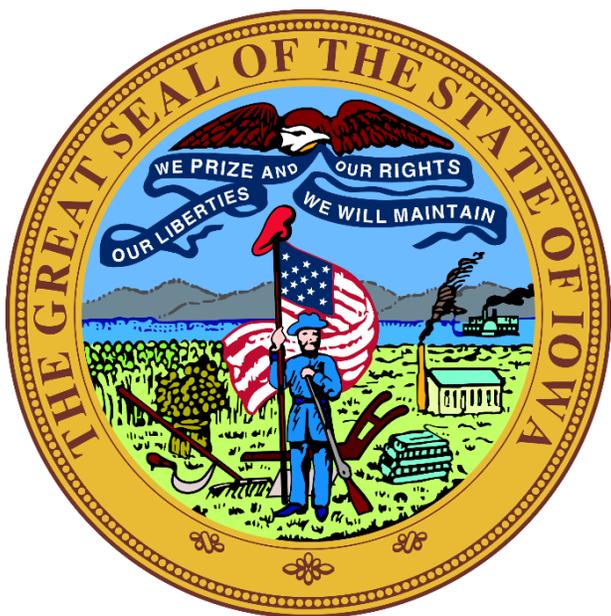




Iowa Board of Parole
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2023



Nick Davis, Chair
Meredith Lamberti, Vice Chair

Regular Board Members

Thomas V. Darden
Ralph Haskins
Susie Weinacht

Alternate Board Members

David Jenkins
Kim Reem
Renee Schulte

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Highlights

- The Board of Parole completed 11,228 deliberations in FY23. The deliberations resulted in 2,658 paroles, 1,005 work releases, and the imposition of 479 special sentences pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 903B.
- The Board continued to prioritize its work to ensure registered victims have the opportunity to provide input into the deliberative process and are notified of decisions made by the Board. In addition, the Board continues to have a toll-free victim telephone number to facilitate communication (800) 448-4611.
- Administrative law judges issued 2,919 decisions in FY23 and 1,199 resulted in a discretionary revocation.
- The Legislature appropriated \$1,308,724 to the Board and \$134,016.50 was left unspent, half of which reverted to the General Fund, and half transferred to a training and technology carry forward account for FY23, per Iowa Code section 8.62(2).
- On July 1, 2022, the prison population totaled 8,434 offenders (121% capacity) and the year ended with 8,175 incarcerated (117% capacity).

Agency Overview

The Board of Parole was established in 1907 by the 37th Iowa General Assembly. The Board is composed of one full-time chairperson, one full-time vice-chairperson, and three per diem members who are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate for staggered four-year terms. There are also three appointed alternate members. Board membership must include at least two of the following: at least one non-lawyer, at least one lawyer licensed to practice law in Iowa with knowledge in correctional procedures and issues, and at least one individual who holds a master's degree in social work or counseling and guidance and who is knowledgeable about correctional procedures and issues. State law also requires that Board membership be racially diverse and balanced along political affiliation and gender demographics. Members report directly to the chairperson, and the member serving as chairperson serves in that role at the pleasure of the Governor. The Board has its own support staff¹, but also receives administrative support from the Iowa Department of Corrections (IDOC).

The mission of the Board is to enhance overall public safety by making evidence-based parole decisions to successfully reenter offenders back into the community to become productive and responsible citizens. To achieve this mission, the Board:

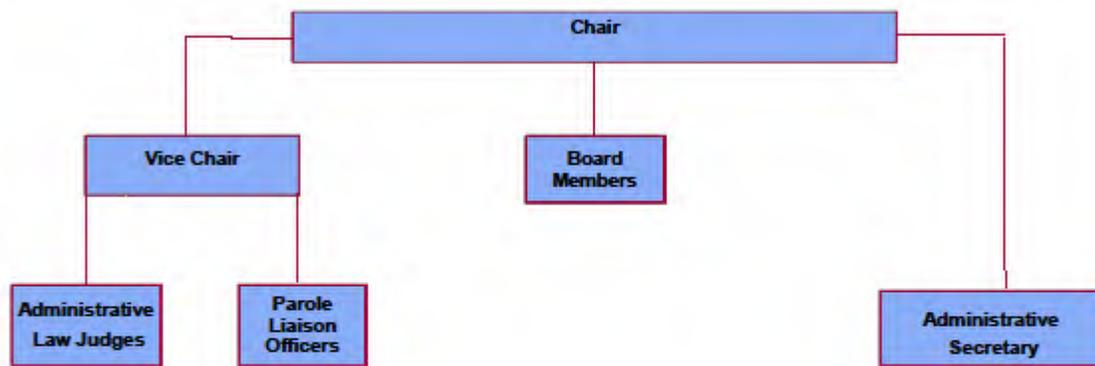
- Reviews and interviews offenders for parole and work release consideration in accordance with applicable administrative rules and via a deliberative system that respects the interest of the public, victims, and offenders, while being mindful of the finite resources available.
- Gathers and reviews information regarding new parole and work release programs being instituted or considered nationwide to determine which programs may be appropriate for use in Iowa.
- Utilizes evidence-based practices to perform risk assessments and promote supervised release at the appropriate time and level.
- Works to enhance a collaborative working relationship with all stakeholders in the criminal justice system by providing technical assistance, information, and counseling on matters related to the Board of Parole's purpose.
- Reviews and makes recommendations to the Governor regarding applications for reprieves, pardons, commutation of sentences, and special restoration of citizenship rights pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 914.

