



Iowa Board of Parole

Joint Meeting of the Justice System Appropriations Subcommittee

FY 2022 Budget Request

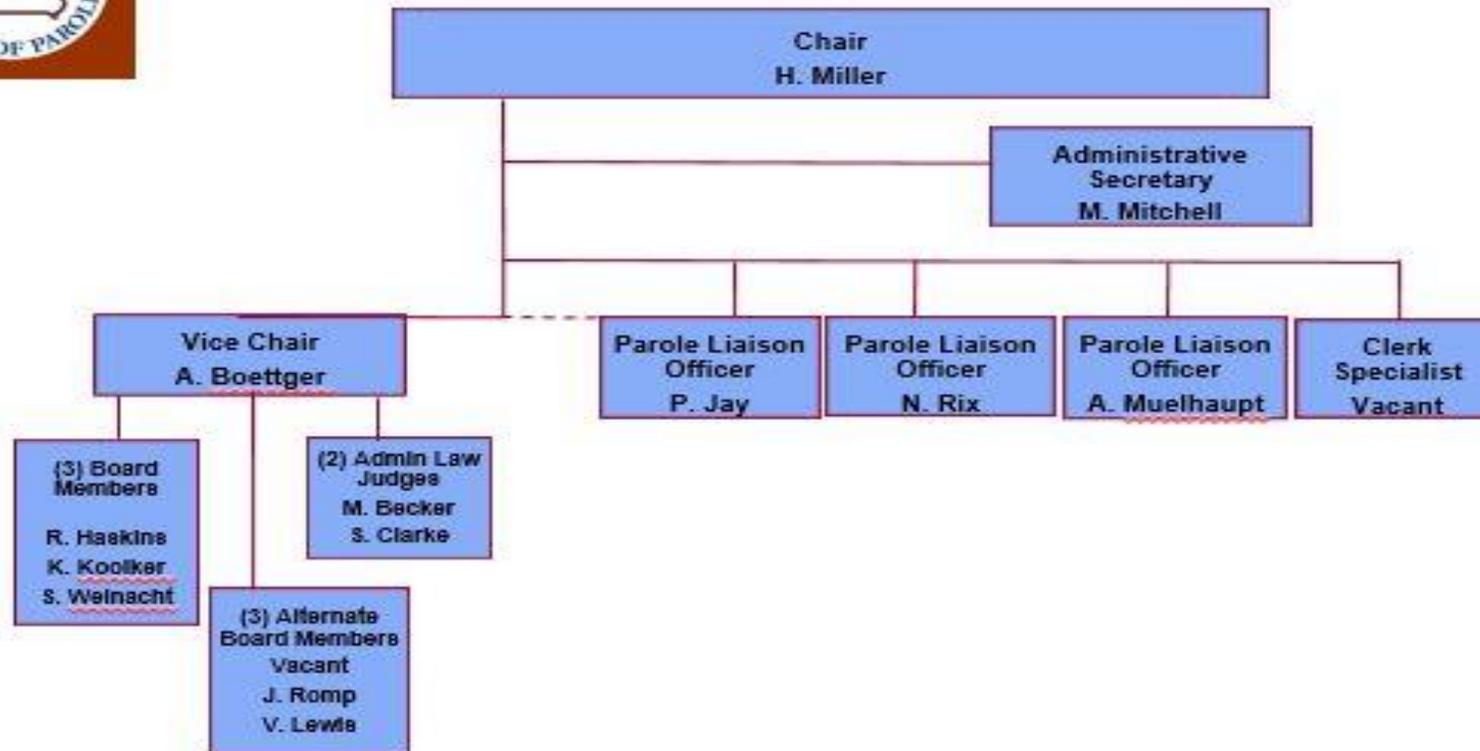
January 27, 2021

Chair Helen Miller

Iowa Board of Parole: Small but Mighty



January 2021



Iowa Board of Parole Mission

To enhance overall public safety by making evidence-based and informed parole decisions for the successful reentry of offenders into the community to become productive and responsible citizens.

- Utilize evidence based practices in the decision making process
- Promote release at the appropriate time and level
- Foster a deliberation system that respect the interest of the public, victims, and offenders

Smart Decision Making

Efficiency

- Be fiscally responsible to the taxpayers of Iowa
- Be vigilant in the acquisition of knowledge and process improvement

- Enhance a collaborative working relationship with stakeholders in the criminal justice system
- Become a nationally recognized leader among paroling authorities

Collaboration

Smart Decision Making

- ▶ Comprehensive and efficient consideration for parole and work release of offenders committed to the department of corrections
- ▶ Expeditious Administrative Law Judge review and determination in the matter of paroles of persons who violate release conditions.
- ▶ Continue to increase the use of evidence based practices at the appropriate time.
- ▶ Careful consideration of victims opinions concerning the release decisions and timely notification.
- ▶ Quality advice to the Governor in matters relating to executive clemency.
- ▶ Timely research and analysis of issues critical to the performance of the Board of Parole.
- ▶ Perform objective risk assessments for incarcerated individuals.

