



Board of Parole

GOVERNOR KIM REYNOLDS
LT. GOVERNOR CHRIS COURNOYER

RENEE SCHULTE, CHAIR

Iowa Board of Parole Strategic Plan FY 2025

Updated FY 2027

Meet the Board of Parole Team:

Renee Schulte, Chair

Meredith Lamberti, Vice Chair

James Moses, Board Member

Jesse Rincon, Board Member

Open, Board Member

Steve Clarke, Administrative Law Judge

Anastasia Baker-Hurn, Administrative Law Judge

Heather Artist, Victim Liaison

Trish Jay, Board Liaison

Saskia Schweitzer, Administrative Law Judge Liaison

Tammi Brown, Administrative Secretary

Introduction

The Board of Parole (BOP) is a team of 11 members, each bringing a unique background and perspective to this important work. The Parole Board is made up of five full time members after legislative changes that began on July 1, 2023. The Code of Iowa spells out the duties and responsibilities of the Board, which goals and objectives in this document reflect.

Mission Statement

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

Vision Statement

To make evidence-based release and revocation decisions that prioritize public safety while also being conscious of managing prison population, while creating consistent data informed Board operation procedures that foster collaboration between all stakeholders.

Assessment

The whole team took part in a half-day workshop facilitated by a third-party consultant. The team contributed to the content and creation of the individual goals, focus areas, and objectives.

Key Performance Indicators

1. Count in total of BOP review requests received with Department of Corrections (DOC) release recommendations per month. (This will show the volume of work requests made to the BOP)
2. Count of Parole, work release, and special sentence release decisions. (This shows the outcomes of the review requests made to the BOP)
3. BOP Agreement rate. (This shows the agreeability between the DOC and BOP in their final granting decisions)

Goals Overview

1. Utilize updated and relevant evidence-based practices in the decision-making process. (Preserving Public Safety)
2. Base decisions on evidence-based practices that prioritize public safety. (Preserving Public Safety)
3. Ensure that victims' interests are considered in the deliberation process. (Preserving Public Safety)

4. Remain fiscally conscious of the financial impact of decisions. (Preserving Public Safety)
5. Forge collaborative relationships with stakeholders. (Preserving Public Safety)
6. Collaborate with nationally recognized experts to improve system effectiveness. (Preserving Public Safety)
7. Develop a quality assurance process that utilizes data effectively. (Preserving Public Safety)

Goals and Objectives

1. Utilize updated and relevant evidence-based practices in the decision-making process (IAC 904A.3A).

Objective 1: Work with researcher(s) and national justice organizations to create standard operating procedures to improve organizational effectiveness.

Objective 2: Develop risk assessment tools based on Iowa specific data to certain populations (e.g., juvenile lifers, youthful offenders, domestic assault, sex offenders, etc.).

Objective 3: Update process that is more efficient for executive clemency communication.

Objective 4: Ongoing Board training and evidence-based practices.

2. Base decisions on evidence-based practices that prioritize public safety (IAC 904A.3A).

Objective 1: Track and trend data of release outcomes.

Objective 2: Continue ongoing internal training on DOC tools and any new tools as developed.

Objective 3: Use validated tools specific to certain populations to make decisions.

Objective 4: Continue to track and trend Board denial data for decision-making and DOC collaboration.

3. Ensure that the victim's interests are considered in the deliberation process (IAC 915).

Objective 1: Adhere to victim related statutes of engagement and keep victims informed with timely communication and empathy.

Objective 2: Educate victims on the Parole process.

Objective 3: Facilitate training for victim care and management including sensitivity training and trauma victim interactions.

Objective 4: Educate county attorneys and victim coordinators on sentencing, time calculations and release.

4. Remain fiscally conscious of the financial impact of decisions (IAC 904.4A.8).

Objective 1: Review financial reports monthly to ensure that we stay aligned with our projected yearly budget.

Objective 2: Maintain budget based on operational needs.

Objective 3: Monitor and assess number of FTEs needed to achieve the mission of the Board of Parole.

5. Forge collaborative relationships with stakeholders (IAC 906.3).

Objective 1: Work in partnership with DOC to get all prisons and districts aligned in scope and processes with ongoing emphasis on population management.

Objective 2: Communicate educational outreach and training regularly with partners including but not limited to legal and behavioral health community, law enforcement, institutions and districts to enhance efficient preparation for and resolution of Parole related issues.

Objective 3: Nurture and maintain affective communication with corrections counselors, Parole officers, treatment directors and staff.

6. Collaborate with nationally recognized experts to improve system and process effectiveness.

Objective 1: Participate in nationally recognized training to share and obtain ideas to enhance Parole Board efficiency for Board and staff.

Objective 2: Engage with national organizations who reach out for research opportunities as appropriate.

Objective 3: Continue training with national partners as appropriate.

7. Develop a quality assurance process that utilizes data effectively.

Objective 1: Continue to report monthly and annual Board statistics to the General Assembly and Board as required.

Objective 2: Consider FTEs for an internal Quality Improvement position and/or an internal research data analyst.

Objective 3: Pursue legislative fix for closed door case reviews in light of recent lawsuit.

FY 2027 Budget Status

The appropriation received was less adequate for the current needs of the Board.

FY 2027-2030 Projected Needs for Improvements

Additional funding may be necessary for the following enhancements.

- Add funding to create one FTE each for a quality assurance position and an internal research data analyst.
- Increasing ceiling for Board and liaison positions to keep up with industry standards to maintain professionalism of the Board and staff.
- Increase one FTE for technology and reports in house.
- Consider structural changes to Board. 5 full-time Board members not adequate when three are required to get any work completed with chair working as executive director.