¹ See Table of Organization

Iowa Board of Parole Organizational Table



July 2022



IOWA BOARD OF PAROLE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Board of Parole Members – Biographies

Nick Davis, Chair

Nick Davis was appointed by Governor Kim Reynolds as Chair of the Iowa Board of Parole in May of 2022. He previously served as Deputy Legal Counsel to Governor Reynolds. He is a graduate of the University of Iowa College of Law.

Meredith Lamberti, Vice Chair

Meredith Lamberti was appointed by Governor Kim Reynolds as Vice Chair of the Board of Parole in November 2021. She grew up in Ankeny and later attended Drake University for both her undergraduate degree and law school, with a short stopover in between to teach English to middle school students in Shijiazhuang, China. After graduating from law school, Meredith was a law clerk to Iowa Supreme Court Justice Bruce Zager for two years. She then went on to work as an Assistant Attorney General where she represented the Department of Human Services in child and dependent adult abuse appeals, in addition to termination of parental rights appeals. Meredith also serves on the board at On With Life in her hometown and is an advisor to college members of her sorority, Kappa Alpha Theta. She is honored to continue her career of public service in this role.

Thomas (Thom) V. Darden, Board Member

Appointed to the Board of Parole by Governor Kim Reynolds in 2021, Thom Darden holds a B.S. in Education from the University of Michigan and also took accounting, statistics and marketing courses from Cleveland State University. Mr. Darden has an extensive background in business financing, business development and is currently President of The Darden Group, Inc. in Cedar Rapids. Thom also worked for a sports management company which managed the careers of professional athletes. Thom, himself, was in the NFL. He was a defensive back with the Cleveland Browns for many years and earned All Pro status two years in a row. He holds several franchise records to this day. Mr. Darden resides in Cedar Rapids with his wife.

Ralph Haskins, Board Member

Appointed by Governor Kim Reynolds as a member of the Iowa Board of Parole in 2019. Mr. Haskins holds a Bachelor's Degree from Michigan State University and numerous professional certifications. He and his wife have called Iowa their home since 1982 when he received a corporate transfer to the state. He attributes their relocation as a true gift bringing them to their cherished State of Iowa where they raised their four children and he successfully launched his career and founded a successful residential design-build construction firm and a construction material supply company. Mr. Haskins has been involved in numerous volunteer and philanthropic activities including chairing an international faith-based mission organization and is a past president of the Des Moines Area Home Builders Association. He attends Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines and has been active in projects there including oversight of building the Knapp House of Hope in partnership with MainStream Living. In addition, he has employed and mentored numerous incarcerated individuals and believes in second chances. He is also an active citizen engaging in various policy matters and takes pleasure in serving Governor Reynolds on the Board of Parole.

