

**BOARD OF PAROLE HEARINGS**  
**Executive Board Meeting**  
**February 20, 2024**

**February 20, 2024**

**Meeting called to order at 11:04 a.m.**

**Roll Call:** Commissioner Barton, Cassady, Chappell, Garland, Kozel, Nwajei, Purcell, Ruff, Schneider, Sharrieff, Taira, and Weiss were present

Board commissioners were present in person at 1515 K Street. Interested parties and members of the public participated virtually, by telephone, and in person.

Commissioner BARTON stated that a majority of currently-appointed commissioners were present.

**EN BANC REFERRALS**

Referral by the Chief Counsel under Penal Code section 3041, subdivision (b) and California Code of Regulations, title 15, section 2042 to assure complete, accurate, consistent, and uniform decisions, and continued public safety.

**2. FLIPPIN, DORIAN (T44846)**

FLIPPIN's family and friends supported the parole grant.

**3. JENSON, MARTIN (F21091)**

No speakers.

**4. LESLIE, SEAN (F19229)**

LESLIE's friends supported the parole grant.

**5. RICHARDSON, WILLIE (E19805)**

No speakers.

Referral by the Governor under Penal Code section 3041.1 and California Code of Regulations, title 15, section 2044, subdivision (b), to request review of a parole decision by a majority of appointed commissioners.

**6. BROTONS, GABRIEL (F94632)**

BROTONS' friends supported the parole grant.

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A representative of the Riverside District Attorney's Office recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

**7. CALLEJAS, ROBERT (T33180)**

CALLEJAS' family supported the parole grant.

A representative of the Riverside District Attorney's Office recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

**8. DICKENS, LAWRENCE (H22267)**

DICKENS' attorney, MILENA BLAKE, supported the parole grant.

**9. EVANS, DAMON (K99978)**

No speakers.

**10. JAMES, CHRISTIAN (BN8221)**

JAMES' family supported the parole grant.

**11. LEMUSU, TASI (AL6773)**

LEMUSU's friend supported the parole grant.

**12. MENDOZA, ARMANDO (AB9264)**

MENDOZA's family supported the parole grant.

**13. MONEY, CHRISTOPHER (T99899)**

A representative of the Riverside District Attorney's Office recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

**14. ODELL, ERIC (F03425)**

ODELL's family and friends supported the parole grant.

**Open session recessed at 12:15 p.m.**

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**Open session reconvened at 12:24 p.m.**

**15. RAMIREZ, JAMES (F66218)**

No speakers.

**16. SEWARD, TRACY (AK8864)**

SEWARD's family supported the parole grant.

A representative of the Orange County District Attorney's Office recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

**17. SHELTON, JOSEPH (C40228)**

No speakers.

**18. SISAVATH, SEUM (T74086)**

SISAVATH's attorney, UZOMA OGAN, supported the parole grant.

A representative of the Fresno County District Attorney's Office recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

**19. STURM, CHARLES (AF9306)**

STURM's attorney, JESSICA DUMAS, supported the parole grant.

**20. VAZQUEZ, PERLA (WF0169)**

VAZQUEZ's family and friends supported the parole grant.

A representative of the Fresno County District Attorney's Office and the victim's family recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

**21. VELASQUEZ, JOSE (B06047)**

VELASQUEZ's attorney, BRENT WOODWARD, and friends supported the parole grant.

A representative of the Monterey County District Attorney's Office recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

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**22. WHITEHEAD, PAUL (F02061)**

WHITEHEAD's family and friends supported the parole grant.

A victim advocate read a letter on behalf of the victim and recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

**23. WILLIAMS, DAVID (C63028)**

WILLIAMS' family supported the parole grant.

A representative of the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

**OPEN COMMENTS**

KATHY CADY, stated that victims participating in parole hearings have a perspective that can assist the Board in deciding whether the inmate poses an unreasonable risk to public safety if released. The law allows victims to speak on the suitability of the inmate for parole, and when victims provide information relevant to the express issue of safety, and thus parole suitability, this provides another source of information for the Board.

