

JOINT
PERFORMANCE
REVIEW
COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY
CORRECTION
HEARING

JULY 11, 2013

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ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Senator Jane English
Senate Co-Chair

Representative Terry Rice
House Co-Chair

JOINT PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

June 20, 2013

Mr. David B. Eberhard, Director
Department of Community Correction
Two Union National Plaza, 2nd Floor
105 W. Capitol Avenue
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Director Eberhard:

The Co-Chairs of the Joint Performance Review Committee respectfully request that you provide to the Committee any and all staff or Department communications, internal records, documents, e-mails, or other records or communication in the Department's possession relating to the monitoring, supervision, and custody of Darrell Dennis, who is currently in the custody of the Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC #085865) at the Pulaski County Jail. This request also includes the entirety of Inmate Dennis' personal file with the Department that is not privileged information.

This information should be delivered to the staff of the Joint Performance Review Committee (Karen Holliday of the Bureau of Legislative Research), immediately for review by the Committee before its meeting scheduled in early July. At this meeting, the Committee shall hear reports and testimony concerning the state's current parole procedures and system and it is anticipated that the Committee will also specifically discuss the recent homicide case in Pulaski County concerning the aforementioned Darrell Dennis.

Please be advised that the Co-Chairs also anticipate there will be further requests for information and documentation from your Department in the future. As you know, the committee has subpoena power by which it may obtain this requested information, but would instead prefer your current and future cooperation in this matter. Last, please be specifically advised that this request is not being made under the Freedom of Information Act of 1967, § 25-19-201 et seq. and is instead being made simply by legislative body to a state agency.

Again, thank you for your cooperation in this matter and we look forward to receiving the requested information at the earliest possible instance.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jane English in cursive script.

Senator Jane English, Senate Co-Chair
Joint Performance Review Committee

Handwritten signature of Terry Rice in cursive script.

Representative Terry Rice, House Co-Chair
Joint Performance Review Committee

cc: Senator Michael Lamoureux, President Pro Tempore, Arkansas Senate
Representative Davy Carter, Speaker, Arkansas House of Representatives
Senator David Sanders



"Service with Integrity
& Excellence."

Arkansas Department of Community Correction

Two Union National Plaza Building
105 West Capitol, 2nd Floor
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-5731
(501) 682-9510 Fax: (501) 682-9538

Senator Jane English, Senate Co-Chair
Joint Performance Review Committee

Representative Terry Rice, House Co-Chair
Joint Performance Review Committee

June 24, 2013

Honorable Co-Chairs:

I received your request for "any and all staff or Department communications, internal records, documents, e-mails, or other records or communication in the Department's possession relating to the monitoring, supervision, and custody of Darrell Dennis. This request also includes the entirety of Inmate Dennis' personal file with the Department that is not privileged information."

Attached with this letter you will find documents that are releasable by law.

By statute, the DCC cannot release parole/probation supervision files. According to A.C.A. § 12-27-125

(20)(A) It (DCC) shall maintain a full and complete record of each offender under its supervision.

(B) (i) To protect the integrity of a record described in subdivision (b)(20)(A) of this section and to ensure its proper use, it is unlawful to permit inspection of or disclose information contained in a record described in subdivision (b)(20)(A) of this section or to copy or issue a copy of any part of the record except as authorized by administrative regulation or by order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

David B. Eberhard, Director
Arkansas Dept. of Community Correction

ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Senator Jane English
Senate Co-Chair

Representative Terry Rice
House Co-Chair

JOINT PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

July 2, 2013

Ms. Veter Howard, Chief Deputy Director
Department of Community Correction
Two Union National Plaza, 2nd Floor
105 W. Capitol Avenue
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Chief Deputy Director Howard:

We are in receipt of a letter from former Director Eberhard dated June 24 of this year, which was in turn a response to this Committee's letter to the former Director requesting:

[A]ny and all staff or Department communications, internal records, documents, e-mails, or other records or communication in the Department's possession relating to the monitoring, supervision, and custody of Darrell Dennis. This request also includes the entirety of Inmate Dennis' personal file with the Department that is not privileged information.

Included with the former Director's response were documents and information that he determined were "releasable by law", but notably did not include certain requested information, such as the personal Department file of Darrell Dennis. Supporting the former Director's decision not to fully comply with the release of all requested documentation was a citation to Ark. Code Ann. § 12-27-125(b)(20), which reads as follows:

(20)(A) [The Department of Community Correction] shall maintain a full and complete record of each offender under its supervision.

(B)(i) To protect the integrity of a record described in subdivision (b)(20)(A) of this section and to ensure its proper use, it is unlawful to permit inspection of or disclose information contained in a record described in subdivision (b)(20)(A) of this section or to copy or issue a copy of any part of the record except as authorized by administrative regulation or by order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

(ii) The regulations shall provide for adequate standards of security and confidentiality of a record described in subdivision (b)(20)(A) of this section; (emphasis added)

The statute above allows disclosure of offender records if authorized by administrative regulation. In reviewing the former Director's legal justification for refusing to release all requested information, the following provision of DCC Administrative Regulation 06-04 ("Administrative Description and Public Information") was reviewed:

To maintain agency integrity and credibility, requests for information from legislative or other agency executive representatives should be answered fully and promptly. Employees who receive these requests must immediately inform their supervisor and/or the PRO and provide appropriate input to ensure a timely response. (emphasis added)

Given that the statute cited by the former Director allows the Department to provide for disclosure by administrative regulation, and an existing agency rule provides for a full response to a legislative request, this Committee believes that a complete response and release of requested information and documentation is required. As was stated before in this Committee's letter to the former Director, this Committee does have subpoena power that it will use to obtain the requested information, if need be. However, in the interest of comity and to save valuable state resources and time, this Committee asks that the Department again review the Committee's request, especially in light of the seeming requirement found in the Department's own policy that it fully comply with the legislative request.

Further, the Committee respectfully requests that the Department make available the following persons for the meeting of the Joint Performance Review Committee on **Thursday, July 11, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 151 of the State Capitol:**

Former Director David Eberhard
Sheila Sharp, Incoming Interim Director
Veter Howard, Chief Deputy Director
Dan Roberts, Deputy Director Parole/Probation
Damian McNeal, Assistant Director of Parole/Probation
Steve Arnold, Assistant Director of Parole/Probation
Dickey Johnson, Internal Affairs Administrator
Kristie Baker, Area Manager
Shawanna Willis, Assistant Area Manager
Violet Renee, Assistant Area Manager
Jim Cheek, Assistant Area Manager
Phillip Collins, Information Technology Administrator

Sincerely,



Senator Jane English, Senate Co-Chair
Joint Performance Review Committee



Representative Terry Rice, House Co-Chair
Joint Performance Review Committee

cc: Senator Michael Lamoureux, President Pro Tempore, Arkansas Senate
Representative Davy Carter, Speaker, Arkansas House of Representatives
Senator David Sanders

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ARKANSAS
BOARD OF CORRECTIONS
POST OFFICE BOX 20550
WHITE HALL, ARKANSAS 71612-0550
Phone (870) 267 6754
Fax (870) 267-6756

July 3, 2013

Senator Jane English, Senate Co-Chair
Joint Performance Review Committee

Representative Terry Rice, House Co-Chair
Joint Performance Review Committee

RE: Requested Information

Honorable Co-Chairs:

In response to your recent letter dated July 2, 2013, requesting the remainder of the file maintained by the Department of Community Correction (DCC) regarding offender Darrell Dennis, I must respectfully decline that request.


I understand that DCC has already provided your committee with documentation that is not privileged information pursuant to your letter dated June 20, 2013.

My reason for declining the remainder of your request is predicated on the Administrative Regulation (AR 7.4) promulgated by the Board of Corrections, of which I currently serve as Chairman and the state statute upon which it is based, Arkansas Code Annotated Section 12-27-125.

I feel it is my responsibility as Chairman of this Board to take this position based on a plain reading of this policy and law. Understand that I feel we share common goals in this matter, namely seeing that DCC and the probation and parole system which it administers is responsible to the people of Arkansas and that our cities and towns are made safer from crime.

Please feel free to contact me at any time concerning this, or any matter in which you think I may be of assistance.

Sincerely,


Benny Magness
Chairman

ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Senator Jane English
Senate Co-Chair

Representative Terry Rice
House Co-Chair

JOINT PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

July 3, 2013

TO: Members of the Joint Performance Review Committee

RE: Subpoena of Documents and Witnesses

Please be advised that the Joint Performance Review (JPR) Committee will take up the Department of Community Correction (DCC) matter and the related exercise of subpoena power at its meeting on **Thursday, July 11, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 151 of the State Capitol**. Ark. Code § 10-3-901(f) requires a notice of one (1) week to all members of the committee prior to action regarding the exercise of the committee's subpoena power (attached below for your review and reference). **This letter is notice that the JPR Committee will take up the matter of the exercise of subpoena power at its meeting on Thursday, July 11, 2013.** Committee members will vote on whether or not to issue a subpoena to the Arkansas Board of Corrections, Board Chairman Benny Magness, requesting the release of all records relating to the Darrell Dennis case, including without limitation the parole/probation supervision files that former DCC Director David Eberhard declined to provide to the committee. Committee members will also consider whether subpoenas are appropriate to compel the attendance of necessary witnesses.

(f)(1)(A) When meeting as a joint committee, the committee may subpoena persons, documents, and records upon approval of a majority of the House membership of the committee and a majority of the Senate membership of the committee.

(B) However, no action of the joint committee regarding the exercise of the subpoena power shall be taken except upon notice of at least one (1) week to all members of the committee or upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the House membership of the committee and a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate membership of the committee.

If you have any questions, please contact Bureau of Legislative Research staff Kerrie Lauck, JPR Committee attorney, at 501-537-9129; or Karen Holliday, JPR Committee analyst at 501-537-9167.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jane English in cursive script.

Senator Jane English, Senate Co-Chair
Joint Performance Review Committee

Handwritten signature of Terry Rice in cursive script.

Representative Terry Rice, House Co-Chair
Joint Performance Review Committee

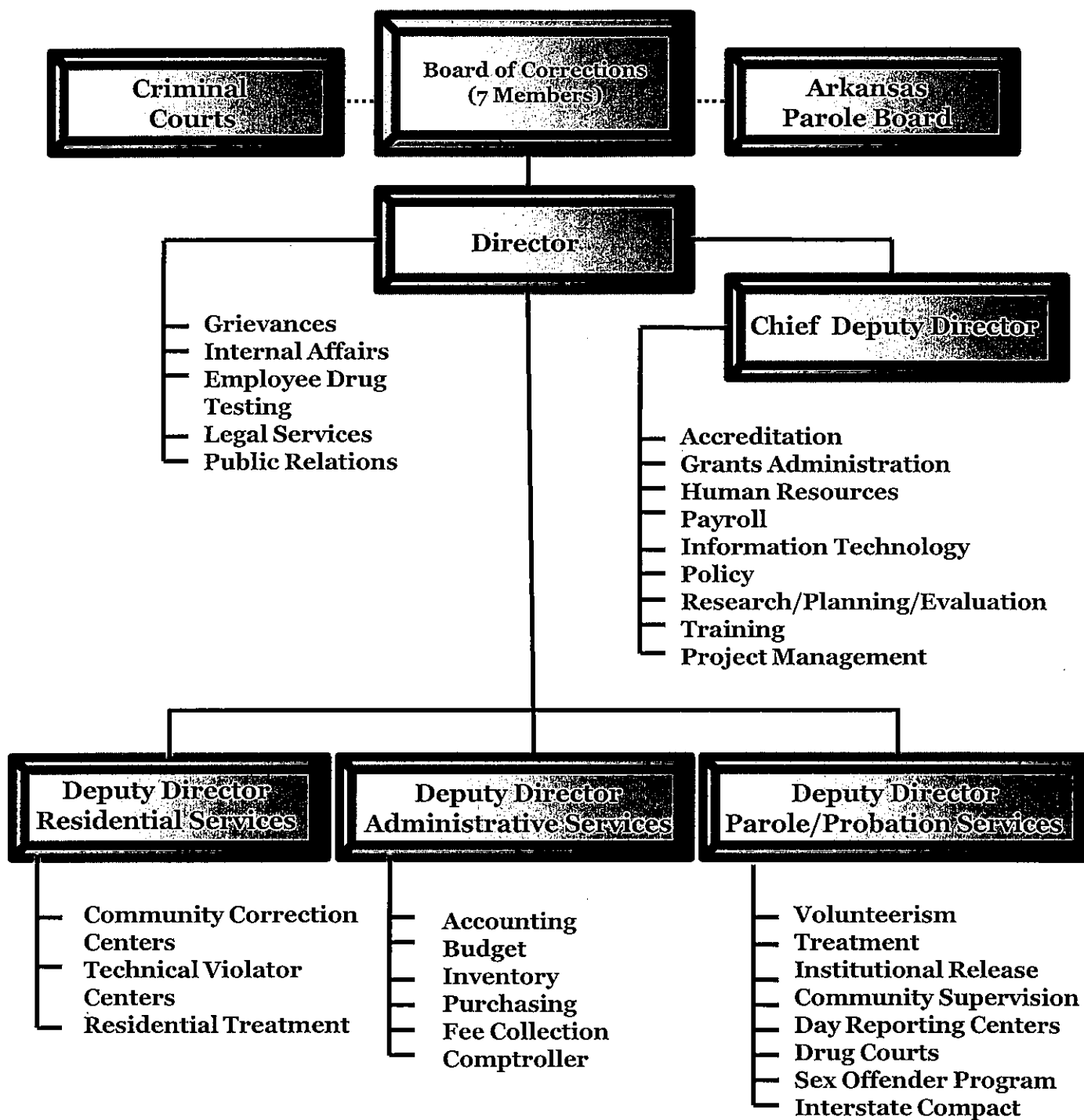
cc: Senator Michael Lamoureux, President Pro Tempore, Arkansas Senate
Representative Davy Carter, Speaker, Arkansas House of Representatives
Senator David Sanders

9

DIRECTORY OF
NAMES
with
TITLES & AGENCIES
CONTAINED
IN
E-MAILS

ARKANSAS

Department of Community Correction



Names and Titles Listed in E-mails

Department of Community Corrections

Former Director David Eberhard

Veter Howard, Chief Deputy Director

Dan Roberts, Deputy Director Parole/Probation

Steve Arnold, Assistant Director for Parole and Probation

Damian McNeal, Assistant Director for Parole/Probation

Steve Arnold, Assistant Director or Parole/Probation

Dickey Johnson, Internal Affairs Administrator

Kristie Baker, Area Manager, Area 7-Little Rock

Shawanna Willis, Assistant Area Manager

Violet Renee, Assistant Area Manager, Area 7-Little Rock

Jim Cheek, Assistant Area Manager, Area 7-Little Rock

Debra James, Parole/Probation Officer II, Area 7-Little Rock

Charles Easley, Parole/Probation Agent, Area 7-Little Rock

Rhonda Sharp, Public Relations

Phillip Collins, Information Technology Administrator

Media

Spencer Willems, reporter, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Chad Day, reporter, Democrat-Gazette