Sue "Susie" Weinacht, Board Member

Appointed as an Alternate Member of the Board of Parole in 2017; then Board Member in 2019. Recognized by her community as a leader who makes a difference in the lives of many for the betterment of humanity; Susie is a recipient of the State of Iowa 2020 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Achievement Award for her demonstrated commitment to the vision of Dr. King by promoting the racial equality of all people in Iowa through service, diversity, cultural awareness, and active community participation. Among other recent recognitions is the Cedar Rapids Gazette Everyday Hero recognition, Woman of Achievement in Service to the Community, by Waypoint Services, and the Community Biggie Award, presented by Iowa BIG. Her educational background includes earning an Executive Leadership Certificate from Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, and a BSc in Education & Teaching Certificate from Eastern Illinois University. As an elected government official (At-Large City Council Member and appointment as Mayor Pro Tem) Susie strived to learn as much as possible to provide citizens the representation entrusted to her and earned status as a Certified Elected Official through the Iowa League of Cities, and Bronze Certification from National League of Cities University. Other involvement and leadership certifications: Leadership Iowa (Assoc. of Business & Industry), The Pacific Institute - Cultural Transformation, Disney Institute Keys of Excellence, and the Chamber of Commerce. She has authored several guest columns including: •"You're Welcome to Join Us" September 2018, the Cedar Rapids Gazette. Our history, our culture, and our future are tied to being inclusive and welcoming. •"False-label law can help stop deadly drugs" May 2015, the Des Moines Register. Tackling synthetic drugs from a consumer fraud & protection approach. •"Community Investment Now Recreation Destination" September 2018, the Cedar Rapids Gazette. Mt Trashmore: From quarry, to landfill, and now a recreation destination of 70+ acres of walking & biking trails. Susie currently serves as a member, by judicial appointment, of the Sixth Judicial District | Iowa Department of Corrections Board.

David L. Jenkins, Alternate Board Member

Appointed as an alternate Board member in May 2022, David earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Drake University at which time he was also commissioned through ROTC as an officer in the United States Air Force. David subsequently obtained his law degree from Drake University Law School and entered active duty as a judge advocate officer. After serving for five and a half years, at locations in the United States and in Turkey, David returned to Iowa in 1982 and joined the law firm of Bradshaw, Fowler, Proctor & Fairgrave, P.C. In private practice, David represented firm clients in various civil and administrative litigation matters, which includes the privilege to present briefs and oral arguments in cases before the Supreme Court of Iowa, Court of Appeals of Iowa and the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. David retired from the firm after 40 years of practice. Prior to his active duty in the Air Force, David served as an assistant county attorney in Iowa involved exclusively in criminal law matters. While on active duty, David served as a prosecuting attorney, defense attorney, investigating officer and summary court judge, relative to military justice matters. David is grateful for the opportunity to join the staff and other members of the Board of Parole in service to the citizens of Iowa.

Renee Schulte, Alternate Board Member

Appointed to the Board of Parole as an alternate in September 2021, Renee has worked in many levels of care including psychiatric hospital, child welfare, and therapeutic foster care as a licensed mental health counselor. Prior to her election to public office, Renee served on the National Violence Against Women task force in the Bush administration. As a legislator, she spearheaded the passage of mental health redesign in Iowa creating a regional system from an original 99 county system. She began Schulte Consulting, LLC in 2012. As a consultant, she has worked with multiple states creating strategic plans, legislation and regulations. She has also used her expertise and unique background in government relations and consulting for both non-profit and for-profit providers of healthcare services. Renee has taught at multiple colleges and universities in the psychology department, encouraging the next generation to join in this important work. She and her husband, Brent reside in Urbandale, Iowa.

Strategic Plan

Iowa Board of Parole undertook a strategic planning exercise to identify areas of focus for future development of the Board and its members. It is continuously reviewed based on additional insight and information gathered. The following are ongoing parts of the aforementioned plan:

Training and Professional Development:

- Participate in facility and field location visits to gain better understand operations and facilitate open and active communication across agency boundaries.
- Review intervention programs utilized in Iowa and similar states and explore if those programs would be beneficial to our offender population.
- Continue the practice, when feasible, of including an educational component after each business meeting to learn about and remain up to date on current practices, research, data, and legislation that affects paroling activities.

Analysis and Data Sophistication in Conjunction with Department of Corrections:

- Research and evaluate recidivism rates and identify patterns.
- Research and evaluate revocation activity to identify patterns.
- Evaluate and continue to develop evidence-based policies and practices.

Stakeholder and Public Outreach:

- Enhance and maintain the Board's website for purposes of providing accessibility to information pertaining to Board operations, meetings, and schedules.
- Enhance partnership with Department of Corrections policymakers.
- Enhance partnership with the Community-Based Corrections system.
- Enhance the notification system for registered victims.
- Assist the Governor, when requested, to collect and make recommendations for clemency and commutation of offender sentences.

Population Review Program in Conjunction with Department of Corrections:

- Develop and enhance the Board's methods for identifying cases and target populations to review via periodic internal reviews of the prison population.
- Review candidates at the appropriate time for release consideration.
- Research and evaluate alternatives to traditional revocation.

