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NEVADA BOARD OF PAROLE COMMISSIONERS

November 7, 2018

To: Members of the Board
FROM: Kathi Baker, Management Analyst III
Re: Information for consideration for Comprehensive Review

On or before January 1 of each odd-numbered year, the Board shall review comprehensively the standards adopted by the Board. Pursuant to NRS 213.10885(6), the review must include a determination of whether the standards are effective in predicting the probability that a convicted person will live and remain at liberty without violating the law if parole is granted or continued. If a standard is found to be ineffective, the Board shall not use that standard in its decisions regarding parole and shall adopt revised standards as soon as practicable after the review.

At the August 28, 2017 Parole Board meeting; Dr. Austin from the JFA Institute presented to the Board on the revalidation of the Nevada Parole Risk Assessment. Dr. Austin stated the current version of the Nevada Parole Board’s Risk Assessment continues to be a valid predictor of the recidivism as measured by return to prison within three years. Dr. Austin’s recommendations included modifying the prior employment, current age and prison custody level factors.

The Board passed the motion to (1) Determine that they have certified standards that are effective in predicting that probability that a convicted person will live and remain in liberty without violating the law when parole is granted or continued and that recommendation for improvement will be made as soon as possible on the Risk Assessment. Improvements will include program recommendations submitted by the Nevada Department of Corrections. (2) Accept the Risk Assessment as valid, and implement the changes recommended, as soon as it is possible to include the program recommendations.

The last revalidation of the Nevada Parole Board Risk Assessment Instrument was completed in 2017. The Board approved changes to the Risk Assessment that have not yet been implemented.

My recommendation is that the Board re-affirm its action from the 2017 meeting and continue with the changes approved in 2017. We expect that we will be able to go live with the changes to the risk assessment on or about January 1, 2019.

The statute requires the Board to make a finding with respect to the comprehensive review of the parole standards. I recommend the following motion:

MOTION:

I move that the Parole Board finds that the current parole standards are effective in predicting the probability that a convicted person will live and remain at liberty without violating the law when parole is granted or continued; furthermore, that the changes to the parole risk assessment approved by the Board on August 28, 2017 after the 2017 revalidation prepared by JFA proceed as planned.

The information in the next three subsections is required by NRS 213.10885 (7):

(a) The number and percentage of the Board’s decisions that conflicted with the standards.

Table 1 shows parole actions that deviated from Guideline Recommendation for the quarters FY16, FY17 and partial FY18. The Total Hearings figure excludes “No Actions” and Rescissions that were made because an inmate became ineligible for parole.

Table 1: Parole Actions that Deviated

<i>Quarter</i>	<i>Favorable (Under)</i>		<i>Unfavorable (Over)</i>		<i>Total Hearings</i>
	<i>Actions</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Actions</i>	<i>%</i>	
FY 16 – Qtr 1 (Jul 15– Sep 15)	1	0.2%	32	5.7%	1621
FY 16– Qtr 2 (Oct 15– Dec 15)	2	0.4%	51	7.4%	1720
FY 16 – Qtr 3 (Jan 16 – Mar 16)	3	0.5%	48	7.4%	1733
FY 16 – Qtr 4 (Apr 16 – Jun16)	3	0.5%	37	6.1%	1758
FY 17 – Qtr 1 (Jul 16– Sep 16)	6	1.0%	15	2.3%	1817
FY 17 – Qtr 2 (Oct 16– Dec 16)	2	0.3%	24	3.9%	1839
FY 17– Qtr 3 (Jan 17– Mar 17)	7	1.0%	24	4.7%	1856
FY 17– Qtr 4 (Apr 17– Jun 17)	9	1.1%	25	4.7%	1934
FY 18– Qtr 1 (Jul 17– Sep 17)	9	1.2%	21	4.3%	1807
FY 18– Qtr 2 (Oct 17– Dec 17)	7	0.9%	17	3.9%	1755
Total or % Average	49	0.6%	294	5.9%	17840

(b) The results and conclusions from the Board’s review pursuant to subsection 6, whether the standards will be effective in predicting the probability that a convicted person will live and remain at liberty without violating the law if parole is granted or continued.

After Reviewing the 2017 presentation of The JFA Institute report, the Board concluded that “the procedures the Board uses in predicting the probability that a convicted person will live and remain at liberty without violating the law if parole is granted or continued” are effective.

(c) Any changes in the Board's standards, policies, procedures, programs or forms that have been or will be made as a result of the review.

The Board made changes in the Standards of Assessment that it uses, however, implementation of the changes made to the standards have not gone into effect due to issues related to the interface between the Nevada Offender Tracking Information System (NOTIS) and the NOTIS Web. It is anticipated the changes will be implemented on or about January 1, 2019.