Drew Petrimoulx, reporter, KARK – 4 News

TIMELINE
OF OFFENSES
COMMITTED
BY
DARRELL DENNIS
WHILE ON
PAROLE



Arkansas
Board of Corrections
Post Office Box 20550
White Hall, Arkansas 71612-0550
Phone (870) 267-6754
Fax (870) 267-6756

FINDINGS AS OF JULY 1, 2013

- On or about 06/27/1990, Dennis was sentenced to the Arkansas Department of Correction for committing the offenses of Robbery and Escape 2nd Degree.
- On or about 11/05/08, Dennis was paroled with the following Parole Board ordered Special Conditions: Total Abstinence.
- 11/12/08 Reported
- 11/25/08 Reported
- 11/26-12/28/08 Failed to Report
- 12/29/08 Reported
- 01/05/09 Failed
- 01/08/09 Reported
- 01/28/09 Reported – Paid \$50.00 fees
- 02/23/09 Reported
- 03/25/09 Reported (reminded to pay past due fees of \$50.00)
- 04/15/09 Dennis was detained for Obstruction of Governmental Operations, Possession of a Counterfeit Substance w/Intent, Maintaining a Drug Premise near a drug free zone, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Possession of a Firearm by Certain Persons, Defacing a Firearm and Simultaneous Possession of Drugs and Firearms. DENNIS WAS RELEASED FROM CUSTODY THIS SAME DATE PER A SPEED LETTER. Dennis failed to report upon release. Phone call and Home Visit was completed. A violation report was submitted 05/05/09. An Abscond Warrant was issued 05/28/09.
- 04/22/09 Failed
- 05/08/09 Failed
- 05/28/09 Abscond Warrant (file given to A. Johnson)
- 09/22/09 Dennis was detained and transported to the Northside Pulaski County Jail. Due to the jail not holding absconders, he was picked up and transported to the

Probation/Parole office by the Abscond Recovery Team. An office visit was conducted with Dennis. He advised that he had a court date set for 01/17/10 for his pending charges. Dennis was instructed to report back in the office on 09/29/09. He failed to report.

- 09/23/09 Reported
- 09/29/09 Failed
- 10/05/09 Warrant Recall Issued
- 11/02/09 Failed

- 11/03/09 **An abscond warrant was re-issued.**

- 03/08/10 Dennis was detained in the Pulaski County Detention Center. He was in possession of \$1,905.00 cash. A parole hold was placed on Dennis, however Dennis' parole hold was asked to be released on 03/16/10. He reported in the office this same date and was placed on twice per week reporting schedule (Tuesdays and Thursdays).

- 03/16/10 Released from Pulaski County Jail
- 03/16/10 Reported (Required to Report every Tuesday and Thursday).
- 03/18/10 Reported – Paid \$200.00 fees
- 03/23/10 Reported
- 03/30/10 Reported
- 04/06/10 Reported

- 04/08/10 Dennis was detained for **Possession of Cocaine w/Intent, Possession of a Controlled Substance-Marijuana, Possession of Hydrocodone and Maintaining a Drug Premise**. He was released this same date with a court date of 04/15/10. (Dennis submitted Monthly Reports on 04/13/10 and 04/27/10).

- 04/13/10 Reported
- 05/18/10 Reported

- 05/19/10 Dennis' name was submitted to the Parole Board on the Hearing List request.

- 05/25/10 Reported
- 06/08/10 Reported

- 06/22/10 Little Rock Police Department report Dennis has caused car accident with injuries. Brought to office.

- Parole Hearing scheduled for 06/30/10
Dennis was served all paperwork for parole hearing on 06/25/10. Hearing was postponed at the request of Dennis' attorney, Bill Lupen.
- Parole Hearing was scheduled for 07/14/10
Dennis was served all paperwork for parole hearing on 08/05/10.
- Parole Hearing scheduled for 07/21/10
Officer was notified that hearing was postponed until 08/11/10 due to a change of attorney (Mark Jesse).
- 07/26/10 Reported
- 07/27/10 Reported – Risk Needs Score: Medium; Admits to smoking THC – Last UA positive. Has no desire to quit using or selling drugs.
- 08/05/10 Reported
- 8/11/10 **Dennis failed to report for his scheduled parole hearing.**
- 08/18/10 Failed to Report. Phone call and Home Visit completed.
- 08/20/10 Failed
- 08/27/10 **Abscond warrant was issued.**
- 11/06/10 A Booking Notice was received however it was later revealed from jail administration that Dennis was not booked but only set up to start court ordered community service hours.
- 11/09/10 Parole Officer called PCJ was told offender not in jail – set up to do CWS, but never reported – warrant still active.
- Dennis reported in the office, after being brought there by LRPD after traffic stop on 11/10/10. He was in possession of \$400.00 cash. He had an Omnibus Hearing set for 01/07/11. Dennis also informed Officer Douglas that he failed to report for his parole hearing at his attorney's instructions because a postponement would be requested. Dennis was released to his aunt. Verification was given that he could reside with her. Drug test administered on 11/10/10 positive for THC and cocaine.
- 11/14/10 Released from Pulaski County Sheriff

- 11/17/10 Reported – 12 pending felonies & in possession of a lot of cash.
- 11/19/10 Dennis was detained for **Battery 3rd and Public Intoxication**. He was released on 11/19/10. Dennis' name was re-submitted for a parole hearing on 11/23/10.
- Dennis failed to report upon his release. A home visit was conducted on 11/24/10. Instructions were left for Dennis to report on 12/08/10. He failed to do so. Another home visit was conducted on 12/20/10. No contact was made with anyone.
- 12/04/10 Booked (Misdemeanor) & Released
- 12/05/10 Booked (Misdemeanor) & Released
- 12/08/10 Failed to Report
- 12/20/10 Letter left directing to report tomorrow or be violated.
- 12/21/10 Failed
- 12/29/10 Dennis was detained for **Attempt to Influence a Public Servant, Tampering w / Physical Evidence, Refusal to Submit, Disorderly Conduct, Public Intoxication and Harassment**. Dennis was released from custody this same date.
- 01/06/11 Dennis reported in the office in vehicle reported stolen and connected to a runaway teen. . He was placed in custody and taken to the Pulaski County Detention Center. Drug test administered on 01/06/11 positive for THC and cocaine.
- **Parole Hearing scheduled for 01/12/11**
Parole Hearing was continued due to an ACT 3 evaluation (mental competency) pending in 1st Division.
- 06/24/11 Pulaski County called for Dennis to be released from custody. He was released with reporting instructions for 06/27/11 and per Reuben Johnson; Dennis would be entering the Gyst House. Dennis failed to report as instructed upon his release. **Abscond warrant was re-entered into ACIC on 06/25/11.**
- 01/30/12 Agent Arzo Johnson received a call from the Franklin County Detention Center advising that Dennis was in their custody and they wanted him out due to him destroying their property. Agent Johnson phoned Prosecuting Attorney Fenwicke and requested that Dennis be transferred to Pulaski County due to his open case and failure to report.
- 02/12/12 Dennis was booked into the Pulaski County Jail on a No Bond hold from 1st Division. A revoke bond hearing was held on 02/13/12.

- 02/13/12 and 03/14/12: Dennis appeared for ACT 3 hearings in 1st Division. (Bond set at \$2,000.00).
- 05/03/12 Dennis was transported to the office by the Abscond Recovery Team. Dennis met with former Assistant Area Manager Trigg and informed her that he had been placed in the Gyst House and was told not to worry about his parole. He was placed on weekly reporting at this time and instructed to complete 40 hours of community service. Dennis failed to report back in the office.
- 05/24/12 Failed
- 05/25/12 A phone call was placed in an attempt to re-engage Dennis. A home visit was also conducted this same date to no avail by Officers James and Daniels.
- 05/31/12 A violation report was completed.
- 06/04/12 An Abscond warrant was issued.
- 08/14/12 Dennis attended an ACT 3 hearing in 1st Division.
- 08/25/12 Abscond Team was notified that Dennis was detained in Pulaski County.
- 09/04/12 An Arkansas Accountability Intervention Matrix Assistant Area Manager conference was conducted. Dennis was informed that he would be waived to the Technical Violator's Center if his ACT 3 was denied.
- 09/04/12 Dennis was released from custody and failed to report.
- 09/14/12 A home visit was conducted to re-engage Dennis under supervision.
- 09/20/12 An Abscond warrant was issued.
- 04/03/13 Dennis was detained for **Obstruction of Governmental Operations and Possessing an Instrument of Crime**. He was booked under DARYL JOHNSON.
- 04/16/13 Dennis' grandmother called and wanted him released so he could attend his mother's funeral. D. James, PO said he is not a good risk, but the decision was up to management.
- 04/19/13 AAM Renee approves release for Dennis to attend mother's funeral.

- 04/22/13 Dennis was released from custody to attend his mother's funeral. Verification was given from family members. He was instructed to report on 04/24/13.
- 04/24/13 Dennis failed to report. Abscond warrant was re-issued 04/29/13.
- 05/01/13 Dennis was detained in Pulaski County. Dennis' Jury Trial had been set for 08/22/13.
- 05/01/13 The Jail Administrator phoned Arzo Johnson and AAM Darnell Williams to advise that the jail was full and they would not take any 570 parole/probation clients and would be releasing those that had made bond.
- NOTE: Since the conception and application of the Matrix System that was adopted and implemented somewhere around July 2011, Assistant Area Manager Conferences (AAM) are held at the Pulaski County Detention Facility (PCDF/Jail) every Wednesday. The purpose is to make contact with those parolees housed at the jail to find out why they have violated the conditions of their release from prison and to impose sanctions as mandated by the matrix system for those violations.
- 05/02/13 Officer Debra James makes a Parole Hearing request to AAM Jim Cheek by e-mail with a listing of major events in Dennis' parole supervision history, including emphasis on "(4 Abscond Violations since July of 2011 but a total of :7 since being on parole). He should have gone to his hearing previously and didn't because he claimed ACT 3, was released and no one looked closer to see that he should be rescheduled."
- 05/03/13 After conferring with Area 7 Manager Kristie Baker, DCC Assistant Director Damiah McNeal, accepts her (Baker's) recommendation for TVC, with his added recommendation for mental health and substance abuse treatment. Attachment # 1.
- 05/08/13 AAM Conference by AAM Willis and AAM Renee. Dennis was informed that he would be waived to TVC and placed on a GPS monitor. He was instructed to report within 24 hours of release. See DCC Release Letter dated 05/08/13 to Pulaski County Jail – Attachment #2.
- 05/08/13 Dennis was released from the Pulaski County Jail at approximately 10:00 p.m.
- 05/08/13 Statement of Assistant Area Manager Violet Renee – Attachment #3.
Statement of Assistant Area Manager Shawanna Willis – Attachment #4.
Statement of Assistant Area Manager Kristie Baker – Attachment #5.

- 05/22/13 Dennis' abscond warrant was re-entered into ACIC. DCC begins search for Dennis.
- 05/23/13 Dennis was booked into the Pulaski County Jail for **Capital Murder, Kidnapping, Theft of Property and Aggravated Robbery** in the death of 18 year old Forrest Abrams.

Mark Colbert

From: Damian McNeal
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2013 11:36 AM
To: Mark Colbert
Subject: Hearing Request ADC#085865 Darrell Dennis

See below as requested, it shows the request for TVC and my approval with recommendation for mental health and treatment.

Damian McNeal
Assistant Director
Arkansas Department of Community Correction
Little Rock, AR 72201
Cell# (501) 837-3025 Damian.McNeal@Arkansas.gov

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From: Damian McNeal
Sent: Friday, May 03, 2013 4:27 PM
To: Kristie Baker
Subject: RE: Hearing Request ADC#085865 Darrell Dennis

I reviewed it and I agree try TVC. I didn't see that he was ever in TVC. Also, this guy needs to be looked at for some of the mental health and substance use funding upon release. He is clearly a treatment case.

Damian McNeal
Assistant Director
Arkansas Department of Community Correction
Little Rock, AR 72201
Cell# (501) 837-3025 Damian.McNeal@Arkansas.gov

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From: Kristie Baker
Sent: Friday, May 03, 2013 4:19 PM
To: Damian McNeal
Subject: RE: Hearing Request ADC#085865 Darrell Dennis

EXHIBIT 1

I explained to Cheek that he hadn't had a conference and had no violent charges. He said that you wanted to review it. I would think that TVC should suffice...

Thanks

From: Damian McNeal
Sent: Friday, May 03, 2013 4:18 PM
To: Kristie Baker
Subject: RE: Hearing Request ADC#085865 Darrell Dennis

Are we saying this is the only option for him? I know I talked to them yesterday about it but, I did not approve it yesterday.

Damian McNeal
Assistant Director
Arkansas Department of Community Correction
Little Rock, AR 72201
Cell# (501) 837-3025 Damian.McNeal@Arkansas.gov

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From: Kristie Baker
Sent: Friday, May 03, 2013 4:01 PM
To: Damian McNeal
Subject: FW: Hearing Request ADC#085865 Darrell Dennis
Importance: High

Cheek said he and James talked to you about this client. He does not have any violent charges pending....

Thanks

From: Jim Cheek
Sent: Friday, May 03, 2013 2:53 PM
To: Kristie Baker
Subject: FW: Hearing Request ADC#085865 Darrell Dennis
Importance: High

ORAS has not been completed and he is listed as unassigned.

From: Debra James
Sent: Thursday, May 02, 2013 5:05 PM
To: Jim Cheek
Subject: Hearing Request ADC#085865 Darrell Dennis
Importance: High

Current Charges: MANUFACTURE DELIVER POSSESS CONTROLLED SUBS SCHED I,II < 28g NARCOTIC METH; FY, DRUGS AND FIREARMS, SIMULTANEOUS POS OF; FY, MAINTAIN DRUG PREMISES - FAIL TO KEEP RECORDS, ETC. - DRUGS; POSSESS USE DELIVER ADVERTISE DRUG PARAPHERNALIA, (Felonies); ESCAPE - 3RD DEGREE; MA, CLASS A MISDEMEANOR, POSSESS FIREARMS BY CERTAIN PERSONS; FB, Disp:

Paroled on: 11/05/2008

Abscond warrant #1 issued 05/28/2009

Abscond warrant#2 issued 09/22/2009

New charges on 04/08/2010: possession of controlled substances, multiple counts, maintaining a drug premise, possession of firearm

06/25/2010 served hearing paperwork

07/25/2010 served hearing paperwork again

Parole revocation hearing postponed twice.