VANESSA NELSON-SLOANE, Life Support Alliance, expressed concerns that finding appropriate transitional housing for incarcerated persons that are granted parole is becoming increasingly difficult, especially for those with restrictions. Nelson-Sloane indicated some incarcerated persons, in an effort to show their willingness to be compliant to every condition of parole, will not indicate in their parole plans any preference as to where they wish to enter transitional housing, saying they will go wherever DAPO places them. Nelson-Sloane stated it would be helpful for parole panels to dive deeper into where the incarcerated person has a support network and would like to live after transitional housing.

**Open session recessed at 2:45 p.m.**

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**February 21, 2024**

**Open session reconvened at 1:00 p.m.**

**Roll Call:** Commissioners Barton, Cassady, Chappell, Dobbs, Garland, Infante, Kozel, Minor, Muñiz, Ndudim, Nwajei, Purcell, Ruff, Schneider, Sharrieff, Taira, Thornton, and Weiss were present.

Board commissioners were present in person at 1515 K Street. Interested parties and members of the public participated virtually, by telephone, and in person.

Commissioner BARTON stated that a majority of currently-appointed commissioners were present.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

27. Approval of the Draft Minutes from the January 16-17, 2024 Board of Parole Hearings Executive Board Meeting.

28. Approval of the Parole Suitability Hearings and Backlog Report for February 2024.

29. Public Comment on Consent Calendar.

KATHY CADY, Victims Rights Attorney, requested the public comments section of the January 2024 minutes be amended to accurately reflect her statement regarding prosecutor participation during hearing.

Commissioner CASSADY moved to amend the minutes as requested. Commissioner WEISS seconded the motion, which carried by a majority vote:

Barton	Abstain
Cassady	Aye
Chappell	Aye
Dobbs	Aye
Garland	Aye
Infante	Aye
Kozel	Aye
Minor	Aye
Muñiz	Aye
Ndudim	Aye
Nwajei	Aye
Purcell	Aye

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Ruff	Aye
Schneider	Aye
Sharrieff	Aye
Taira	Aye
Thornton	Aye
Weiss	Aye

Commissioner DOBBS moved to approve the consent calendar. Commissioner MUÑIZ seconded the motion, which carried by a majority vote:

Barton	Abstain
Cassady	Aye
Chappell	Aye
Dobbs	Aye
Garland	Aye
Infante	Aye
Kozel	Aye
Minor	Aye
Muñiz	Aye
Ndudim	Aye
Nwajei	Aye
Purcell	Aye
Ruff	Aye
Schneider	Aye
Sharrieff	Aye
Taira	Aye
Thornton	Aye
Weiss	Aye

**REPORTS**

**30. Report from Jennifer Shaffer, Executive Officer**

Executive Officer, JENNIFER SHAFFER, announced that Governor Newsom appointed Emily Sheffield to the Board of Parole Hearings. Ms. Shaffer also reported that last month, she and Chief Counsel Blonien attended the California State Leadership Forum, which was titled California for All: Advancing Adversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility. Ms. Shaffer discussed that there were several interesting speakers and panel discussions and that this is the third forum she or Ms. Blonien have attended on behalf of the Board since last summer.

**31. Report from Tara Doetsch, Chief Deputy, Program Operations**

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TARA DOETSCH, Chief Deputy, Program Operations, announced the promotion of Travis Stratton as the Board's Chief of Application Development of the Board's Information Technology System.

**32. Report from Jasmine Tehrani, Acting Chief Psychologist, Forensic Assessment Division**

JASMINE TEHRANI, Acting Chief Psychologist, Forensic Assessment Division, provided an update on recent outreach with a representative from the Minnesota Department of Corrections' Behavioral Health. Dr. Tehrani stated that following her October 2023 presentation on the analysis of preceding years' comprehensive risk assessments, the Chief Psychologist of the Minnesota Department of Corrections contacted her and sought consultation and guidance on their efforts to develop a program closely aligned with our Forensic Assessment Division. Dr. Tehrani expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to learn more about Minnesota's parole suitability process, and expressed her desire to offer assistance of their efforts to enhance their risk assessment processes for life-sentenced individuals eligible for parole in Minnesota.

**33. Report from Katie James, Chief of Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services**

KATIE JAMES, Chief, Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services, reminded victims to check in with the Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services to ensure their contact information is up to date. Ms. James reminded friends or family members of incarcerated persons that they are welcome to contact their office to get information regarding restitution balances or restitution payments.

