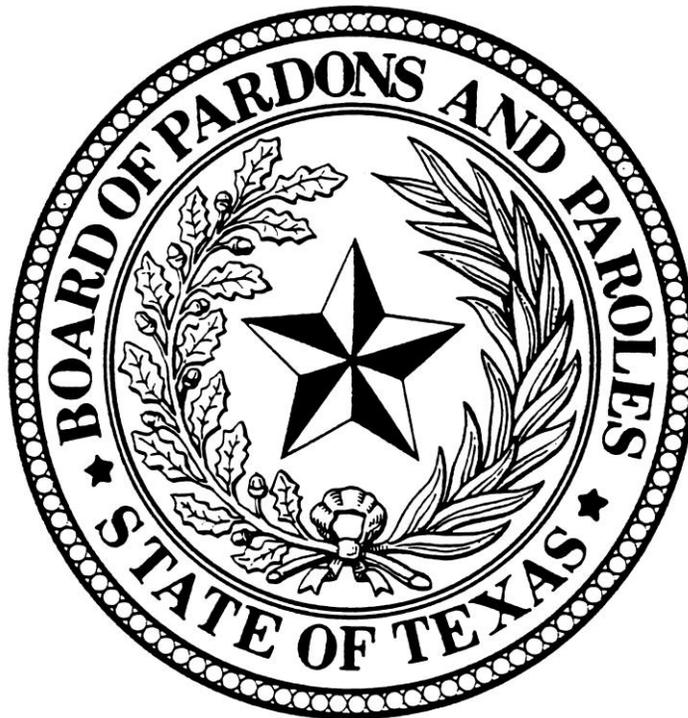


# TEXAS BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES

## MINUTES

*Board Workshop No. 20-0116*



**January 16, 2020**

**Austin, Texas**



# **TEXAS BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES**

## ***WORKSHOP***

4616 West Howard Lane, Suite 200  
CJAD Training Room  
Austin, Texas

January 16, 2020

8:00 AM

### **Order of Business**

1. Call Workshop to Order
2. Operational Review Overview
3. Cognitive Programming
4. Adjourn



**MINUTES OF THE  
TEXAS BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES  
BOARD WORKSHOP  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2020**

**REGULAR SESSION**

The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles (Board) met in open session on Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 8:00 a.m., 4616 West Howard Lane, Suite 200, Austin, Texas.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

David Gutiérrez  
D'Wayne Jernigan  
Carmella Jones  
James LaFavers  
Brian Long  
Ed Robertson  
Fred Solis

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Bettie Wells, General Counsel  
Jessica Dillard, Board Administrator  
Raymond Estrada, Director, Public Information  
Rachel Alderete, Director, Hearing Operations  
Veronica Muraira, Director, Administrative Support  
Clinton Gunnels, Director, Institutional Parole Operations  
Robin Biscamp, Deputy Director, Institutional Parole Operations  
Libby Hamilton, Board Victim Services Liaison  
Terence Hall, Systems Analyst  
Estela DeHoyos, Program Supervisor  
Matthew Schlosser, Multimedia Technician  
Amanda Gage, Manager, TDCJ-Victim Services  
Roel Benavides, House Corrections Committee Clerk  
David O'Neil, Attorney at Law  
Bill Haburn, Attorney at Law

Board Workshop No. 20-0116

**CONVENED – TEXAS BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES**

Presiding Officer (Chairman) David Gutiérrez convened the Board Workshop of Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, Open Meetings Act. After roll call, the Chairman stated a quorum was present and declared the meeting open.

**OPERATIONAL REVIEW OVERVIEW (ATTACHMENT A)**

Chairman Gutiérrez introduced Kelsey Stratton, Director of Staff Development to provide a report on the Operational Reviews.

Ms. Stratton stated the Operational Review Process was introduced at the July Board Meeting. At that time, reviews were initiated upon a Board Member's request and the scope of that review was specific to that request. Since then, at the Chairman's instruction, Staff Development began instituting mandatory reviews for all the Board offices. At the conclusion of the review, a report is provided to the Chairman and Board Administrator. The report highlights both strengths and weaknesses in the office. Also, the report outlines findings but does not make recommendations. The Board Member, upon receipt of the results, will have 10 business days to provide a response outlining the corrective action taken as a result of the report and upon receipt of that response a follow-up review will be scheduled to evaluate the effectiveness of the corrective action. Ms. Stratton stated one of the purposes of the review is to look for changes that could be made at the department level to improve overall efficiency. A regional training with all Board Assistants will be forthcoming.

Ms. Stratton briefly discussed the new Board Directive created and provided to the Board, which outlines the Operational Review Process. She stated the Directive gives a broad overview of the process, highlighting the purpose of the operational review and giving the authority for reviewers to conduct the review. The Directive also outlines the duties of the Director of Staff Development, and includes a free of impairments clause that provides for an independent review.

Chairman Gutiérrez thanked Ms. Stratton for her presentation.

**COGNITIVE PROGRAMMING (ATTACHMENT B)**

Chairman Gutiérrez yielded the floor to Rene Hinojosa, Director, TDCJ Rehabilitation Programs Division to discuss agenda item #3, Cognitive Programming.

Mr. Hinojosa provided a brief overview of the current activities relating to the Department's programs. He explained the difference between the Texas Christian University Drug Screening (TCUDS), and the Addiction Severity Index (ASI). He provided a brief overview of the program they currently changed in the FI-6R, called Pre-Release Behavioral Change Program (PR-BCP).

Mr. Hinojosa stated the TCUDS is a screening tool that is self-administered during the intake process by the intake coordinators on the TDCJ Unit. The ASI is an actual interview performed by a clinician, a licensed chemical dependency counselor.

As it relates to PR-BCP, Mr. Hinojosa stated the proposed restructured program will operate in a three (3) month format with a 30-day option to extend. The program will not operate as a therapeutic community, but will use the Cognitive-behavioral modality in a non-therapeutic setting. The program

is designed to be delivered by a case manager, which will provide an opportunity to use clinicians where they are most needed, the higher addiction severity index. Currently, the new PR-BCP is only offered at Hamilton Unit, but as they transition, the program will be offered at Gist and at Hamilton Units as well.

Chairman Gutiérrez thanked Mr. Hinojosa for his presentation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Having completed all posted items on the agenda, Chairman Gutiérrez adjourned the Board Workshop at 8:33 a.m.

**ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT OF THE BOARD ON THE 21<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2020.**



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**DAVID GUTIÉRREZ, PRESIDING OFFICER (CHAIR)**