

I. HIGHLIGHTS

- The membership of the Board changed in FY10. Lawrence James was appointed as Vice chair replacing Karen Muelhaupt.
- The Board in FY10 approved 1,270 work release applications and 2,778 paroles. With 3,268 individuals on parole caseloads at the end of the year, 919 paroles were revoked during FY10. Six of these revocations were due to new in-state felonies against persons with no felony sex crimes. Parole revocations as a function of the number of persons on parole decreased slightly in FY10, with about 2.3% of active parolees revoked each month.
- In FY10 the Board continued its innovative use of the Iowa Communications Network, which enables the board to maximize productive use of its time and permit interested parties the opportunity to view parole hearings without extensive travel. The Board continued extensive use of the ICN in conducting hearings in FY10, and the families of victims and inmates also attended hearings via the ICN. The ICN was also used as an educational tool for high school students, permitting them to view Board hearings and question members and staff about their activities.
- The Board continued to expand its list of registered victims, ensuring that victims are notified of parole, work release, and revocation hearings, and providing them the opportunity for input in the deliberative process. The total number of registered victims at the end of FY10 was 3,800 up 1.5 percent from the previous year. The number of reviews conducted by the Board has nearly tripled since FY01. The Board has also has a toll-free victim number to facilitate communications: 866-448-4611.
- The Board continued its use of risk assessment in granting or denying work release or parole, with 3,178 risk assessments completed during the year. This tool has enabled the Board to better protect the public while not delaying release for inmates who are good risks.
- The Board continued participation in ICON, the state corrections data base, facilitating electronic communication and data sharing between the Board IPAROLE and the Department of Corrections ICON.
- The "COE" Certificate of Employability was passed by the legislature and was implemented by the Board of Parole on July 1, 2009. Since that time the Board has received "25" applications. "1" was returned due to being on probation and not under the guidelines to apply. "2" denied, did not meet criteria, "16" returned to offender due to application not being completed and therefore could not start the process and "6" are still in the BOP/COE process, totaling "25" in all.
- Due to recent budget reductions, which resulted in SERIP retirements and furloughs and the loss of several staff, the processing of applications has slowed down considerably. We have had to re-prioritize our duties here and that of our daily operation to continue with offender reviews for release consideration to parole or work release.

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