Ms. James shared the following 2023 figures: OVSRS had 38,350 contacts with victims and victims' family members; OVSRS processed 6,835 requests for victim services; the total number of victims, next of kin and supporting representatives who attended in-person and virtual hearings was 4,429; 334 reservations were processed through the BPH hearing reservation portal; 3,696 cases reviewed; 1,455 letters provided to victims prior to hearings; 1,328 phone calls to victims and family members, 273 follow-up letters to victims after hearings; 458 en banc referral notifications were provided to victims; helped out on 11 Governor commutations; 1,001 parolee-at-large notifications for victims; 50 incarcerated person name or gender change notices; 80 compassionate release referrals; 161,000 incarcerated persons participating in restitution totals; \$7,886,000 collected for the in-custody collections of direct victim restitution orders; \$7,763,000 collected for our post-release direct order victim restitution collection; 1,400 claims processed on the unclaimed victim restitution request portal on their website.

**DISCUSSION ITEM**

**34. Updated Regulation Regarding Notice Requirements for In-Person and Videoconference Proceedings, presented by Mina Choi, Assistant Chief Counsel**

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Assistant Chief Counsel, Mina Choi, stated that in November of 2023, she presented the Board’s proposed rulemaking regarding updated notice requirements for in-person and videoconference hearings proceedings. Ms. Choi provided a refresher of the changes implemented through the updated regulations. Ms. Choi stated that the Board did not receive any comments during the public comment period and therefore did not make any revision to the proposed text. Ms. Choi informed the Commissioners that they were voting on the final text so it can be filed with the Office of Administrative Law and the regulations can be finalized.

Board Questions and Comments. None.

Public Comment on Discussion Item.

CONNIE LASKY, DDA San Bernardino County, commended the Board for following the proper procedure for updating this regulation, providing opportunity for public comment, and exercising transparency in the process.

Commissioner SHARRIEFF moved to approve the regulations. Commissioner TAIRA seconded the motion, which carried unanimously:

Barton	Aye
Cassady	Aye
Chappell	Aye
Dobbs	Aye
Garland	Aye
Infante	Aye
Kozel	Aye
Minor	Aye
Muñiz	Aye
Ndudim	Aye
Nwajei	Aye
Purcell	Aye
Ruff	Aye
Schneider	Aye
Sharrieff	Aye
Taira	Aye
Thornton	Aye
Weiss	Aye

**PRESENTATIONS**

**35. Kyle Clark, Communication Technology Solutions IT Supervisor, and Jon Jenkins, ViaPath Representative presented *Tablets for Incarcerated Population*.**



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**36. Nick Woodall, President and Chief Executive Officer presented *Overview of Posse Solutions*.**

**37. Susan Burton, Founder, Pamela Marshall, Co-Director, and Jorja Leap, Program Evaluator presented *Overview of A New Way of Life*.**

**Open session recessed at 2:42 p.m.  
Open session reconvened at 3:00 p.m.**

**38. Susan Olesek, Founder, Dustin Baldwin, Ambassador, EPP Canada & EPP France Board Member, Troy Philipps, Ambassador, Chuck Stubblefield, Ambassador, and Alex Senegal, Ambassador and EPP Board Member presented *Overview of Enneagram Prison Project (EPP)*.**

**39. Sam Lewis, Executive Director presented *Overview of Anti-Recidivism Coalition*.**

**OPEN COMMENTS**

40. Agenda Items for Future Meetings. None.

41. Public Comment.

CONNIE LASKY, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY DDA, expressed disagreement with the Board's policy to exclude crime scene and autopsy photographs from parole proceedings.

VANESSA NELSON-SLOANE, LIFE SUPPORT ALLIANCE (LSA), announced the upcoming graduation for the latest batch of students in the LSA program. Nelson-Sloane shared that at last count, there was a 220+ person waiting list for the RISE class. Nelson-Sloane invited anyone to visit one of their upcoming sessions.

ERIC KNAPP, LIFE SUPPORT ALLIANCE (LSA), described his positive experience with LSA and expressed his gratitude to the Board.

DAVID SLOANE, LIFE SUPPORT ALLIANCE (LSA), thanked the commissioners for the work they do.

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BIRTE PFLEGER-CULINNAN, expressed disagreement with the Board's policy to exclude crime scene and autopsy photographs from parole proceedings.