08/18/2010, failed to report for hearing

Abscond warrant#3 issued 08/31/2010

11/23/2010 committed the offense of domestic battery 3rd

11/23/2010, name placed on the hearing list.

12/29/2010, committed the offense of trying to influence a public servant, tampering with evidence, refusal to submit to arrest, disorderly conduct, harassment and public intoxic.

01/06/2011, served hearing paperwork (placed on Act 3, released and then failed to report)

07/28/11, Abscond warrant#3 reentered.

05/03/2012 released, AAM conference held

06/07/2012, Abscond warrant#4 issued.

09/04/2012, AAM conference held, TVP (should have gone to a hearing)

09/20/2012, Abscond warrant#5 issued.

04/03/2013, arrest for obstruction of governmental operations, possessing instruments of crime.

04/29/2013, Abscond Warrant#4 re-entered (4 Abscond Violations since July of 2011 but a total of: 7 since being on parole). He should have gone to his hearing previously and didn't because he claimed Act 3, was released and no one looked closer to see that he should be rescheduled.

This officer formally requests a hearing for this offender.

Cheek, my number is 773-7382, call me if approved and I will go serve him.

REL



Department of Community Correction
Little Rock Parole
2679 Pike Avenue
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72114
Phone (501) 371-1090 Fax (501) 324-9183

TO: Pulaski County Jail

FROM: Shawanna Willis, AAM

DATE: May 8, 2013

RE: DARRELL DENNIS

8594-13

This is a letter releasing the Parole Hold placed on DARRELL DENNIS. If HE has
no other holds or detainers, please advise him to report to Officer
DEBRA JAMES immediately.

Sincerely,

Shawanna Willis
Assistant Area Manager-Area 7

EXHIBIT 2

30



Arkansas Department of Community Correction

OFFICE OF ADULT PROBATION AND PAROLE

2679 Pike Avenue

North Little Rock, Arkansas 72114

(501) 371-0420 (Office) (501) 371-1566 (fax)

To Whom It May Concern,

Prior to May 8, 2013, the standard operating procedures for releasing clients from jail was that if a client does not have a pending violent offense or is not required to attend a hearing, they are to be released from jail if they have served their required MATRIX days. Prior to May 8, 2013, we were informed that Pulaski County Jail was having problems with overcrowding and was requesting that we release clients. AM Baker sent emails to officers requesting that clients be released due to the overcrowding issue and officers were also informed that Pulaski County Jail will not be accepting anymore ACT 570 clients until further notice. After a conference session at the jail (prior to 5-8-13), I was approached by a lady (I don't remember her name but Deputy Crouch informed me the lady wanted to speak with me), who stated she wanted to see how we could help get the jail numbers down. I asked her if it would help if we brought release letters with us and once we determine who is eligible for release, we would release them on the day of our conferences. The lady stated this would be a good idea and would definitely help them out. On the date of May 8, 2013, I volunteered to go to the jail to help AAM Renee out with her full list of conferences for that day. I made out release letters that would be filled in at the jail according to who would be released. After I conducted my conferences, I filled out release letters for those that I conducted conferences on that had served their required jail days according

EXHIBIT 3

to the MATRIX. AAM Renee was given release letters that had my name on them so she could do the same for her clients that needed to be released. We attempted to give the letters to Deputy Crouch (I think, or another deputy) but was informed the letters would need to go to intake. I think we attempted to fax the letters from the jail to intake but were at the wrong machine. I think we were taken to another fax machine and faxed them from there but this may have happened on a different day. According to the fax that was presented to AAM Renee and myself today, it appears that we faxed the letters from our office so we either faxed the letters from both the jail and our office, or only our office due to them not accepting them at inmate services where the conferences were conducted.

Rec by CV
@ 10:45 A.M.

Thank you,

This certificate is attached to a 2 page document dated 6/27/13 entitled Statement.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT CERTIFICATE

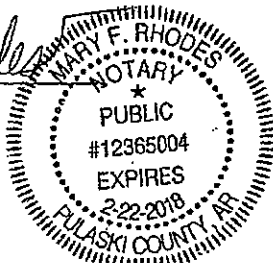
State of ARKANSAS
County of PULASKI

Before me, MARY F. RHODES, on this
day personally appeared SHAWANNA WILLIS,
Name of Notary Public
Name of signer(s)

to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

Given under my hand and seal of office this 27th day of June, 2013.
Year

Mary F Rhodes
Notary Public's Signature



Signer's Identity verified by:

☒ Personally known to me

☐ Identity proven on the oath

Name of credible witness

☐ Identity proven on the basis of

June 27, 2013

To whom it may concern:

On the date of May 8, 2013 AM Baker and I were scheduled to conduct jail conferences at the Pulaski County Jail. AM Baker was unavailable so AAM Shawanna Willis volunteered to assist. There were 17 clients on the conference list, but upon arrival a few had been released. The standard operating procedure for placing a client on the conference list is as follows:

1. The supervising officer once aware that a conference is needed on a client according to the Matrix will prepare a "jail conference packet" for their AAM. This packet includes basic client details, relevant chronos, supervision history, and the police report if appropriate.
2. The AAM will place the client's name on the jail conference calendar on the team site.
3. The AAM's rotate weeks for completing conferences at the jail. The AAM who is scheduled for any given week will be given all jail conference packets and will send the list to Sgt. Ballard at the Pulaski County Jail Inmate Services so that they can be pulled from their assigned pods in the jail.

On the morning of May 8, 2013 I sent the list via email and fax to Sgt. Ballard so she would know who we would like to see for jail conferences. Before leaving for the jail AAM Willis printed form letters that we took with us to the jail for those that would be released from custody following a conference. The directive that we as AAMs were given is that only those with pending violent or sexual felonies were to be held in jail, as this was the only item on the Matrix that specified a jail hold for more than a set number of days. We were instructed to release any one who had served their assigned number of days as dictated by the Matrix (i.e. 4 days in jail for abscond 1st offense), any clients that were pending TVP, and any client that had a nonviolent pending charge (misdemeanor or felony). It is my understanding that these holds were to be released in an attempt to maintain a working relationship with the Pulaski County Jail by assisting with their overcrowding. On May 1, 2013, we were notified that the Pulaski County Jail was over capacity and they would no longer be accepting 570 holds for Matrix days, and that any clients in jail that did not have to remain there should be released. It has been standard operating procedure in the Pulaski County Parole Office to release all those clients who were awaiting TVP for at least the 5 years I have worked here. The only exceptions to this rule have been interstate extradition cases.

EXHIBIT 4

While at the jail on May 8, 2013, AAM Willis and I split the conference list. When I conducted a conference on a client that did not have a violent or sexual felony, I completed


the release form as instructed. When we were finished conducting conferences I gave the letters to AAM Willis to sign because her name was preprinted on the letters we had in our possession. I believe that this was the same date that we attempted to give these letters to the Deputy Crouch in Inmate Services and she notified us that they would need to go to intake. We then faxed the letters from inside Inmate services to intake. However, due to the numerous times that we have been to the jail for conferences it is entirely possible that this occurred on another day. It appears that the letters that were provided by the jail were faxed from one of the fax machines in our office. I cannot remember if we returned to the office to fax these letters or if we resent them for verification.

While conducting the conference with Darrell Dennis I was not under the impression that he was going to continue to report as required pending TVP, but I was required to release him. I made the determination to add an additional requirement of Electronic Monitoring to my sanction in the hopes that if he reported following his release from jail his officer would be better able to track him. I did not have a monitor with me at the jail, county jail inmates are not allowed to wear an electronic monitor while they are in custody (they are removed at intake when a client is arrested while wearing an electronic monitor), and a person must be taken outside in order for the monitor to link to the GPS satellite. As a result, the monitor was not placed on Dennis at the time and was to be done when he reported. Dennis did not report following his release from the jail, so his monitor was never placed.

 4/27/13

Violet Renee

Assistant Area Manager

Rec by 
@ 10:45 AM

This certificate is attached to a 2 page document dated 4/27/13 entitled Statement

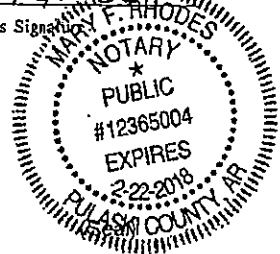
ACKNOWLEDGMENT CERTIFICATE

State of ARKANSAS
County of PULASKI

Before me, MARY F. RHODES, on this
day personally appeared VIOLET BENE,
Name of Notary Public
Name of signer(s)

to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

Given under my hand and seal of office this 27th day of June, 2013.
Year

Mary F. Rhodes
Notary Public's Signature


Signer's Identity verified by:

- ☒ Personally known to me
- ☐ Identity proven on the oath Name of credible witness
- ☐ Identity proven on the basis of Description of identity card or other document

To: Whom it may concern

From: Kristie Baker

Date: ~~June 27, 2013~~ 27, 2013

RE: Darrell Dennis

The part of the Darrell Dennis case that involved me was on or about May 2nd when a hearing request was forwarded to Mr. McKeal. I do agree with the decision of Dennis waiving to the Technical Violator's Center and not attending a hearing because of the drug charges he had pending at that time.

I was not aware of when Darrell Dennis was released from custody. I later learned more information about this release after an Incident Report was submitted.

Kristie Baker

REC. 11:20 p.m.
6/27/13 me/aw

EXHIBIT 5

This certificate is attached to a 1 page document dated 6/27/13 entitled Statement

ACKNOWLEDGMENT CERTIFICATE

State of ARKANSAS

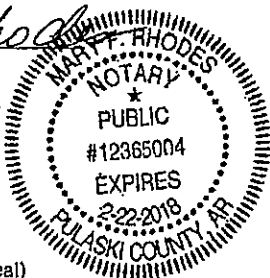
County of PULASKI

Before me, MARY F. RHODES, on this
day personally appeared KRISTIE BAKER,
Name of Notary Public
Name of signer(s)

to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

Given under my hand and seal of office this 27th day of June, 2013
Year

Mary F. Rhodes
Notary Public's Signature



Signer's Identity verified by:

☒ Personally known to me

☐ Identity proven on the oath

Name of credible witness

☐ Identity proven on the basis of

Description of identity card or other document

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attending a hearing
he had pending at that time.

I was not aware of when Darrell Bonnie was released from custody. I later learned more information about this release after an Incident Report was submitted.

Kristie Baker

rec. 1:20pm
6/27/13 are/aw

E-MAILS

FOIA

Questions & Answers

And

MEDIA

CORRESPONDENCE



Arkansas Department of Community
Correction

OFFICE OF ADULT PROBATION AND PAROLE
2679 Pike Avenue
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72114

Office; (501) 324-9176 (501) 371-0420 Fax; (501) 324-9183

Memo

To: Whom it May Concern

From: Kristie Baker, Area Manager

Date: 6/13/2013

Re: Dennis, Darrell # 085865

*4/15/2009: Dennis was detained for Obstruction of Governmental Operations, Possession of a Counterfeit Substance w/Intent, Maintaining a Drug Premise near a drug free zone, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Possession of a Firearm by Certain Persons, Defacing a Firearm and Simultaneous Possession of Drugs and Firearms. **DENNIS WAS RELEASED FROM CUSTODY THIS SAME DATE PER A SPEED LETTER.**

Dennis failed to report upon release. Phone call and HV was completed. A violation report was submitted 5/5/2009. An Abscond Warrant was issued 5/28/2009.

*9/22/2009: Dennis was detained and transported to the Northside Pulaski County Jail. Due to the jail not holding absconders, he was picked up and transported to the Probation/Parole office by the Abscond Recovery Team. An office visit was conducted with Dennis. He advised that he had a **court date set for 1/17/2010** for his pending charges. Dennis was instructed to report back in the office on 9/29/2009. He failed to report. An abscond warrant was re-issued on 11/3/2009.

*3/8/2010: Dennis was detained in the Pulaski County Detention Center. A parole hold was placed on Dennis, however Dennis' parole hold was asked to be released on 3/16/2010. He reported in the office this same date and was placed on a twice per week reporting schedule (Tuesdays and Thursdays).

*4/8/2010: Dennis was detained for Possession of Cocaine w/Intent, Possession of a Controlled Substance-Marijuana, Possession of Hydrocodone and Maintaining a Drug Premise. He was released this same date with a **court date of 4/15/2010**. (Dennis submitted Monthly Reports on 4/13/10 and 4/27/10) He had an office visit on 5/18/2010.

*5/19/2010: Dennis' name was submitted to the Parole Board on the Hearing List request. **(There were 53 names submitted on this list with only 7 hearings scheduled each week).**

*5/25/2010: Dennis' name was submitted to the Parole Board on the Hearing List request. **(There were 25 names submitted on this list with only 7 hearings scheduled each week).**

*6/10/2010: Dennis' name was submitted to the Parole Board on the Hearing List request. **(There were 48 names submitted on this list with only 7 hearings scheduled each week).**

***Parole Hearing scheduled for 6/30/2010**

*Dennis was served all paperwork for parole hearing on 6/25/2010. Hearing was postponed at the request of Dennis' attorney; Bill Lupen.

***Parole Hearing scheduled for 7/14/2010**

*Dennis was served all paperwork for parole hearing on 8/5/2010.

***Parole Hearing scheduled for 7/21/2010**

Officer was notified that hearing was postponed until 8/11/2010 due to a change of attorney (Mark Jesse)

***Parole Hearing scheduled for 8/11/2010**

*Dennis failed to report for his hearing. Phone call and Home Visit completed. Abscond warrant was issued 8/27/2010.

*11/6/2010 a Booking Notice was received however it was later revealed from jail administration that Dennis was not booked but only set up to start court ordered community service hours. Dennis reported in the office on 11/10/2010. He had an **Omnibus Hearing set for 1/07/2011**. Dennis also informed Officer Douglas that he failed to report for his hearing at his attorney's instructions because a postponement would be requested. Dennis was released to his aunt. Verification was given that he could reside with her.

*11/19/2010: Dennis was detained for Battery 3rd and Public Intoxication. He was released on 11/21/2010. Dennis' name was re-submitted for a parole hearing on 11/23/2010.

*Dennis failed to report upon his release. A home visit was conducted on 11/24/2010. Instructions were left for Dennis to report on 12/08/2010. He failed to do so. Another home visit was conducted on 12/20/2010. No contact was made with anyone.

*12/29/2010: Dennis was detained for Attempt to Influence a Public Servant, Tampering w/Physical Evidence, Refusal to Submit, Disorderly Conduct, Public Intoxication and Harassment. Dennis was released from custody this same date.

1/6/2011: Dennis reported in the office. He was placed in custody and taken to the Pulaski County Detention Center.