Parole Risk Assessment Tools

The Board adopted the Iowa Violence and Victimization Instrument (IVVI) as its primary static risk assessment tool for non-sex offenders. The Iowa Board of Parole routinely works with the Iowa Department of Corrections to review and evaluate the assessment tool. The assessment's main use is to aid the Board in measuring the potential for reoffending.

The Board continued to utilize the Iowa Sex Offender Risk Assessment (ISORA) and the Static-99 for sex offender specific risk calculation.

In addition to the IVVI static risk instrument, the IDOC also utilizes a dynamic risk assessment tool called the Dynamic Risk Assessment for Offender Reentry – Institution (DRAOR – Institution) for use in case planning.

Validated risk instruments are one of many tools utilized by the Iowa DOC and BOP.

Iowa Corrections Offender Network (ICON)

The Iowa Corrections Offender Network (ICON) is the main database shared by the Department of Corrections, the Board of Parole, and community-based corrections. This module makes it possible for the Board and the Iowa Department of Corrections to share information on a real-time basis and increases Board workflow and efficiency.

The Board of Parole continually works with the Department of Corrections to increase ICON functionality.

Panel Decisions

Panel reviews are held virtually via Google Meet. This allowed for Board members to participate remotely and provided victims from around the state to interact with the Board without traveling to Des Moines in order to participate.

Workload and Decisions Summary

The Board meets approximately 12 days per month for panel screenings. During these panel days, the Board conducts case reviews, interviews, and decides appeals. A complete breakdown of the Board's workload for FY23 can be found below.

WORKLOAD & DECISIONS SUMMARY

	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023
RELEASE DECISIONS			
Parole	2,646	2,658	3,488
Work Release	824	1,005	1,202
Special Sentence	513	479	551
Release Denied	4,912	5,024	4,702
Appeals Denied	1,287	1,021	824
Appeals with Modification	11	6	21
Interview Granted	544	560	417
Other/Miscellaneous ²	517	475	692
TOTAL DECISIONS	11,254	11,228	11,897
SPECIAL REVIEW DECISIONS			
Amend Decision	413	354	533
Paroles Rescinded	123	108	81
Work Release Rescinded	79	85	58
Special Sentence Rescinded	9	9	18
Special Review Denied	19	13	36
TOTAL SPECIAL REVIEW DECISIONS	643	569	726
EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY			
Commutation Decisions	50	86	12
Recommended	1	5	1
Pardon Decisions	23	14	16
Recommended	7	2	4
Firearm Restoration Decisions	52	47	42
Recommended	22	24	18
Firearm Restoration/Pardon Decisions	45	35	31
Recommended	18	18	9

² Includes effective date changes, decision changes, special condition changes, and work release extensions.

Parole Revocations

The parole revocation process begins with the receipt of a parole officer’s violation report. The alleged violator is subsequently notified to appear before an administrative law judge (ALJ) for a parole revocation hearing. The ALJ determines whether or not the parolee is in violation of the terms of the parole agreement. If the ALJ finds that a parole violation has occurred, one of the following sanctions may be imposed:

- Reinstatement of parole
- Reinstatement of parole with additional conditions imposed (for example, but not limited to, substance abuse evaluation, GPS monitoring, intensive parole supervision, referral to an appropriate treatment program)
- Revocation of parole to a work release program
- Revocation of parole and return to prison

Pursuant to Iowa Code Sections 908.10 and 908.10A, Board ALJs do not hear cases involving parolees sentenced to prison for new felonies or aggravated misdemeanors. In these instances, the parole is deemed revoked as of the date of the commission of the new offense. Although no hearing is conducted for an automatic revocation, an ALJ is required to process the revocation order and notify the parolee of the revocation.

Revocation Statistics

	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023
PAROLE REVOCATIONS			
PAROLE REVOCATION HEARINGS	3140	2919	2760
Parole Revoked to Prison ³	538	547	552
Automatic Revocations	322	339	319
Parole Revoked to Work Release	520	456	344
Paroles Revoked ⁴	12,77	1,199	1,091
TOTAL PAROLES REVOKED	1599	1,538	1,410

³ Does not include automatic revocations.

⁴ Includes revoking parole to work release, and revoke and discharge parole but does not include automatic revocations.

Victim Services

The Board recognizes that victims are 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 release.

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.

The Board continues to register victims of violent offenses. The ICON victim module, merging DOC and BOP victim records, was completed in FY16 and has helped make this process much more accurate and efficient.

At the end of FY23 a total of 7,813 victims were registered with the Board of Parole. The Board mailed a total of 6,403 victim notifications during FY23.