LINDA DUNN, RIVERSIDE COUNTY DDA, expressed disagreement with the Board's policy to exclude crime scene and autopsy photographs from parole proceedings.

JOHN CROSS, SAN DIEGO COUNTY DDA, expressed disagreement with the Board's policy to exclude crime scene and autopsy photographs from parole proceedings.

TASHA SOROOSH, ORANGE COUNTY DDA, expressed disagreement with the Board's policy to exclude crime scene and autopsy photographs from parole proceedings.

DELIA MCGEE, VICTIM NEXT OF KIN, expressed disagreement with the Board's policy to exclude crime scene and autopsy photographs from parole proceedings.

AMBER HEIDRICH, VICTIM, expressed disagreement with the Board's policy to exclude crime scene and autopsy photographs from parole proceedings.

CAROL WEATHERSPOON, expressed disagreement with the Board's policy to exclude crime scene and autopsy photographs from parole proceedings.

JACOB BROWN, VICTIM NEXT OF KIN, expressed disagreement with the Board's policy to exclude crime scene and autopsy photographs from parole proceedings.

BRIAN MARTIN, VICTIM NEXT OF KIN, expressed disagreement with the Board's policy to exclude crime scene and autopsy photographs from parole proceedings.

RANDY MARTIN, VICTIM NEXT OF KIN, expressed disagreement with the Board's policy to exclude crime scene and autopsy photographs from parole proceedings.

STACY SPROWL expressed disagreement with the Board's policy to exclude crime scene and autopsy photographs from parole proceedings.

JEANNINE SABEL, VICTIM NEXT OF KIN, expressed disagreement with the Board's policy to exclude crime scene and autopsy photographs from parole proceedings.

LISA SAENZ, VICTIM NEXT OF KIN, expressed disagreement with the Board's policy to exclude crime scene and autopsy photographs from parole proceedings.

RUBY ANA SAENZ, VICTIM NEXT OF KIN, expressed disagreement with the Board's policy to exclude crime scene and autopsy photographs from parole proceedings.

CYNTHIA BREWER, RIVERSIDE COUNTY DDA, expressed disagreement with the Board's policy to exclude crime scene and autopsy photographs from parole proceedings.

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KATHY NORMAN, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY DDA, expressed disagreement with the Board's policy to exclude crime scene and autopsy photographs from parole proceedings.

TINA EXXUM, VICTIM NEXT OF KIN, expressed disagreement with the Board's policy to exclude crime scene and autopsy photographs from parole proceedings.

SHERLYN PETERSON, RIVERSIDE COUNTY VICTIM SERVICES, expressed disagreement with the Board's policy to exclude crime scene and autopsy photographs from parole proceedings.

KATHY CADY, ATTORNEY, expressed disagreement with the Board's policy to exclude crime scene and autopsy photographs from parole proceedings. Cady also urged the Board to immediately stop the pilot program that was entered into with the L.A. County DA's office in July 2022, where the DA's office no longer provides police reports or other relevant and reliable information to the parole board.

DARREN RIGGS, VICTIM NEXT OF KIN, expressed disagreement with the Board's policy to exclude crime scene and autopsy photographs from parole proceedings. Riggs also stated it is disrespectful that Board members are not paying attention.

JENNIFER LUNDY, VICTIM NEXT OF KIN, expressed disagreement with the Board's new policy to exclude crime scene and autopsy photographs from parole proceedings.

CHRISTINE WARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF I-CAN, expressed disagreement with the Board's policy to exclude crime scene and autopsy photographs from parole proceedings.

VERONICA CALDERON expressed disagreement with the Board's policy to exclude crime scene and autopsy photographs from parole proceedings.

STEVEN DICK, SANTA CLARA COUNTY DDA, expressed disagreement with the Board's policy to exclude crime scene and autopsy photographs from parole proceedings.

MARTY SANTOS, VICTIM NEXT OF KIN, expressed disagreement with the Board's policy to exclude crime scene and autopsy photographs from parole proceedings.

**Open session recessed at 6:00 p.m.**

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**February 22, 2024**

**Open session reconvened at 9:00 a.m.**

Board commissioners were present in person at 1515 K Street. Interested parties and members of the public participated virtually, by telephone, and in person.

**Roll Call:** Commissioners Chappell, Dobbs, Infante, Kozel, Minor, Muñiz, Ndudim, Nwajei, Ruff, Taira, Thornton, and Weiss were present.