***Parole Hearing scheduled for 1/12/2011**

*Hearing was continued due to an ACT 3 evaluation pending

*6/25/2011: Pulaski County called for Dennis to be released from custody. He was released with reporting instructions for 6/27/2011 and per Reuben Johnson; Dennis would be entering the Gyst House. Johnson failed to report as instructed upon his release. Abscond warrant was re-entered into ACIC.

*1/30/2012: Agent Arzo Johnson received a call from the Franklin County Detention Center advising that Dennis was in their custody and they wanted him out due to him

destroying their property. Agent Johnson phoned Prosecuting Attorney Fenwicke and requested that Dennis be transferred to Pulaski County due to his open case and failure to report.

*2/12/2012: Dennis was booked into the Pulaski County Jail on a No Bond hold from 1st division. A revoke bond hearing was held 2/13/2012.

*2/13/2012 and 3/14/2012: Dennis appeared for ACT 3 hearings in 1st Division

*5/03/2012: Dennis was transported to the office by the Abscond Recovery Team. Dennis met with former AAM Trigg and informed her that he had been placed in the Cyst House and was not instructed to report in the office. He was placed on weekly reporting at this time and instructed to complete 40 hours of community service. Dennis failed to report back in the office.

*5/25/2012: A phone call was placed in an attempt to re-engage Dennis. A home visit was also conducted this same date to no avail.

*5/31/2012: A violation report was completed. 6/4/2012 an Abscond warrant was issued.

*8/14/2012: Dennis attended an ACT 3 hearing in 1st Division.

*8/25/2012: Abscond Team was notified that Dennis was detained in Pulaski County.

*9/4/2012: An Arkansas Accountability Intervention Matrix Assistant Area Manager conference was conducted. Dennis was informed that he would be waived to the Technical Violator's Center if his ACT 3 request was denied.

*9/4/2012: Dennis was released from custody and failed to report. 9/14/2012: A home visit was conducted to re-engage Dennis under supervision. An Abscond warrant was issued 9/20/2012.

*4/3/2013: Dennis was detained for Obstruction of Governmental Operations and Possessing an Instrument of Crime. He was booked under DARYL JOHNSON.

*4/22/2013: Dennis was released from custody to attend his mother's funeral. Verification was give from family members. He was instructed to report 4/24/2013.

*4/24/2013: Dennis failed to report. Abscond warrant was re-issued 4/29/2013.

*5/1/2013: Dennis was detained in Pulaski County. He was informed that he would be waived to TVC and placed on a GPS monitor until his transport date if released from custody. Dennis' Jury Trial had been set for 8/22/2013.

NOTE: This date May 1, 2013 the Jail Administrator phoned Arzo Johnson and AAM Darnell Williams to advise that the jail was full and that they would not take any 570 parole/probation clients and would be releasing those that had made bond.

*5/8/2013: Dennis was released from the Pulaski County Jail. His parole hold was not lifted by the Department of Community Corrections.

*5/22/2013: Dennis' abscond warrant was re-entered into ACIC.

*5/23/2013: Dennis was booked into the Pulaski County Jail for Capital Murder, Kidnapping, Theft of Property and Aggravated Robbery.

Respectfully Submitted, AM Baker

Rhonda Sharp

From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 12:15 PM
To: Spencer Willems
Subject: Re: lookup

Spencer - I am in a meeting and won't be able to get to any information till later - possibly around 4 p.m. I will get with you then

Rhonda Sharp
DCC Public Relations Manager
501.682.9593

On May 23, 2013, at 11:44 AM, "Spencer Willems" <swillems@arkansasonline.com> wrote:

> Hey Rhonda,
>
> Me again. This is starting to get too routine, I'm sure. But LRPD arrested a man on cap murder charges by the name of Darrell Dennis (B/M- 3/24/66).
>
> I was wondering if you could look him up and see if he's an active parolee or on probation. He's got quite a record. Also, his general history with the DOCC would be very helpful.
>
> Feel free to give a call (350-7391).
> Thanks,
> Spencer W.

Rhonda Sharp

From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 4:26 PM
To: Spencer Willems
Subject: Re: lookup

Spencer - call me please - as soon as you get a chance. 501-837-6929

Rhonda Sharp
DCC Public Relations Manager
501.682.9593

On May 23, 2013, at 11:44 AM, "Spencer Willems" <swillems@arkansasonline.com> wrote:

> Hey Rhonda,
>
> Me again. This is starting to get too routine, I'm sure. But LRPD arrested a man on cap murder charges by the name of Darrell Dennis (B/M- 3/24/66).
>
> I was wondering if you could look him up and see if he's an active parolee or on probation. He's got quite a record. Also, his general history with the DOCC would be very helpful.
>
> Feel free to give a call (350-7391).
> Thanks,
> Spencer W.

Rhonda Sharp

From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 1:46 PM
To: 'Spencer Willems'
Subject: RE: lookup

That will be fine ... I'll be here until around 4:30

-----Original Message-----

From: Spencer Willems [mailto:swillems@arkansasonline.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 12:33 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: Re: lookup

Sorry Rhonda,

I was out of town at the start of the weekend. With coverage for Riverfest (sweat), Memorial Day (even sweatier), and new interns coming in this week to train, I've been pretty busy.

I have to run into another meeting but can I give you a call later this afternoon?

On May 24, 2013, at 4:25 PM, Rhonda Sharp wrote:

> Spencer - call me please - as soon as you get a chance. 501-837-6929

>

> Rhonda Sharp

> DCC Public Relations Manager

> 501.682.9593

>

> On May 23, 2013, at 11:44 AM, "Spencer Willems" <swillems@arkansasonline.com> wrote:

>

>> Hey Rhonda,

>>

>> Me again. This is starting to get too routine, I'm sure. But LRPD arrested a man on cap murder charges by the name of Darrell Dennis (B/M- 3/24/66).

>>

>> I was wondering if you could look him up and see if he's an active parolee or on probation. He's got quite a record. Also, his general history with the DOCC would be very helpful.

>>

>> Feel free to give a call (350-7391).

>> Thanks,

>> Spencer W.

Rhonda Sharp

From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2013 2:39 PM
To: 'Spencer Willems'
Subject: RE: Darrell Dennis folo up

Spencer is this for a daily piece or do I have a day or so to try to find answers ... ?

-----Original Message-----

From: Spencer Willems [mailto:swillems@arkansasonline.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2013 2:23 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: Darrell Dennis folo up

Hey Rhonda,

We've spoken a couple of times about how the parole/probation absconding/revocation works, but I had a few specific questions, so I thought it best to e-mail you.

My editors asked me to take another look at Darrell Dennis court history/parole history, and some of these questions are specific to him, but mostly, they're procedural questions. Seeing as how there's a lot, Andy Davis recommended I e-mail them.

Questions:

So, in the event of a non-violent felony arrest, and a booking, even if on parole, DCC does not require any kind of immediate hold? When do they ask that a parolee be held beyond the bond set by the local court? Who makes that determination and how is it executed?

So, who issues the abscond warrant? Who has to approve it?

What is the standard jail time for an abscond warrant arrest? What is the threshold? Are there levels of escalation (ie: second abscond warrant gets more jail time than the first, etc.)?

If someone has a revocation hearing set, yet never show, what happens then? What happens to the proceedings? Do they start over?

If someone is arrested/charged in violent crimes, does that immediately prompt a revocation hearing? What does?

I understand that failing to report, failed drug tests, breaches of address/phone numbers and even arrests/charges for non-violent offenses (even felonies?) fall under the category of Technical Violations. So what constitutes a "more than technical" violation?

Why do you guys differentiate between technical and for lack of a better term, more than technical, or real violations?

Also, when someone petitions for Act 3 status, how does that affect their parole status and how can that affect any absconder status or a parole revocation process?

Specifically, has Darrell Dennis had a revocation hearing before? What was the outcome?

It appears that Dennis' violations (technical or not) meet the threshold to trigger a revocation hearing.

Also, does he have one set now that he has been charged with several more violent crimes?

Also, was he ever booked in at a TVC for parole violations? If so, when? And for how long?

If you're unclear on some things, feel free to call at 350-7391. If I don't answer, I'm in another interview and will be calling back.

Thanks,
Spencer W.

Rhonda Sharp

Includes answers

From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2013 3:10 PM
To: Steve Arnold
Subject: FW: Darrell Dennis folo up

Steve - can you help me with these questions?

I have put my tentative answers in red.

-----Original Message-----

From: Spencer Willems [mailto:swillems@arkansasonline.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2013 2:23 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: Darrell Dennis folo up

Hey Rhonda,

We've spoken a couple of times about how the parole/probation absconding/revocation works, but I had a few specific questions, so I thought it best to e-mail you.

My editors asked me to take another look at Darrell Dennis court history/parole history, and some of these questions are specific to him, but mostly, they're procedural questions. Seeing as how there's a lot, Andy Davis recommended I e-mail them.

While I am unable to answer these questions about any specific offender, I can respond in general.

Questions:

So, in the event of a non-violent felony arrest, and a booking, even if on parole, DCC does not require any kind of immediate hold?

No.

When do they ask that a parolee be held beyond the bond set by the local court? Who makes that determination and how is it executed?

Parole holds are issued for those offenders who face a revocation hearing and/or they have a pending violent or sex-related felony charge.

So, who issues the abscond warrant? Who has to approve it?

The officer requests that one be issued and the Parole Board issues the absconder warrant in case of a parolee.

It is the prosecutor's office that requests one from the court for a probationer.

What is the standard jail time for an abscond warrant arrest?

Are you asking about jail time sanctions? It can be from 1 to 7 days.

What is the threshold?

I'm not sure what you are asking?

Are there levels of escalation (ie: second abscond warrant gets more jail time than the first, etc.)?

Yes.

If someone has a revocation hearing set, yet never show, what happens them?

An offender would still be considered in abscond status.

What happens to the proceedings?

Usually the hearing is reset.

Do they start over?

Yes – if you mean that they still face revocation and could still have a hearing.

If someone is arrested/charged in violent crimes, does that immediately prompt a revocation hearing? What does?

Yes – if they are charged with a violent crime and usually if they are arrested on a violent crime.

I understand that failing to report, failed drug tests, breaches of address/phone numbers and even arrests/charges for non-violent offenses (even felonies?) fall under the category of Technical Violations. So what constitutes a "more than technical" violation?

A new felony charge can be.

Why do you guys differentiate between technical and for lack of a better term, more than technical, or real violations?

All violations are real – there are just differing sanctions for each violation or violations

Also, when someone petitions for Act 3 status, how does that affect their parole status and how can that affect any absconder status or a parole revocation process?

That is a question you would need to pose to the court. The DCC does handle Act 3 procedures.

Specifically, has Darrell Dennis had a revocation hearing before? What was the outcome?

No.

It appears that Dennis' violations (technical or not) meet the threshold to trigger a revocation hearing. I cannot discuss an individual offenders supervision.

Also, does he have one set now that he has been charged with several more violent crimes?

Yes.

Also, was he ever booked in at a TVC for parole violations? If so, when? And for how long?

No.

If you're unclear on some things, feel free to call at 350-7391. If I don't answer, I'm in another interview and will be calling back.

Thanks,

Spencer W.

Tracking:

Rhonda Sharp

Includes answers

From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2013 1:05 PM
To: Steve Arnold; Damian McNeal
Subject: Reporter questions

Guys – I am answering questions from the Democrat and would appreciate you two going over these to make sure I answered correction – especially about holds. Steve – I know you read my first draft, but I've changed my answers quite a bit, so I would appreciate you reading it again. Any feedback is appreciated. I will need to send here in a bit ... Thank you. Rhonda

Spencer - While I am unable to answer most questions about any specific offender, I can respond in general.

Questions:

So, in the event of a non-violent felony arrest, and a booking, even if on parole, DCC does not require any kind of immediate hold?

No, not always. It will depend upon the situation.

When do they ask that a parolee be held beyond the bond set by the local court? Who makes that determination and how is it executed?

Parole holds are issued for those offenders who face a revocation hearing and/or they have a pending violent or sex-related felony charge.

So, who issues the abscond warrant? Who has to approve it?

The officer requests that one be issued and the Parole Board issues the absconder warrant in case of a parolee. It is the prosecutor's office that requests one from the court for a probationer.

What is the standard jail time for an abscond warrant arrest?

Are you asking about jail time sanctions made possible by Act 570 and assessed by DCC? It can be from 1 to 7 days.

What is the threshold?

I'm not sure what you are asking?

Are there levels of escalation (ie: second abscond warrant gets more jail time than the first, etc.)?

Yes.

If someone has a revocation hearing set, yet never show, what happens then?

An offender would be considered in abscond status.

What happens to the proceedings?

Usually the hearing is reset.

Do they start over?

Yes – if you mean that they could still face revocation and could still have a hearing.

If someone is arrested/charged in violent crimes, does that immediately prompt a revocation hearing? What does?

Yes

I understand that failing to report, failed drug tests, breaches of address/phone numbers and even arrests/charges for non-violent offenses (even felonies?) fall under the category of Technical Violations. So what constitutes a "more than technical" violation?
A new felony charge would.

Why do you guys differentiate between technical and for lack of a better term, more than technical, or real violations?

All violations are real – there are just differing sanctions for each violation or violations.

The DCC's goal is to help people reintegrate into society and we do that by addressing needs and providing guidance. If we sought revocation every single time an offender violates his/her parole or probation, then we are not solving problems, we are simply placing someone back in prison for a short period of time.

So, usually we seek to impose lesser sanctions (as opposed to revocations) for offenders who have non-violent or non-sex-related charges.

Also, when someone petitions for Act 3 status, how does that affect their parole status and how can that affect any absconder status or a parole revocation process?

The DCC does not handle Act 3 procedures, that is a court procedure, but it can impact parole sanctions.

Specifically, has Darrell Dennis had a revocation hearing before? What was the outcome?
No.

It appears that Dennis' violations (technical or not) meet the threshold to trigger a revocation hearing.

I cannot discuss an individual offenders supervision.

However, I will note that there are many issues to consider before seeking a revocation and not all revocation hearings result in a return to prison. A hearing officer can place an offender in a TVP program or place additional sanctions on an offender and leave that person on parole. It will depend upon an individual's circumstances. Revoked parolees usually become eligible for parole within 6 to 9 months of re-incarceration.

Regardless of parole status, if an offender is facing new charges, those charges can be adjudicated by the court system and the offender can be sent to prison on a new conviction.

Also, does he have one set now that he has been charged with several more violent crimes?
Yes.

Also, was he ever booked in at a TVC for parole violations? If so, when? And for how long?
No.

If you're unclear on some things, feel free to call at 350-7391. If I don't answer, I'm in another interview and will be calling back.

Thanks,
Spencer W.

Tracking:

Rhonda Sharp

From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2013 2:41 PM
To: 'Spencer Willems'
Subject: RE: Darrell Dennis folo up

Spencer - While I am unable to answer most questions about any specific offender, I can respond in general.

