crime committed against themselves or their loved ones. Jon Wilson, a National Association of Victims Assistance in Corrections approved trainer, conducted an intensive weeklong training which resulted in nine new VOD facilitators. We also conducted six in person meetings which included speakers from a variety of community agencies. Speakers included Angela Henderson; Assistant Executive Director of Project Celebration who conducted a sexual trauma training; Senae Hall Assistant District Attorney Caddo Parish Human trafficking Division presented on the topic of human trafficking. In addition to the speakers, approximately 15 victims and survivors presented their testimonies and experiences to the VOD facilitators during trainings. Facilitators have brought a total of two VOD Cases to dialogue. Currently there are 17 open VOD Cases and all have been assigned.

Looking to the Legislature

2022 Regular Session Review

- Act 140 improves the victim notification process by allowing the use of electronic communications.
- Act 544 gave parole eligibility to offenders serving a life sentence and plead guilty before July 2, 1973.
- Act 726 increased the time an offender must wait to receive a rehearing from two years to four for certain violent and sex offenses.
- Act 750 was a technical clean-up removing an accelerated parole eligibility for offenders serving for a crime that is both a sex offense and a crime of violence.

ACT NO. 140

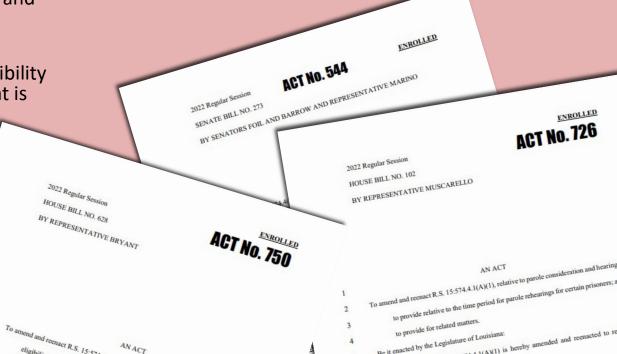
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HOUSE BILL NO. 265

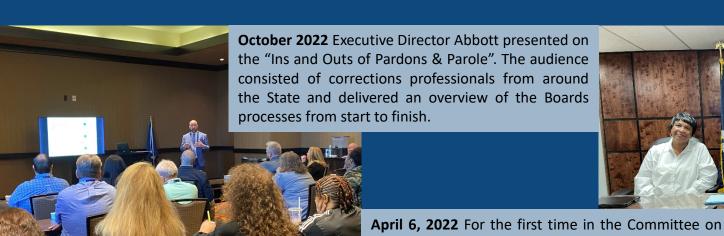
BY REPRESENTATIVE VILLIO

2023 Goals

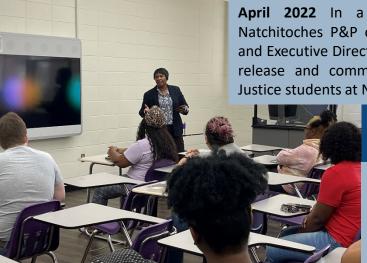
- To require that tenure of Board of Pardons members is no less than 4 years; to provide for the removal of Board of Pardons members for good and demonstrated cause.
- To provide for adherence to accreditation standards regarding compensation of parole authority decision makers.



2022 Milestones







April 2022 In a collaborative effort with the Natchitoches P&P office Board Member Pearl Wise and Executive Director Abbott discussed discretionary release and community supervision with Criminal Justice students at Northwestern University.

May 2022 Executive Director Abbott and Mrs. Angela Griffin presented at the Louisiana District Attorney's Training Conference in Lafayette, LA. Topics included the Board's Louisiana Victim Outreach Program, Parole Eligibility and Time Computation