Commissioner DOBBS stated that a majority of currently-appointed commissioners were present.

**EN BANC REFERRALS**

Referral under Penal Code section 3041 when there is a tie vote.

**43. JOHNSON, GERALD (C13789)**

No speakers.

Referral by the Governor pursuant to Penal Code section 3041(a)(5) and California Code of Regulations, title 15, section 2044(a) to request review of a parole decision by a majority of appointed commissioners.

**44. MILLS, JAKAN (P11240)**

MILLS' family and friends supported the parole grant.

A representative of the Orange County District Attorney's Office recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

Referral by the Chief Counsel to consider ordering a rescission hearing pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 15, section 2450 et seq.

**45. COOKS, KENDELL (T18983)**

COOKS' friend supported the parole grant.

Referral by the Chief Counsel under Penal Code section 3041, subdivision (b) and California Code of Regulations, title 15, section 2042 to assure complete, accurate, consistent, and uniform decisions, and continued public safety.

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**46. STEWART, ROBERT (C45703)**

STEWART's attorney, JESSICA DUMAS, supported the parole grant.

Referral by the Governor under Penal Code section 3041.1 and California Code of Regulations, title 15, section 2044, subdivision (b), to request review of a parole decision by a majority of appointed commissioners.

**47. BARRY, HARVEY (V13880)**

BARRY's friends and family supported the parole grant.

**48. CAIN, PAUL (K68828)**

A representative of the San Diego County District Attorney's Office recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

**49. DOHERTY, JAMES (F92383)**

No speakers.

**50. ESPINOZA, ESTEVAN (AP5831)**

ESPINOZA's family supported the parole grant.

**51. EULLOQUI, FRANCISCO (P05692)**

No speakers.

**52. GARCIA, JONATHAN (AY2633)**

GARCIA's family supported the parole grant.

A representative of the Riverside County District Attorney's Office recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

**53. GATES, DAMIEN (V32133)**

No speakers.

**54. GUILLORY, SHANNON (X11664)**

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GUILLORY's friends supported the parole grant.

The victim's family recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

**55. HARRIS, MICAH (F43294)**

HARRIS' family and friends supported the parole grant.

A representative of the Riverside County District Attorney's Office and the victim's family recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

**56. LEE, JAMES (D81193)**

No speakers.

**57. LOPEZ, JOSE (F55386)**

No speakers.

**58. MARAVILLA, ISIDRO (BC2915)**

No speakers.

**59. PAYTON, DESMOND (H87035)**

PAYTON's family and friends supported the parole grant.

A representative of the San Diego County District Attorney's Office and the victim's family recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

**Open session recessed at 10:42 a.m.**

**Open session reconvened at 10:53 a.m.**

**60. PHOUTTHACHAK, TONY (V46784)**

PHOUTTHACHAK's friend supported the parole grant.

**61. ROSALES, MANUEL (K65037)**

ROSALES's attorney, Uzoma Ogan, and family supported the parole grant.

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The victim's family recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

**62. RUSHING, PERRY (P86835)**

The victim's family recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

**63. SANDOVAL, ERNIE (AI8503)**

SANDOVAL's family and friend supported the parole grant.

The victim's family recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

**64. SMITH, TYRON (H32073)**

SMITH's attorney, SARA NORMAN, supported the parole grant.

The victims recommend ordering a rescission hearing.

**65. TYSON, ARTHUR (V29892)**

TYSON's attorney, NICHOLAS AGBO, supported the parole grant.

**OPEN COMMENTS**

66. Agenda Items for Future Meetings. None.

67. Public Comment.

VANESSA NELSON-SLOANE, Life Support Alliance (LSA), commended the Board for the parole handbook. Nelson-Sloane stated the handbook is an accurate and thoughtful explanation of the Board's parole process, and it will be extremely helpful to anyone who reads it with the mindset of hoping to figure out the steps, the reasons of what comes next. Nelson-Sloane expressed her approval of the Board's new policy to exclude crime scene and autopsy photographs during parole proceedings.

**Open session recessed at 11:50 a.m.**

**Open session reconvened at 3:34 p.m.**

**Meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.**



## Board of Parole Hearings Scheduled and Backlog Hearings Report Penal Code Section 3041(d) March, 2024