Questions:

So, in the event of a non-violent felony arrest, and a booking, even if on parole, DCC does not require any kind of immediate hold?

No, not always. It will depend upon the situation.

When do they ask that a parolee be held beyond the bond set by the local court? Who makes that determination and how is it executed?

Parole holds are issued for those offenders who face a revocation hearing and/or they have a pending violent or sex-related felony charge.

So, who issues the abscond warrant? Who has to approve it?

The officer requests that one be issued and the Parole Board issues the absconder warrant in case of a parolee. It is the prosecutor's office that requests one from the court for a probationer.

What is the standard jail time for an abscond warrant arrest?

Are you asking about jail time sanctions made possible by Act 570 and assessed by DCC? It can be from 1 to 7 days.

What is the threshold?

I'm not sure what you are asking?

Are there levels of escalation (ie: second abscond warrant gets more jail time than the first, etc.)?

Yes.

If someone has a revocation hearing set, yet never show, what happens them?

An offender would be considered in abscond status.

What happens to the proceedings?

Usually the hearing is reset.

Do they start over?

Yes - if you mean that they could still face revocation and could still have a hearing.

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Also, does he have one set now that he has been charged with several more violent crimes?

Yes.

Also, was he ever booked in at a TVC for parole violations? If so, when? And for how long?

No.

If you're unclear on some things, feel free to call at 350-7391. If I don't answer, I'm in another interview and will be calling back.

Thanks,
Spencer W.

Rhonda Sharp

From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Sunday, June 02, 2013 6:00 PM
To: Spencer Willems
Subject: Re: darrell dennis

Spencer - I am sick (appears to be flu) and probably won't be in till midweek. I will ask others to work on your questions and will send answers as soon as I get them.

Rhonda Sharp
DCC Public Relations Manager
501.682.9593

On May 31, 2013, at 3:39 PM, "Spencer Willems" <swillems@arkansasonline.com> wrote:

> One last thing. When is Dennis' revocation hearing?

Rhonda Sharp

From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 1:32 PM
To: Spencer Willems
Subject: Re: folo up questions

Spencer - the answers to your other questions are below:

I did have a few follow up questions I'd like to pose:

According to the Matrix system, if a parolee is committed to a term at the TVC (for technical violations), once they serve that term, their slate is wiped clean and any more technical violations would go back to the bottom of the Matrix hierarchy of discipline/sanctions/corrective actions.

That is correct.

My question is: does someone's discipline level (low level to medium level to high level interventions) in the hierarchy also get wiped clean if they spend time in jail at the request of Parole officials or on an Act 570 violation?

Not always, but it is possible

Let me put it another way. If someone has accrued four or more technical offenses (the threshold that would trigger a revocation hearing and recommended TVC stay), without going to a TVC, would those offenses be wiped by stays at a jail either on Parole Holds or misdemeanor commitments or court holds?

Not necessarily. It will depend upon the offender/circumstances.

Another topic: If a parolee is seeking Act 3 status for a legal proceeding, in what ways can that impact his parole status or sanctions or a potential/ongoing revocation hearing?

Typically it delays revocation proceedings if such are warranted. Revocation hearing are not normally held until disposition by the court of the Act 3 request.

Rhonda Sharp

From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Thursday, June 06, 2013 12:34 PM
To: 'Spencer Willems'
Subject: RE: FOI
Attachments: Correspondence re Darrell Dennis.pdf

Spencer –

In response to your request:

The records of “chronological discipline and overall parole tracking histories of Darrell Dennis” are not releasable. According to A.C.A. § 12-27-125 –

(20)(A) It (DCC) shall maintain a full and complete record of each offender under its supervision.

(B) (i) To protect the integrity of a record described in subdivision (b)(20)(A) of this section and to ensure its proper use, it is unlawful to permit inspection of or disclose information contained in a record described in subdivision (b)(20)(A) of this section or to copy or issue a copy of any part of the record except as authorized by administrative regulation or by order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

The correspondence you requested is in the attached file.

Let me know if you need anything else.

From: Spencer Willems [mailto:swillems@arkansasonline.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 8:56 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: FOI

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

121 E. Capitol Ave., Little Rock, Ark. 72201
Phone: 501-350-7391 Fax: 501-372-4765

June 4, 2013

Attn: Department of Community Corrections
Public Affairs' Rhonda Sharp

Ms. Sharp,

This is a request for records under the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act, Ark. Code Ann. 25-19-101 eq seq.

I request copies of the following:

-Copies of the chronological discipline and overall parole tracking histories of one Darrell Dennis (DOB: 3/24/66)

-Copies of any correspondence, written or digital, by or received by DCC or Parole Board officials concerning Darrell Dennis.

Arkansas Code Annotated 25-19-105(a)(1)(a) and (e) states that public records are to be made available upon request unless the records are in active use or storage. In the event that the requested records are in active use or storage, the custodian of the records must certify this fact in writing to the requester and set a date and hour within three working days, at which time the records will be made available for inspection and copying.

Please contact me with questions at swillems@arkansasonline.com or call me at 501-350-7391.

Respectfully,

Spencer Willems
Reporter
City Desk
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette
501-350-7391; 319-481-0676

Rhonda Sharp

From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2013 3:31 PM
To: David Eberhard
Subject: Updates again

David - I decided to shorten my response on the questions posed by the Democrat-Gazette. I asked several people to review to make sure I was stating things correctly.

This is what I ended up sending (see below). And, he apparently isn't going to run his story until later because he has more questions and is being diverted to storm stories ... at least that is what he told me.

[REDACTED]

Rhonda

From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2013 2:41 PM
To: 'Spencer Willemis'
Subject: RE: Darrell Dennis folo up

Spencer - While I am unable to answer most questions about any specific offender, I can respond in general.

Questions:

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What is the threshold?

I'm not sure what you are asking?

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Yes.

If someone has a revocation hearing set, yet never show, what happens them?

An offender would be considered in abscond status.

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Usually the hearing is reset.

Do they start over?
Yes -- if you mean that they could still face revocation and could still have a hearing.

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Yes.

Also, was he ever booked in at a TVC for parole violations? If so, when? And for how long?
No.

If you're unclear on some things, feel free to call at 350-7391. If I don't answer, I'm in another interview and will be calling back.

Thanks,

Rhonda Sharp

From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 4:20 PM
To: David Eberhard
Subject: Update #2

David – before I spoke with the reporter about his story regarding Darrell Dennis (the parolee charged with killing the young man from Fayetteville here in Little Rock), I checked eOMIS and it seemed to contradict what I believed you had told me to tell the reporter regarding his hold, so I contacted Violet Renee and she said that the parole hold on Dennis had been released. She had planned to put him on electronic monitoring until bed space in a TVP was open.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Rhonda Sharp
DCC Public Relations Manager
501.682.9593

"None of us, including those accused of a crime, wants to be defined by the worst moment, or the worst day of our lives." Attorney Judy Clarke

Tracking:

Rhonda Sharp

From: Dan Roberts
Sent: Wednesday, June 05, 2013 9:06 AM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: FW: DCC Incident Report #3 05-24-13

From: Dan Roberts
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 9:30 AM
To: Kristie Baker
Subject: RE: DCC Incident Report #3 05-24-13

thanks

From: Kristie Baker
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 9:25 AM
To: Dan Roberts
Subject: Re: DCC Incident Report #3 05-24-13

He was under an ACT 3 mental health evaluation for over a year. The board will not do a hearing on someone under an ACT 3. Thanks

AM Baker, Sent from my iPhone

On May 24, 2013, at 8:09 AM, "Dan Roberts" <Dan.Roberts@arkansas.gov> wrote:

Why was this guy not revoked to ADC? I see where he was set for hearings but never had any?

From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 7:43 AM
To: David Eberhard; Dan Roberts
Subject: FW: DCC Incident Report #3 05-24-13

F.Y.I.

From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 7:42 AM
To: Shari Gray; Jenny Wilkinson (Jenny.Wilkinson@governor.arkansas.gov)
Cc: Mary Parker (ADC); Mark Colbert
Subject: DCC Incident Report #3 05-24-13

Arkansas Department of Community Correction

INCIDENT REPORT

Name of Person Making Report: Debra James
Title or Resident Number: Probation/Parole Officer II
Office/Area or Shift: North Little Rock
Incident Date: 05/10/2013
Incident Time: Unknown
Incident Location: E-Z Mart on 12th and Woodrow in Little Rock

Rhonda Sharp

From: Dan Roberts
Sent: Wednesday, June 05, 2013 9:07 AM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: FW: DCC Incident Report #3 05-24-13

From: Dan Roberts
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 8:10 AM
To: Kristle Baker
Subject: RE: DCC Incident Report #3 05-24-13

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Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 7:42 AM
To: Shari Gray; Jenny Wilkinson (Jenny.Wilkinson@governor.arkansas.gov)
Cc: Mary Parker (ADC); Mark Colbert
Subject: DCC Incident Report #3 05-24-13

Arkansas Department of Community Correction

INCIDENT REPORT

Name of Person Making Report: Debra James
Title or Resident Number: Probation/Parole Officer II
Office/Area or Shift: North Little Rock
Incident Date: 05/10/2013
Incident Time: Unknown
Incident Location: E-Z Mart on 12th and Woodrow in Little Rock

INCIDENT TYPE: Client arrest

Offenders Involved & Offender Number: Darrell Dennis ADC#085865

Rhonda Sharp

From: Dan Roberts
Sent: Wednesday, June 05, 2013 9:06 AM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: FW: Darrell Dennis # 085865

From: Dan Roberts
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 10:46 AM
To: David Eberhard
Subject: RE: Darrell Dennis # 085865

The jail will not hold them while they are waiting for transport to TVC. He was released before we could put a monitor on him and left.

From: David Eberhard
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 10:35 AM
To: Dan Roberts
Subject: Fw: Darrell Dennis # 085865

Did we release our hold on this guy on May 8 or did the jail decide to release him. If we did release our hold, why did we do so? It appears as if he was going to TVC.

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device

Rhonda Sharp

From: Dan Roberts
Sent: Wednesday, June 05, 2013 9:06 AM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: FW: Darrell Dennis # 085865
Attachments: Dennis, Darrell 085865.docx

From: Dan Roberts
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 10:40 AM
To: Kristle Baker
Subject: FW: Darrell Dennis # 085865

Can you answer this?

From: David Eberhard
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 10:35 AM
To: Dan Roberts
Subject: Fw: Darrell Dennis # 085865

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Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device

Rhonda Sharp

From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2013 3:37 PM
To: 'Spencer Willems'
Subject: RE: few minor questions

Spencer - see answers below:

-----Original Message-----

From: Spencer Willems [mailto:swillems@arkansasonline.com]
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2013 1:49 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: few minor questions

Hey Rhonda,

Thanks for the FOI response.

I had a few housekeeping questions though. Just to be clear, there have been no other DCC emails regarding Darrell Dennis?
Not that I am aware of.

How far back do you guys store your data/old emails?
Each individual stores his/her own and it varies.

When is his revocation hearing slated for? And when was it slated?
As per standard procedure, a revocation hearing for Dennis was requested on May 23. A revocation hearing is requested any time an offender is charged with a violent and/or sex-related crime. The hearing was held on June 5 and his parole was revoked with a notation that he will be considered again for parole (on existing convictions, not new charges) in May 2014.

Rhonda Sharp

From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2013 4:21 PM
To: 'Spencer Willems'
Subject: RE: few minor questions
Attachments: Records.pdf

The records policy is attached.

From: Spencer Willems [mailto:swillems@arkansasonline.com]
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2013 3:59 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: Re: few minor questions

Thanks Rhonda.

Per the second question (data storage), what is DCC policy? Can I please get any available copies of policy governing emails/data storage?

On Jun 10, 2013, at 3:37 PM, Rhonda Sharp wrote:

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Rhonda Sharp

From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2013 1:09 PM
To: 'Spencer Willems'
Subject: RE: few minor questions

I have no idea, that would be a question you would need to pose to ADC.

From: Spencer Willems [mailto:swillems@arkansasonline.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2013 1:04 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: Re: few minor questions

Thanks for those.

I've been checking on Dennis daily at the jail. It says he's on hold waiting transfer to ADC. Do you know when that might occur? What's the usual timeline for re-commitment after revocation?

On Jun 10, 2013, at 4:20 PM, Rhonda Sharp wrote:

The records policy is attached.

From: Spencer Willems [mailto:swillems@arkansasonline.com]
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<Records.pdf>

Rhonda Sharp

From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2013 7:09 AM
Subject: NEWS - Murder suspect had 10 felonies pending

Murder suspect had 10 felonies pending

Parole absconder's case shows system's failures, say LR mayor, senator

By Spencer Willems

AR Democrat-Gazette

This article was published today at 12:16 a.m.

After 4 ½ years of parole violations and at least 10 felony charges, a murder charge triggered a hearing that will send Darrell Dennis back to prison.

Dennis, a repeat felon and parole absconder, is accused of kidnapping, robbing and killing a Fayetteville teen and dumping his body on a Little Rock street corner within 32 hours after Dennis' May 8 release from jail, where he had been held on a parole absconding warrant.

Dennis, 47, will be returned to prison after his parole was revoked during a June 5 hearing. He remains in the Pulaski County jail awaiting transfer back to Department of Correction custody.

By state law, any parolee arrested in connection with a violent offense, including a sex crime, must have a revocation hearing. And, officials say, the slew of criminal and parole violations that have resulted in eight absconder warrants being issued for Dennis since he left prison on parole in 2008 should have triggered a hearing before the May 10 killing of Forrest Abrams.

Dennis was arrested in Abrams' slaying 12 days after the 18-year-old's body was found in the roadway at West 11th and South Woodrow streets. Two other suspects remain at large, police said.

Since Dennis' release from prison, he has exhibited a pattern of noncompliance, evasion and criminal behavior that resulted in 14 arrests and 21 new charges, excluding parole violations, according to state records obtained by the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. The charges included at least 10 felonies.

"Looking at [Dennis' records], this guy has an armload of prior criminal convictions before 2008," said Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola. "A guy with this many violations, eight absconder warrants, you would think people in the parole system would be asking for a revocation of parole."

Under the state Department of Community Correction's "accountability interventions matrix," Dennis' absconder violations would trigger a revocation hearing and likely lead to his recommended commitment to an Arkansas Department of Correction technical violators center, a middle ground between jail and prison. But that didn't happen.

State Sen. David Sanders, who, like Stodola, has been critical of the Department of Community Correction in the past, said the state agency dropped the ball with Dennis. Sanders said he doesn't understand why parole officials did not revoke Dennis' parole after the series of arrests and violations.

"Law enforcement and parole officers, prosecutors, all of them should have concern that the Department of Community Correction doesn't always follow its own policies," said Sanders, R-Little Rock. "From what I know about this case, it seems to be what happened here. ... I think it's the expectation of, certainly, lawmakers, the executive branch and the taxpayers ... that a state agency would follow its own policies."