Smart Decision Making– Highlights

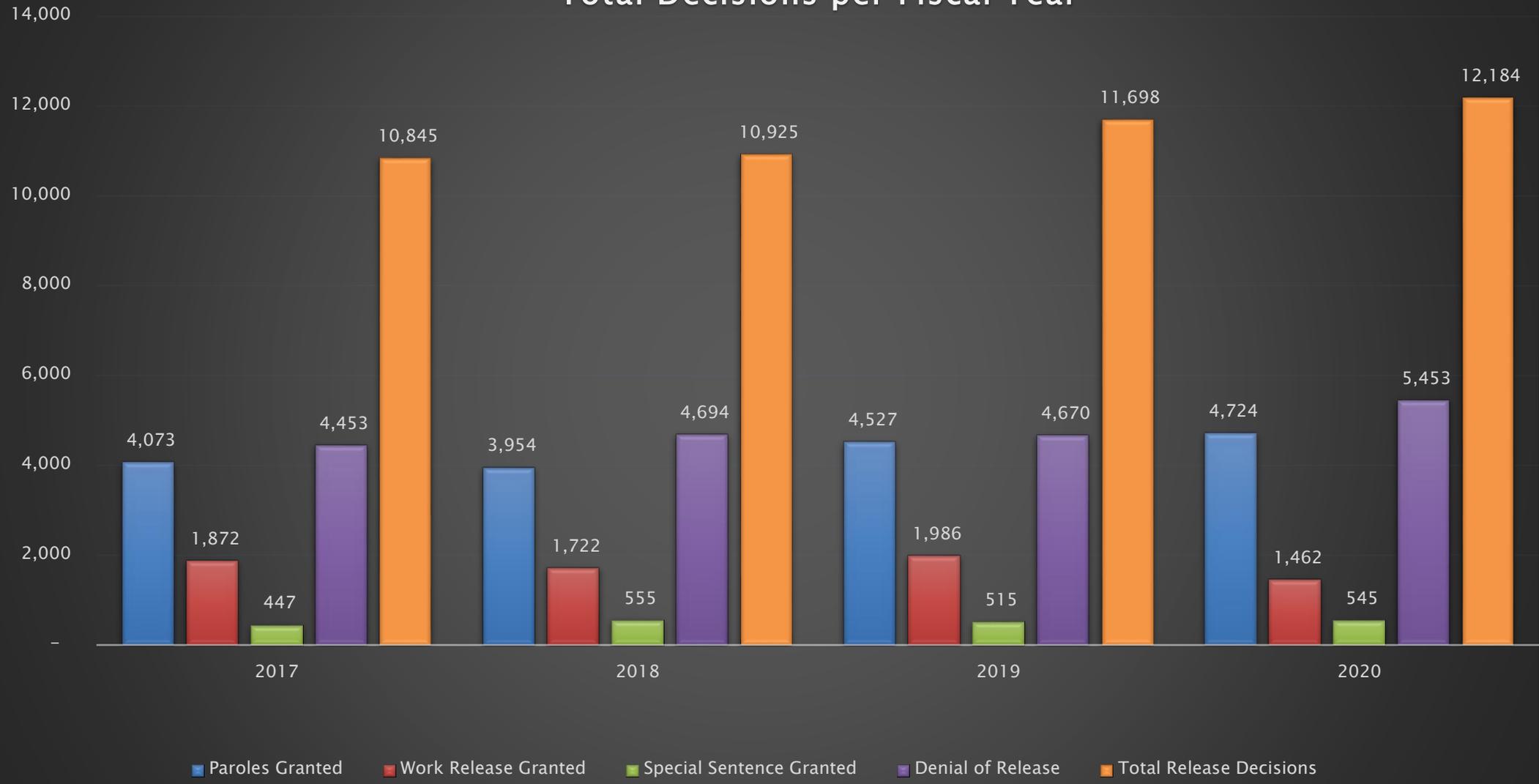
- ▶ In FY 2020, the Board completed 14,502 deliberations.
- ▶ The Board welcomed Vice–Chair, Andrew Boettger
- ▶ Chair Miller served as a member of the Criminal Justice Reform Committee, Robina Project, began regular formal quarterly board trainings, appointed to IPI board, and inducted into the Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame.
- ▶ Under the leadership of Chair Miller, policy manuals were developed for staff and Board members for the first time. These documents assure that the Board and staff know and understand their responsibilities.

