

STATE OF NEW MEXICO ADULT PAROLE BOARD

Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor

Members

Caryn Apodaca
Dorothy Pouges
Amy Lopez
Roberta Lucero-Ortega
Kristine Ring
Colleen McCarney



Roberta Cohen, Executive Director

Abram Anaya, Chair

Members

Janet Chandler
Anne Murray
Mary Jaramillo-Barraza
Carol Slavens
Whitney Steinmetz
Charles Tully

Quarterly Meeting Minutes New Mexico Adult Parole Board December 2, 2025 9:15 a.m. Santa Fe, New Mexico (In Person and Virtual)

1. Call to Order

Chairman Abram Anaya called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. and confirmed the meeting was conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. The meeting was recorded in its entirety.

2. Roll Call

Executive Director Roberta Cohen called roll.

Members Present:

- Chairman Abram Anaya
- Dorothy Pouges
- Janet Chandler
- Amy Lopez
- Mary Jaramillo-Barraza
- Caryn Apodaca
- Ann Murray
- Carol Slavens
- Charles Tully
- Roberta Lucero Ortega
- Christine Ring
- Colleen McCartney
- Whitney Steinmetz

A quorum was established.

Also Present:

- Roberta Cohen, Executive Director

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- Lola Rael, Office Manager
- Douglas Wilber, Board Legal Counsel
- _____

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda for the December 2, 2025 quarterly meeting was presented.

Motion: To adopt the agenda as presented, and motion approved by Chairman Anaya.

Second: Motion seconded by Member McCarney.

Vote: Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

4. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the June 30, 2025 quarterly meeting were reviewed.

Motion: To approve the June 30, 2025 minutes as presented, motion approved by Member Chandler.

Second: Motion seconded by Member Murray.

Vote: Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

5. Chair Report

A. Board Membership Update

- Chairman Anaya announced the resignation of Board Member Jessica Baker and Member Brandy Castillo.
- The Board acknowledged and expressed appreciation for Board Member Castillo's service, particularly her expertise in the mental health field, and wished her well in future endeavors.

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B. Parole Revocations and Conditions of Parole

The Board discussed concerns regarding revocation proceedings and the necessity of ensuring violations are based strictly on Board-imposed conditions of parole, not on internal probation/parole policies or behavioral contracts.

Key points discussed:

- Revocations must be supported by violations of conditions formally imposed by the Board.
- Behavioral contracts used by probation and parole officers are not automatically enforceable as Board conditions unless they mirror an established Board condition (e.g., SO1 sex offender conditions).
- Board members emphasized careful review of violation packets to ensure statutory compliance.
- If a violation does not meet Board-imposed conditions, the Board has the authority to find no violation and dismiss the matter.
- Staff will coordinate with Probation and Parole supervisors to correct or clarify violation allegations when appropriate, while ensuring compliance with constitutional notice requirements and timelines.

C. Impact of Thompson Ruling

The Chair explained:

- The Thompson decision altered how parole time is calculated for sex offenders.
- As a result, approximately 300 individuals became newly eligible for review.
- Courts are now scrutinizing prior Board practices, including revocation lengths and use of post-five-year conduct in review decisions.
- The Board acknowledged the importance of adhering strictly to statutory authority to avoid further legal challenges.

D. Revocation Sanction Limits

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The Board reviewed statutory limitations on parole revocation sanctions.

- State statute provides that parole revocation sanctions are capped at **one year for Sex Offenders**.
- Prior practices of imposing 18-, 24-, or 60-month revocations are not consistent with statutory authority.
- After one year, parolees are entitled to request reconsideration.
- The Board retains discretion to impose shorter sanctions (30 days, 60 days, 90 days, 6 months, etc.) but may not exceed one year for Sex Offenders only.
- Reconsideration hearings may be handled administratively or set for a full Board hearing, depending on case severity and circumstances.

Board members discussed the practical and public safety implications of this limitation, particularly in cases involving high-risk offenders. The Chair reiterated that the Board must operate within statutory authority and that new criminal conduct may be referred for prosecution separately.

6. General Discussion

- The Board reaffirmed its authority to dismiss violations when evidence does not establish a violation of Board-imposed conditions.
- Staff reported significant improvements in reducing backlog and ensuring revocation hearings are held within statutory timeframes (generally within 30 days of arrival at RDC).
- The reconsideration process following revocation was clarified, including administrative review and full hearing options.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Motion: Motion approved by Member Chandler.

Second: Motion seconded by Member Murray.

Vote: Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

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Respectfully submitted,
Roberta Cohen
Executive Director
New Mexico Adult Parole Board

Abram Anaya, Chairman
NMAPB