In March 2010, Dennis' name was added to the Parole Board's list for a parole-revocation hearing to be held in August 2010. But he didn't show up. An absconder warrant was issued for his arrest, and in November 2010, his name was put back on the revocation hearing list, but he never had a hearing.

When asked why Dennis was never returned to prison for his parole violations or why Dennis was released from the Pulaski County jail on May 8 after his May 1 arrest for absconding, Department of Community Correction spokesman Rhonda Sharp said she couldn't comment on a specific case. She did say there are a range of legal sanctions and disciplines for a variety of violations.

Stodola and Sanders said they weren't sure why parole officials authorized Dennis' release from jail on May 8.

According to e-mails obtained by the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette through the state Freedom of Information Act, some Department of Community Correction administrators, including Director David Eberhard, wondered the same thing.

In the department's e-mails received under the information request, Dennis' name didn't come up until May 24, two days after his arrest in Abrams' killing and the same day that the Democrat-Gazette identified Dennis as a parolee with an extensive history of breaking the terms of his release.

In an 8:09 a.m. message sent by the state's deputy director of probation and parole to several other Department of Community Correction officials, including Eberhard, Dan Roberts wrote: "Why was [Dennis] not revoked to [Arkansas Department of Correction]? I see where he was set for [revocation] hearings but never had any?"

Hours later, Eberhard e-mailed Roberts asking why parole officials allowed Dennis to be released from jail on May 8. He had been in the lockup for seven days on holds requested by parole officials.

"Did we release our hold on this guy on May 8 or did the jail decide to release him?" Eberhard wrote. "If we did release our hold, why did we do so? It appears as if he was going to [a technical violators center]."

Roberts told Eberhard that Dennis was set to go to a technical violators center but that the jail doesn't hold people waiting to go to such centers.

According to jail records, Department of Community Correction Assistant Area Manager Shawanna Willis faxed the Pulaski County jail a letter authorizing his release.

Parole records show that Dennis was released from jail May 8 and that parole officials wanted him to receive electronic monitoring until he was taken to a technical violators center. He was told that he faced a commitment to the violators center and that he needed to report to a parole officer within 24 hours of his release.

But there is no record that he reported. Two weeks later, the day he was arrested in Abrams' killing, Department of Community Correction officials issued yet another absconding warrant, his eighth.

Dennis' public defender declined to comment.

In his State of the City speech near the end of March, Stodola criticized the Department of Community Correction, noting that half of the 96 people arrested for burglary in the latter half of 2012 were supposed to be monitored by parole or probation officers but weren't.

That criticism prompted Eberhard to state in an April presentation that between October 2011 and September 2012, parolees convicted of felonies dropped statewide from 2,498 to 1,709. The number of parole revocations also dropped from 4,851 to 3,356.

Eberhard did not respond to several requests for an interview for this article over the past few weeks.

Stodola said Dennis' history of parole violations, in light of his criminal record, were obvious red flags that went unnoticed by the state.

"This is a prime example of a guy that clearly should have been back in the penitentiary. Why he was out, why there was no revocation, and there were two [recent parole] holds dropped on this thing, that's just ridiculous," Stodola said. "Right now [Dennis' case] appears to be the norm. It's a state issue, and it affects the citizens of this city and they deserve better, quite frankly."

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The first sign of trouble after his 2008 parole came that December when he failed to report for a mandated meeting with a parole officer. When he did report on Dec. 29, he claimed to be drug-free but tested positive for "heroin/opiates" that same day, according to records. He then missed his next parole-officer meeting a week later.

In total, Dennis failed to report to his parole officer at least 14 times, according to documents reviewed by the Democrat-Gazette, earning him several stays at the county jail, some as short as a few hours.

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Almost a year to the day later, Little Rock police raided another Dennis apartment, this one on West Roosevelt Road, and reported finding cocaine, marijuana, opiates and paraphernalia as well as \$1,149 in cash. Dennis was charged with four felony drug charges, was booked at the county jail and released the same day.

After meeting with Dennis a few months after the second drug raid, a parole officer addressed his previous drug test, which reportedly showed positive for controlled substances.

"[Dennis] denies any [further] contact with [law enforcement], but admits to smoking THC," the officer wrote.

"Dennis has no desire to quit using or selling drugs. He has 14 pending felonies and he is awaiting trial. Dennis' revocation hearing was postponed on two separate occasions."

Revocation hearings, which are presided over by the state's Parole Board, must be requested by an area manager, said the Department of Community Correction's Sharp. Arrests for sex crimes and other violent offenses are supposed to automatically prompt revocation hearings, as opposed to nonviolent misdemeanors for which parole officials wait until the cases are adjudicated in court before initiating any revocation proceedings.

But Dennis, arrested twice within a year on accusations of dealing drugs out of his home, fell into a gray area. Parole supervisors can request a revocation hearing in the event of new felony charges, Sharp said, but if those charges are nonviolent, the supervisors may wait for them to be adjudicated in court before a hearing.

In response to Roberts' questions about why Dennis hadn't had his parole revoked, another Department of Community Correction official, Kristie Baker, wrote: "He was under an ACT 3 mental health evaluation for over a year. The board will not do a hearing on someone under an ACT 3."

A request made in court under Act 3, the Arkansas statute that governs criminal defendants' mental evaluations, suspends all legal proceedings and allows a defendant to seek a mental evaluation to determine if he is capable of standing trial, according to State Hospital Medical Director Steven Doman.

Dennis' Act 3 request may have delayed revocation actions, according to Sharp, who said revocation hearings often wait on court cases to conclude before they proceed.

Nearly nine months after his 2009 arrest by Little Rock narcotics detectives, Dennis requested an Act 3 hearing. It wasn't until November 2012 that an examiner submitted his findings to the court. According to the forensic specialist, Dennis showed up for their meeting "notably odorous of alcohol," and "obfuscated" the line of inquiries, and in the opinion of the specialist, "feigned mental defect."

In December, the Act 3 request was withdrawn, and the court proceedings were unfrozen. But Dennis' felony drug cases from 2009 and 2010 have yet to go to trial.

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Front Section, Pages 1 on 06/17/2013

Rhonda Sharp

From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2013 7:10 AM
To: Shari Gray; Jenny Wilkinson (Jenny.Wilkinson@governor.arkansas.gov)
Subject: FW: NEWS - Murder suspect had 10 felonies pending

Murder suspect had 10 felonies pending

Parole absconder's case shows system's failures, say LR mayor, senator

By Spencer Willems

AR Democrat-Gazette

This article was published today at 12:16 a.m.

After 4 ½ years of parole violations and at least 10 felony charges, a murder charge triggered a hearing that will send Darrell Dennis back to prison.

Dennis, a repeat felon and parole absconder, is accused of kidnapping, robbing and killing a Fayetteville teen and dumping his body on a Little Rock street corner within 32 hours after Dennis' May 8 release from jail, where he had been held on a parole absconding warrant.

Dennis, 47, will be returned to prison after his parole was revoked during a June 5 hearing. He remains in the Pulaski County jail awaiting transfer back to Department of Correction custody.

By state law, any parolee arrested in connection with a violent offense, including a sex crime, must have a revocation hearing. And, officials say, the slew of criminal and parole violations that have resulted in eight absconder warrants being issued for Dennis since he left prison on parole in 2008 should have triggered a hearing before the May 10 killing of Forrest Abrams.

Dennis was arrested in Abrams' slaying 12 days after the 18-year-old's body was found in the roadway at West 11th and South Woodrow streets. Two other suspects remain at large, police said.

Since Dennis' release from prison, he has exhibited a pattern of noncompliance, evasion and criminal behavior that resulted in 14 arrests and 21 new charges, excluding parole violations, according to state records obtained by the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. The charges included at least 10 felonies.

"Looking at [Dennis' records], this guy has an armload of prior criminal convictions before 2008," said Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola. "A guy with this many violations, eight absconder warrants, you would think people in the parole system would be asking for a revocation of parole."

Under the state Department of Community Correction's "accountability interventions matrix," Dennis' absconder violations would trigger a revocation hearing and likely lead to his recommended commitment to an Arkansas Department of Correction technical violators center, a middle ground between jail and prison.

But that didn't happen.

State Sen. David Sanders, who, like Stodola, has been critical of the Department of Community Correction in the past, said the state agency dropped the ball with Dennis. Sanders said he doesn't understand why parole officials did not revoke Dennis' parole after the series of arrests and violations.

"Law enforcement and parole officers, prosecutors, all of them should have concern that the Department of Community Correction doesn't always follow its own policies," said Sanders, R-Little Rock. "From what I know about this case, it seems to be what happened here. ... I think it's the expectation of, certainly, lawmakers, the executive branch and the taxpayers ... that a state agency would follow its own policies."

In March 2010, Dennis' name was added to the Parole Board's list for a parole-revocation hearing to be held in August 2010. But he didn't show up. An absconder warrant was issued for his arrest, and in November 2010, his name was put back on the revocation hearing list, but he never had a hearing.

When asked why Dennis was never returned to prison for his parole violations or why Dennis was released from the Pulaski County jail on May 8 after his May 1 arrest for absconding, Department of Community Correction spokesman Rhonda Sharp said she couldn't comment on a specific case. She did say there are a range of legal sanctions and disciplines for a variety of violations.

Stodola and Sanders said they weren't sure why parole officials authorized Dennis' release from jail on May 8.

According to e-mails obtained by the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette through the state Freedom of Information Act, some Department of Community Correction administrators, including Director David Eberhard, wondered the same thing.

In the department's e-mails received under the Information request, Dennis' name didn't come up until May 24, two days after his arrest in Abrams' killing and the same day that the Democrat-Gazette identified Dennis as a parolee with an extensive history of breaking the terms of his release.

In an 8:09 a.m. message sent by the state's deputy director of probation and parole to several other Department of Community Correction officials, including Eberhard, Dan Roberts wrote: "Why was [Dennis] not revoked to [Arkansas Department of Correction]? I see where he was set for [revocation] hearings but never had any?" Hours later, Eberhard e-mailed Roberts asking why parole officials allowed Dennis to be released from jail on May 8. He had been in the lockup for seven days on holds requested by parole officials.

"Did we release our hold on this guy on May 8 or did the jail decide to release him?" Eberhard wrote. "If we did release our hold, why did we do so? It appears as if he was going to [a technical violators center]."

Roberts told Eberhard that Dennis was set to go to a technical violators center but that the jail doesn't hold people waiting to go to such centers.

According to jail records, Department of Community Correction Assistant Area Manager Shawanna Willis faxed the Pulaski County jail a letter authorizing his release.

Parole records show that Dennis was released from jail May 8 and that parole officials wanted him to receive electronic monitoring until he was taken to a technical violators center. He was told that he faced a commitment to the violators center and that he needed to report to a parole officer within 24 hours of his release.

But there is no record that he reported. Two weeks later, the day he was arrested in Abrams' killing, Department of Community Correction officials issued yet another absconding warrant, his eighth.

Dennis' public defender declined to comment.

In his State of the City speech near the end of March, Stodola criticized the Department of Community Correction, noting that half of the 96 people arrested for burglary in the latter half of 2012 were supposed to be monitored by parole or probation officers but weren't.

That criticism prompted Eberhard to state in an April presentation that between October 2011 and September 2012, parolees convicted of felonies dropped statewide from 2,498 to 1,709. The number of parole revocations also dropped from 4,851 to 3,356.

Eberhard did not respond to several requests for an interview for this article over the past few weeks.

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Front Section, Pages 1 on 06/17/2013

Rhonda Sharp

From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2013 9:05 PM
Subject: NEWS - DCC Under Fire After Parolee Charged With Murder

DCC Under Fire After Parolee Charged With Murder

By: Drew Petrimoulx

KARK - 4 News

Updated: June 17, 2013

LITTLE ROCK, AR -- The Arkansas Department of Community Correction is under fire over the murder of a Little Rock man.

Family members describe 18-year-old Forrest Abrams(pictured) as a "loving young man with a warm heart and a kind spirit."

Little Rock Police found his body dumped near 11th Street and Woodrow early in the morning on May 10th.

Investigators believe Abrams was murdered by 47-year-old Darrell Dennis during a robbery.

"If the Department of Community Correction had followed its own policies Mr. Dennis would be behind bars today and Mr. Abrams would still be alive," said State Senator David Sanders(R-Little Rock).

Department of Community Correction records show Dennis was released from prison in 2008 after serving less than a third of a 60-year sentence.

In the five years that followed, Dennis was accused of violating terms of his parole more than 10 times and had multiple felony arrests.

"It points to system failure in a glaring way," said Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola.

After an arrest on April 3rd of this year, documents show a parole officer asked for a hearing to determine whether Dennis should be returned to prison.

But he was released, arrested two weeks later and released again without a hearing ever being held.

Two days after the final release, he's accused of killing Abrams.

Spokeswoman Rhonda Sharp said D.C.C. signed off on Dennis' releases at the request of jail staff. Since then, policy has been changed to deny release for offenders awaiting parole hearings, Sharp said.

She defended her department's handling of Darrell Dennis.

"D.C.C. supervised this offender to the best of its ability," she said.

On Monday, the family of Forrest Abrams released the below statement:

"The family of Forrest Abrams is devastated by his loss. Forrest was a loving young man with a warm heart and a kind spirit. It is the family's wish that these things be remembered in his honor.

If what we have seen and read is true, it appears there has been a systemic failure on the part of the

Department of Community Corrections, to ensure that violent offenders are kept off the streets of our cities.

It is our hope that further light will be shed on the matters, and that measures will be taken to prevent such instances from occurring in the future so that other citizens, and their families, may be spared needless tragedy.

We wish to thank the Little Rock Police Department for their ongoing efforts to bring justice to those directly responsible for Forrest's death. In addition, we are most grateful for the thoughts and prayers of the community."

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From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 8:21 AM
Subject: NEWS - Beebe calls for review of parolee

Beebe calls for review of parolee

By Spencer Willems

AR Democrat-Gazette

This article was published today at 12:30 a.m.

After meeting with the head of the state's parole and probation agency Monday morning, Gov. Mike Beebe's office announced that state agencies will conduct a "thorough" review of their handling of an eight-time Arkansas parole absconder recently charged in a Little Rock murder.

In a statement released Monday afternoon, Beebe spokesman Stacey Hall said that the governor was "extremely concerned" by an article in Monday's Arkansas Democrat-Gazette about the chain of criminal and parole offenses attributed to Darrell Dennis, who was arrested and charged with aggravated robbery, kidnapping and capital murder in the May 10 slaying of 18-year-old Forrest Abrams.

Arkansas Department of Community Correction spokesman Rhonda Sharp deferred comment about the meeting to department Director David Eberhard. A message left with Eberhard's assistant Monday afternoon was not returned.