Efficiency

Utilization of technology to increase workload capacity and accuracy within the allotted financial resources and be fiscally responsible to the taxpayers of Iowa.

Release Deliberations	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Case Reviews	11,160	11,828	12,134	12,921	13,992
Interviews	302	392	365	464	510
Total Deliberations	11,468	12,220	12,499	13,385	14,502
Release Decisions	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Paroles Granted	3,767	4,073	3,954	4,527	4,724
Work Releases Granted	1,611	1,872	1,722	1,986	1,462
Special Sentences Granted (903B)*	470	447	555	515	545
Deny Release	4,201	4,453	4,694	4,670	5,453

Total Decisions per Fiscal Year



Victim Services

The Board recognizes the special place that victims occupy as unwilling participants in our criminal justice system. Victims can provide crucial insight into the crimes committed against them by individuals that the Board considers for discretionary release.

Recognizing the status held by victims within our criminal justice system and the unparalleled insight such individuals can provide, the Board established its first program for victim participation in 1986. As part of this program the position of Victim Coordinator was added to the Board's staff. Today, the Victim Coordinator's primary responsibility is to assist victims who want to exercise the following rights established by the Iowa Victim Rights Act, Iowa Code Chapter 915:

- Notify victims of violent crimes, not less than twenty days prior to the Board conducting a hearing at which the offender will be interviewed, and inform the victim that they may submit their opinion concerning the release of the offender in writing prior to the hearing or may appear personally or by counsel at the hearing to express an opinion concerning the offender's release.
- Notify the victim, whether or not the victim appears at the hearing or expresses an opinion, of the Board's decision regarding release of the offender.

Victim Services

Victim Registration Statistics	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Registered Victims at Year End	5,823	6,067	6,337	6,573
Registration Letters	2,873	1,700	2,318	1,620
Interview Letters	598	538	772	781
Decision Letters	3,160	3,117	3,633	3,820

Board of Parole Administrative Law Judges: Parole Revocations

A total of 2,003 paroles were revoked in FY20. This number includes sex offenders who are subject to special sentence supervision pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 903B.

Parole Revocation Statistics FY 2020	
Total Parole Revocation Hearings	3,350
Total Paroles Revoked	2,003
Discretionary Revocations	1,606
Automatic Revocations	397

Administrative Law Judge Revocation Diversion: Community Success Program

- ▶ In September 2018 the Board of Parole launched a diversion program for parolees in the community facing revocation of their parole status. The purpose of the Community Success Program (CSP) is to prevent returns to prison by engaging parolees in a process of changing their behavior and living in accordance with self-identified values.
- ▶ The goals of CSP are to partner with the parolee and parole officer to accomplish these objectives:
 - assist the parolee in setting goals;
 - help the parolee identify barriers to reaching goals;
 - assist the parolee in identifying resources to assist in achieving goals;
 - encourage the parolee to build a network of positive support; and
 - offer periodic review of a parolee’s progress toward goals.
- ▶ CSP is administered by one Board of Parole Administrative Law Judge. The program is administered statewide and periodic reviews are conducted in person or via phone or video conferencing depending on the location of the parolee and parole officer. Fourteen began the program in FY20; in that same period, 159 reviews with parolees and their parole officers were conducted as part of CSP. There were twenty-nine individuals who exited the program in FY20; the breakdown can be seen in the graph below. As of June 30, 2020, thirteen parolees were enrolled in the Community Success Program.

Successful Completion of Program	
Discharged Sentence While Under CSP	6
Continued on Parole without Revocation	5

Unsuccessful Completion of Program	
Revoked to Work Release	5
Revoked to Prison	13

Collaboration

Fostering collaborative working relationships with the Department of Corrections and other stakeholders in the criminal justice system

- Open communication increases efficiency at all stages of the release decision making process
- Elimination of redundant processes results in greater fiscal responsibility
- Collaboration across disciplines results in enhanced offender reentry planning and more comprehensive reviews

Collaboration

- ▶ Robina Project
 - Aligning Supervision Conditions with Risk and Needs
- ▶ Training at Board's monthly Board meetings
- ▶ Quarterly all day trainings required for all Board members and staff
- ▶ Visits to all nine institutions as well as community based corrections offices.
- ▶ Attending state-wide and national conferences to continue to improve and learn.
- ▶ Participate on panels and present to stakeholders the role and operations of the Board of Parole

Budget Request

	FY 2020 Actuals	FY 2021 Department Request	FY 2021 Actuals	FY 2022 Department Request
Appropriation	\$1,240,265	\$1,289,135	\$1,240,265	\$1,317,468
FTEs	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5
Technology Reinvestment Fund			<i>Continue to use \$50,000</i>	

**Thank you for your
continued support of
the Iowa Board of
Parole!**