Hall declined to be interviewed Monday about the meeting between Beebe and Eberhard.

"The Department of Community Corrections and the Arkansas Parole Board will do a thorough review of the specific case in question," the statement read. "They will also focus on whether current practices and procedures need to be restructured. Governor Beebe wants an investigation of the current system to discern whether this is an isolated incident or a systemic problem."

Dennis, 47, is awaiting transfer to a state prison after a June 5 revocation hearing before the state's Parole Board. That hearing was the first revocation hearing for Dennis, who racked up 14 arrests, including at least 10 felony charges, and was arrested for absconding from parole eight times since he paroled out of prison in late 2008 after serving time for aggravated robbery.

State Sen. David Sanders, who has been critical of some Community Correction Department policies in the past, said he was encouraged by the governor's announcement and said it was high time for a comprehensive review of the way the state releases, monitors and disciplines its parolees.

"This has been needed for a long time," the Little Rock Republican said. "We're looking at a systemic failure within DCC. The difference is, this time, we've been able to see what's been happening or transpiring."

Sanders, who sponsored Act 1029 this past session, legislation that required the Community Correction Department to initiate revocation proceedings for any parolee with a new arrest for violent or sex crimes, said he plans to push for a legislative review of the Dennis case as well as other similar cases that may illustrate problems in state's system.

Sanders sits on the Joint Performance Review Committee, one of four senate committees with oversight over the department. He said the committee will move on its own review very soon.

"Certainly the case with what happened with Mr. Dennis has shown there are some structural problems as well as some philosophical problems and leadership problems [in the department]," Sanders said. "It does require a top-down analysis. We have to go back and look at numerous cases where there has been a loss of life or pain or injury afflicted on Arkansans by people who are on parole."

Dennis was scheduled in March 2010 for a revocation hearing in August of that year, after two separate arrests by Little Rock anti-drug detectives on drug and weapons charges. But according to records obtained by the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Dennis never showed up. An absconder warrant was issued for his arrest. His name was added to the list for a revocation hearing again that November, but according to department officials, he never had a hearing.

Dennis failed to report to parole officers several times in the past 4 1/2 years and failed at least five drug tests. He was arrested on May 1 of this year for absconding, his seventh such arrest, and held at the jail until May 8, when after being told that he may have to go to a technical violator's center, was released with instructions to report within 24 hours.

There is no record of him reporting again in the documents and his eighth absconder warrant was issued on May 22, the same day Little Rock homicide detectives arrested him and nearly two weeks after police found Abrams' body dumped at West 11th and South Woodrow streets.

Sharp has declined several times to comment directly on the Dennis case but said there are several variables to consider before initiating a revocation proceeding.

Under the department's own "accountability interventions matrix," the number of absconder violations racked up by Dennis warrant a revocation hearing.

State Sen. Jeremy Hutchinson, R-Benton, called the Dennis case "tragic," but he thinks it demonstrates a greater problem in the state's criminal and parole system.

"I am familiar with other cases with a similar ending, just not as tragic," Hutchinson said. "It sure feels like there has been a spike in criminal activity [by parolees] and whether or not that coincides with the criminal justice reform we did two years ago... there's certainly enough correlation that it deserves some study."

Hutchinson, who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee, said he is taking steps for a review of the efficacy of Act 570, a 2011 reform that heightened thresholds for certain drug and property crimes to be felonies in order to reduce prison overpopulation.

He said that in the past the Department of Community Correction has not had enough data to show whether or not the reforms are working. So he wants whatever raw data they do have.

"They need to give it to us now and let us extrapolate from it," Hutchinson said. "We can't wait a few years to take action if it warrants it."

The chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. Marshall Wright, D-Forrest City, said he is supportive of a top-down review of policies and procedures in the state's parole system.

"Any time something like this happens, it's a tragedy," Wright said. "Always it makes you look at the way things are done now and the way things can change."

Wright said that the department, like every state department, is overworked and needs better resources and more funding. Still, he thinks the Community Correction Department's parole standards, and policies, have room for improvement.

"I think the system, it could be a little more hard-nosed with their sanctions," Wright said. "If we see something that can be done ... if it's a tougher sanction, a harder sanction or a smarter sanction, anything we can do to tighten [parole conditions] up, we'd welcome that."

While legislators and state officials debate the strengths or weaknesses of the state's parole system, Little Rock detectives are still searching for two other suspects they think were involved in Abrams' slaying.

And Abrams' Little Rock family continues to grieve. Chris Russell, Abrams' step-father, issued a statement on behalf of the family on Monday afternoon.

"The family of Forrest Abrams is devastated by his loss," the statement read. "Forrest was a loving young man with a warm heart and a kind spirit."

The statement added: "It appears there has been a systematic failure, on the part of the Department of Community Corrections, to ensure violent offenders are kept off the streets... it is our hope that further light will be shed on this matter, and that measures will be taken to prevent such instances from occurring in the future."

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There is no record of him reporting again in the documents and his eighth absconder warrant was issued on May 22, the same day Little Rock homicide detectives arrested him and nearly two weeks after police found Abrams' body dumped at West 11th and South Woodrow streets.

Sharp has declined several times to comment directly on the Dennis case but said there are several variables to consider before initiating a revocation proceeding.

Under the department's own "accountability interventions matrix," the number of absconder violations racked up by Dennis warrant a revocation hearing.

State Sen. Jeremy Hutchinson, R-Benton, called the Dennis case "tragic," but he thinks it demonstrates a greater problem in the state's criminal and parole system.

"I am familiar with other cases with a similar ending, just not as tragic," Hutchinson said. "It sure feels like there has been a spike in criminal activity [by parolees] and whether or not that coincides with the criminal justice reform we did two years ago... there's certainly enough correlation that it deserves some study."

Hutchinson, who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee, said he is taking steps for a review of the efficacy of Act 570, a 2011 reform that heightened thresholds for certain drug and property crimes to be felonies in order to reduce prison overpopulation.

He said that in the past the Department of Community Correction has not had enough data to show whether or not the reforms are working. So he wants whatever raw data they do have.

"They need to give it to us now and let us extrapolate from it," Hutchinson said. "We can't wait a few years to take action if it warrants it."

The chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. Marshall Wright, D-Forrest City, said he is supportive of a top-down review of policies and procedures in the state's parole system.

"Any time something like this happens, it's a tragedy," Wright said. "Always it makes you look at the way things are done now and the way things can change."

Wright said that the department, like every state department, is overworked and needs better resources and more funding. Still, he thinks the Community Correction Department's parole standards, and policies, have room for improvement.

"I think the system, it could be a little more hard-nosed with their sanctions," Wright said. "If we see something that can be done ... if it's a tougher sanction, a harder sanction or a smarter sanction, anything we can do to tighten [parole conditions] up, we'd welcome that."

While legislators and state officials debate the strengths or weaknesses of the state's parole system, Little Rock detectives are still searching for two other suspects they think were involved in Abrams' slaying.

And Abrams' Little Rock family continues to grieve. Chris Russell, Abrams' step-father, issued a statement on behalf of the family on Monday afternoon.

"The family of Forrest Abrams is devastated by his loss," the statement read. "Forrest was a loving young man with a warm heart and a kind spirit."

The statement added: "It appears there has been a systematic failure, on the part of the Department of Community Corrections, to ensure violent offenders are kept off the streets... it is our hope that further light will be shed on this matter, and that measures will be taken to prevent such instances from occurring in the future."

Front Section, Pages 1 on 06/18/2013

Rhonda Sharp

From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 2:35 PM
To: Drew Petrimoulx
Subject: Re: Couple questions

Ms. Rhodes,

I am not sure who Ms. Rhodes is, but I will attempt to answer your questions.

1) You said Monday that DCC signed off on Darrell Dennis' release at the request of the jail. But the jail says DCC sent over a speed letter and the jail had to release him. What gives?

We did not "sign off" on a jail release - that is not something the DCC has the authority to do. The DCC staff was asked by jail staff to release the parole hold DCC had on Dennis and we did. It is not uncommon to receive such requests when a jail is planning to release someone. Releasing a hold is not the same thing as a decision to release someone from jail.

2) When you said Monday that DCC will no longer grant release from jail for parolees awaiting hearings in front of the parole board... Does that apply to everyone that's arrested while on parole?

The DCC does not now nor has it ever determined who is or is not released from a jail - we do not "grant releases" from jail. The DCC does not have that authority. Even when a parole hold is released, it is the determination of the jail as to whether someone is allowed to leave a jail. In the future, the DCC will no longer release holds, based upon the request of a jail, that we place on parolees who face going to TVC or being returned to prison.

We told this to jail staff who responded by saying they will release anyone they believe they need to release.

Rhonda Sharp
DCC Public Relations

Rhonda Sharp

From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 4:53 PM
To: Wade Hodge
Subject: Re: FOI - AR DEM GAZ June 18, 2013

I have no idea - I have received several phone calls and e-mails on this and it is puzzling. I am working on something else and haven't gotten around to replying ...

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 18, 2013, at 4:20 PM, "Wade Hodge" <Wade.Hodge@arkansas.gov> wrote:

- Why are they asking me to verify this?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Chad Day <cday@arkansasonline.com>
Date: June 18, 2013, 3:44:05 PM CDT
To: <wade.hodge@arkansas.gov>
Subject: Fwd: FOI - AR DEM GAZ June 18, 2013

Wade,

I sent this in earlier today but didn't receive an acknowledgment that it had been received. Can you confirm that DCC has officially received this FOI request?

Chad

Chad Day
Reporter
Investigative Projects
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette
121 E. Capitol Ave., Little Rock, AR 72203
(501) 399-3674
cday@arkansasonline.com

Begin forwarded message:

From: Chad Day <cday@arkansasonline.com>
Date: June 18, 2013 11:39:09 AM CDT
To: david.eberhard@arkansas.gov, Rhonda Sharp
<Rhonda.Sharp@arkansas.gov>

Cc: swillems@arkansasonline.com, Sonny Albarado
<salbarado@arkansasonline.com>, Danny Shameer
<dshameer@arkansasonline.com>
Subject: FOI - AR DEM GAZ June 18, 2013

June 18, 2013

David Eberhard
Director
Arkansas Department of Community Correction

or

Custodian of Records
Arkansas Department of Community Correction

Sir,

This is a request for records under the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act, Ark. Code Ann. 25-19-101 et seq.

I request the following:

— All correspondence, electronic or otherwise, between employees of the Arkansas Department of Community Correction and Gov. Mike Beebe's office between May 8, 2013, and June 18, 2013.

Should any of the records be maintained electronically, I request electronic copies.

If my request is denied in whole or in part, I ask that you explain in writing within three days of receipt of this request the basis for your action and specify the statutory exemption that provides for nondisclosure of the records or deletion of portions thereof.

If you redact a record, I remind you that you must redact only the exempt information on the record, per the FOI. For instance, an e-mail that contains some exempt information and some open information must be released with the open information intact. The existence of exempt information on a document does not in and of itself make the entirety of the record closed.

Also the attorney general has said unsolicited complaints filed against public officials, including law enforcement, are not employee evaluations and should be disclosed. The attorney general's office "has long held that unsolicited complaints against public employees ... should be disclosed," according to opinion 2010-109 released Aug. 27, 2010. This would mean

any discussion of unsolicited complaints against DCC officials is open public information and should be released.

Arkansas Code Annotated 25-19-105(a)(1)(a) and (e) states that public records are to be made available upon request unless the records are in active use or storage. In the event that the requested records are in active use or storage, you as the custodian of the records must certify this fact in writing to the requester and set a date and hour within three working days, at which time the records will be made available for inspection and copying.

Prior to performing any billable action on this request, please notify me if my costs to obtain these records will exceed \$25.00.

Please contact us with questions at swillems@arkansasonline.com or cday@arkansasonline.com or 399-3674.

Respectfully,

/s/ Spencer Willems
Spencer Willems
Reporter
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette
501-350-7391

/s/ Chad Day
Chad Day
Reporter
Investigative Projects
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette
501-399-3674

cc: Rhonda Sharp, Sonny Albarado, Danny Shameer

Rhonda Sharp

From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 5:04 PM
To: Drew Petrimoulx
Subject: RE: Couple questions

What triggers DCC to place a hold on an inmate?

Are you asking about parolees? We normally place parole holds on parolees who have been placed in a county jail and who potentially face time in TVC or a parole revocation hearing.

In the future, will DCC grant hold releases for inmates awaiting parole hearings?

Are you asking about parole revocation hearings? - parole hearings are for prison inmates who are being considered for parole - those are two very different things.

And, as I stated previously, the DCC will no longer release holds on parolees awaiting a placement in TVC or facing a parole revocation hearing. We do not "grant hold releases" because the DCC cannot release anyone.

The DCC can remove a hold on a parolee, but have decided not to do so in the future for parolees waiting for placement in TVC or facing a parole revocation hearing - and again, that does not mean that jail staff can't or won't allow those parolees to leave a jail, it just means that the DCC will not be removing the parole hold.

What is the purpose of TVC?

The Technical Violator Center is a secured facility where parolees who have technical parole violations are placed for 90 days of intensive behavior modification programming.

Sorry about the "Rhodes" mix-up. I had just emailed a "Rhodes."

Thanks,

Drew Petrimoulx
Reporter KARK/KLRT
501-529-9745 Cell
dpetrimoulx@kark.com
@drewpetrimoulx

From: Rhonda Sharp [Rhonda.Sharp@arkansas.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 2:35 PM
To: Drew Petrimoulx
Subject: Re: Couple questions

Ms. Rhodes,

I am not sure who Ms. Rhodes is, but I will attempt to answer your questions.

1) You said Monday that DCC signed off on Darrell Dennis' release at the request of the jail. But the jail says DCC sent over a speed letter and the jail had to release him. What gives?

We did not "sign off" on a jail release - that is not something the DCC has the authority to do. The DCC staff was asked by jail staff to release the parole hold DCC had on Dennis and we did. It is not uncommon to receive such requests when a jail is planning to release someone. Releasing a hold is not the same thing as a decision to release someone from jail.

2) When you said Monday that DCC will no longer grant release from jail for parolees awaiting hearings in front of the parole board... Does that apply to everyone that's arrested while on parole?

The DCC does not now nor has it ever determined who is or is not released from a jail - we do not "grant releases" from jail. The DCC does not have that authority. Even when a parole hold is released, it is the determination of the jail as to whether someone is allowed to leave a jail. In the future, the DCC will no longer release holds, based upon the request of a jail, that we place on parolees who face going to TVC or being returned to prison.

We told this to jail staff who responded by saying they will release anyone they believe they need to release.

Rhonda Sharp
DCC Public Relations

Rhonda Sharp

From: Spencer Willems [swillems@arkansasonline.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 11:42 AM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: lookup

Hey Rhonda,

Me again. This is starting to get too routine, I'm sure. But LRPD arrested a man on cap murder charges by the name of Darrell Dennis (B/M- 3/24/66).

I was wondering if you could look him up and see if he's an active parolee or on probation. He's got quite a record. Also, his general history with the DOCC would be very helpful.

Feel free to give a call (350-7391).

Thanks,
Spencer W.

Rhonda Sharp

From: Veter Howard
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 1:52 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: Dem-Gazzette story today

Do you have the article today where someone on our caseload killed someone? Dr. P called me about it and wanted to know what we are doing to get ahead of all that in terms of a response to these type incidents. She wants us to have a sit down when David comes back to discuss how to combat it. I would like to see the article she is talking about because she didn't have any specific info like name, etc.

Rhonda Sharp

From: Spencer Willems [swillems@arkansasonline.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 12:33 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: Re: lookup

Sorry Rhonda,

I was out of town at the start of the weekend. With coverage for Riverfest (sweat), Memorial Day (even sweatier), and new interns coming in this week to train, I've been pretty busy.

I have to run into another meeting but can I give you a call later this afternoon?

On May 24, 2013, at 4:25 PM, Rhonda Sharp wrote:

> Spencer - call me please - as soon as you get a chance. 501-837-6929

>

> Rhonda Sharp

> DCC Public Relations Manager

> 501.682.9593

>

> On May 23, 2013, at 11:44 AM, "Spencer Willems" <swillems@arkansasonline.com> wrote:

>

>> Hey Rhonda,

>>

>> Me again. This is starting to get too routine, I'm sure. But LRPD arrested a man on cap murder charges by the name of Darrell Dennis (B/M- 3/24/66).

>>

>> I was wondering if you could look him up and see if he's an active parolee or on probation. He's got quite a record. Also, his general history with the DOCC would be very helpful.

>>

>> Feel free to give a call (350-7391).

>> Thanks,

>> Spencer W.

Rhonda Sharp

From: Spencer Willems [swillems@arkansasonline.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2013 2:23 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: Darrell Dennis folo up

Hey Rhonda,

We've spoken a couple of times about how the parole/probation absconding/revocation works, but I had a few specific questions, so I thought it best to e-mail you.

My editors asked me to take another look at Darrell Dennis court history/parole history, and some of these questions are specific to him, but mostly, they're procedural questions. Seeing as how there's a lot, Andy Davis recommended I e-mail them.

Questions:

So, in the event of a non-violent felony arrest, and a booking, even if on parole, DCC does not require any kind of immediate hold? When do they ask that a parolee be held beyond the bond set by the local court? Who makes that determination and how is it executed?

So, who issues the abscond warrant? Who has to approve it?

What is the standard jail time for an abscond warrant arrest? What is the threshold? Are there levels of escalation (ie: second abscond warrant gets more jail time than the first, etc.)?

If someone has a revocation hearing set, yet never show, what happens then? What happens to the proceedings? Do they start over?

If someone is arrested/charged in violent crimes, does that immediately prompt a revocation hearing? What does?

I understand that failing to report, failed drug tests, breaches of address/phone numbers and even arrests/charges for non-violent offenses (even felonies?) fall under the category of Technical Violations. So what constitutes a "more than technical" violation?

Why do you guys differentiate between technical and for lack of a better term, more than technical, or real violations?

Also, when someone petitions for Act 3 status, how does that affect their parole status and how can that affect any absconder status or a parole revocation process?

Specifically, has Darrell Dennis had a revocation hearing before? What was the outcome?

It appears that Dennis' violations (technical or not) meet the threshold to trigger a revocation hearing.

Also, does he have one set now that he has been charged with several more violent crimes?

Also, was he ever booked in at a TVC for parole violations? If so, when? And for how long?

If you're unclear on some things, feel free to call at 350-7391. If I don't answer, I'm in another interview and will be calling back.

Thanks,
Spencer W.

Rhonda Sharp

From: Spencer Willems [swillems@arkansasonline.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2013 2:41 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: Re: Darrell Dennis folo up

Not for tomorrow. I would have sent it earlier today but got bogged down at the court house.

But ideally, I'd like to have this ready to go for sometime this weekend.

On May 30, 2013, at 2:38 PM, Rhonda Sharp wrote:

> Spencer is this for a daily piece or do I have a day or so to try to find answers ... ?

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Spencer Willems [mailto:swillems@arkansasonline.com]

> Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2013 2:23 PM

> To: Rhonda Sharp

> Subject: Darrell Dennis folo up

>

> Hey Rhonda,

>

> We've spoken a couple of times about how the parole/probation absconding/revocation works, but I had a few specific questions, so I thought it best to e-mail you.

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> My editors asked me to take another look at Darrell Dennis court history/parole history, and some of these questions are specific to him, but mostly, they're procedural questions. Seeing as how there's a lot, Andy Davis recommended I e-mail them.

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>

> So, in the event of a non-violent felony arrest, and a booking, even if on parole, DCC does not require any kind of immediate hold? When do they ask that a parolee be held beyond the bond set by the local court? Who makes that determination and how is it executed?

>

>

> So, who issues the abscond warrant? Who has to approve it?

>

>

> What is the standard jail time for an abscond warrant arrest? What is the threshold? Are there levels of escalation (ie: second abscond warrant gets more jail time than the first, etc.)?

>

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>

>

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>

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> I understand that failing to report, failed drug tests, breaches of address/phone numbers and even arrests/charges for non-violent offenses (even felonies?) fall under the category of Technical Violations. So what constitutes a "more than technical" violation?

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> Why do you guys differentiate between technical and for lack of a better term, more than technical, or real violations?

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>

> Also, when someone petitions for Act 3 status, how does that affect their parole status and how can that affect any absconder status or a parole revocation process?

>

>

>

> Specifically, has Darrell Dennis had a revocation hearing before? What was the outcome?

>

> It appears that Dennis' violations (technical or not) meet the threshold to trigger a revocation hearing.

>

> Also, does he have one set now that he has been charged with several more violent crimes?

>

> Also, was he ever booked in at a TVC for parole violations? If so, when? And for how long?

>

>

> If you're unclear on some things, feel free to call at 350-7391. If I don't answer, I'm in another interview and will be calling back.

>

> Thanks,

> Spencer W.

Rhonda Sharp

From: Steve Arnold
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2013 3:20 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: RE: Darrell Dennis folo up

Looks fine to me. Thanks.

From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2013 3:10 PM
To: Steve Arnold
Subject: FW: Darrell Dennis folo up

Steve - can you help me with these questions?

I have put my tentative answers in red.

-----Original Message-----

From: Spencer Willems [mailto:swillems@arkansasonline.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2013 2:23 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: Darrell Dennis folo up

Hey Rhonda,

We've spoken a couple of times about how the parole/probation absconding/revocation works, but I had a few specific questions, so I thought it best to e-mail you.

My editors asked me to take another look at Darrell Dennis court history/parole history, and some of these questions are specific to him, but mostly, they're procedural questions. Seeing as how there's a lot, Andy Davis recommended I e-mail them.

While I am unable to answer these questions about any specific offender, I can respond in general.

Questions:

So, in the event of a non-violent felony arrest, and a booking, even if on parole, DCC does not require any kind of immediate hold?

No.

When do they ask that a parolee be held beyond the bond set by the local court? Who makes that determination and how is it executed?

Parole holds are issued for those offenders who face a revocation hearing and/or they have a pending violent or sex-related felony charge.

So, who issues the abscond warrant? Who has to approve it?

The officer requests that one be issued and the Parole Board issues the absconder warrant in case of a parolee. It is the prosecutor's office that requests one from the court for a probationer.

What is the standard jail time for an abscond warrant arrest?

Are you asking about jail time sanctions? It can be from 1 to 7 days.

What is the threshold?

I'm not sure what you are asking?

Are there levels of escalation (ie: second abscond warrant gets more jail time than the first, etc.)?
Yes.

If someone has a revocation hearing set, yet never show, what happens them?
An offender would still be considered in abscond status.

What happens to the proceedings?
Usually the hearing is reset.

Do they start over?
Yes – if you mean that they still face revocation and could still have a hearing.

If someone is arrested/charged in violent crimes, does that immediately prompt a revocation hearing? What does?

Yes – if they are charged with a violent crime and usually if they are arrested on a violent crime.

I understand that failing to report, failed drug tests, breaches of address/phone numbers and even arrests/charges for non-violent offenses (even felonies?) fall under the category of Technical Violations. So what constitutes a "more than technical" violation?
A new felony charge can be.

Why do you guys differentiate between technical and for lack of a better term, more than technical, or real violations?

All violations are real – there are just differing sanctions for each violation or violations

Also, when someone petitions for Act 3 status, how does that affect their parole status and how can that affect any absconder status or a parole revocation process?

That is a question you would need to pose to the court. The DCC does handle Act 3 procedures.

Specifically, has Darrell Dennis had a revocation hearing before? What was the outcome?
No.

It appears that Dennis' violations (technical or not) meet the threshold to trigger a revocation hearing. I cannot discuss an individual offenders supervision.

Also, does he have one set now that he has been charged with several more violent crimes?
Yes.

Also, was he ever booked in at a TVC for parole violations? If so, when? And for how long?
No.

If you're unclear on some things, feel free to call at 350-7391. If I don't answer, I'm in another interview and will be calling back.

Thanks,
Spencer W.

Rhonda Sharp

From: Eileen Morris
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2013 12:38 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: Phone Call 5/31/13 12:33 pm

Spencer Williams cell 319 481 0676
Wanting response today to questions
previously sent.
He is from AR-Dem. Gaz

Rhonda Sharp

From: Steve Arnold
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2013 1:30 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp; Damian McNeal
Subject: RE: Reporter questions

I think you have done a good job and answered them as well as you could. Thanks.

From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2013 1:05 PM
To: Steve Arnold; Damian McNeal
Subject: Reporter questions

Guys – I am answering questions from the Democrat and would appreciate you two going over these to make sure I answered correction – especially about holds. Steve – I know you read my first draft, but I've changed my answers quite a bit, so I would appreciate you reading it again. Any feedback is appreciated. I will need to send here in a bit ... Thank you. Rhonda

Spencer - While I am unable to answer most questions about any specific offender, I can respond in general.

Questions:

So, in the event of a non-violent felony arrest, and a booking, even if on parole, DCC does not require any kind of immediate hold?

No, not always. It will depend upon the situation.

When do they ask that a parolee be held beyond the bond set by the local court? Who makes that determination and how is it executed?

Parole holds are issued for those offenders who face a revocation hearing and/or they have a pending violent or sex-related felony charge.

So, who issues the abscond warrant? Who has to approve it?

The officer requests that one be issued and the Parole Board issues the absconder warrant in case of a parolee. It is the prosecutor's office that requests one from the court for a probationer.

What is the standard jail time for an abscond warrant arrest?

Are you asking about jail time sanctions made possible by Act 570 and assessed by DCC? It can be from 1 to 7 days.

What is the threshold?

I'm not sure what you are asking?

Are there levels of escalation (ie: second abscond warrant gets more jail time than the first, etc.)?

Yes.

If someone has a revocation hearing set, yet never show, what happens them?

An offender would be considered in abscond status.

What happens to the proceedings?

Usually the hearing is reset.

Do they start over?

Yes – if you mean that they could still face revocation and could still have a hearing.

If someone is arrested/charged in violent crimes, does that immediately prompt a revocation hearing? What does?

Yes

I understand that failing to report, failed drug tests, breaches of address/phone numbers and even arrests/charges for non-violent offenses (even felonies?) fall under the category of Technical Violations. So what constitutes a "more than technical" violation?

A new felony charge would.

Why do you guys differentiate between technical and for lack of a better term, more than technical, or real violations?

All violations are real – there are just differing sanctions for each violation or violations.

The DCC's goal is to help people reintegrate into society and we do that by addressing needs and providing guidance. If we sought revocation every single time an offender violates his/her parole or probation, then we are not solving problems, we are simply placing someone back in prison for a short period of time.

So, usually we seek to impose lesser sanctions (as opposed to revocations) for offenders who have non-violent or non-sex-related charges.

Also, when someone petitions for Act 3 status, how does that affect their parole status and how can that affect any absconder status or a parole revocation process?

The DCC does not handle Act 3 procedures, that is a court procedure, but it can impact parole sanctions.

Specifically, has Darrell Dennis had a revocation hearing before? What was the outcome?

No.

It appears that Dennis' violations (technical or not) meet the threshold to trigger a revocation hearing.

I cannot discuss an individual offenders supervision.

However, I will note that there are many issues to consider before seeking a revocation and not all revocation hearings result in a return to prison. A hearing officer can place an offender in a TVP program or place additional sanctions on an offender and leave that person on parole. It will depend upon an individual's circumstances. Revoked parolees usually become eligible for parole within 6 to 9 months of re-incarceration.

Regardless of parole status, if an offender is facing new charges, those charges can be adjudicated by the court system and the offender can be sent to prison on a new conviction.

Also, does he have one set now that he has been charged with several more violent crimes?

Yes.

Also, was he ever booked in at a TVC for parole violations? If so, when? And for how long?

No.

If you're unclear on some things, feel free to call at 350-7391. If I don't answer, I'm in another interview and will be calling back.

Thanks,
Spencer W.

Rhonda Sharp

From: Spencer Willems [swillems@arkansasonline.com]
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2013 3:37 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: folo up questions

Rhonda,

Thank you for your diligence in gathering this information for me in a timely manner.

I did have a few follow up questions I'd like to pose:

According to the Matrix system, if a parolee is committed to a term at the TVC (for technical violations), once they serve that term, their slate is wiped clean and any more technical violations would go back to the bottom of the Matrix hierarchy of discipline/sanctions/corrective actions.

My question is: does someone's discipline level (low level to medium level to high level interventions) in the hierarchy also get wiped clean if they spend time in jail at the request of Parole officials or on an Act 570 violation?

Let me put it another way. If someone has accrued four or more technical offenses (the threshold that would trigger a revocation hearing and recommended TVC stay), without going to a TVC, would those offenses be wiped by stays at a jail either on Parole Holds or misdemeanor commitments or court holds?

Another topic: If a parolee is seeking Act 3 status for a legal proceeding, in what ways can that impact his parole status or sanctions or a potential/ongoing revocation hearing?

Thanks for your help,
Spencer W.

Rhonda Sharp

From: Spencer Willems [swillems@arkansasonline.com]
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2013 3:39 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: darrell dennis

One last thing. When is Dennis' revocation hearing?

Rhonda Sharp

From: Spencer Willems [swillems@arkansasonline.com]
Sent: Monday, June 03, 2013 12:21 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: Re: darrell dennis

Hey Rhonda,

I appreciate you keeping me up to date and I am sorry for your malady. That sucks. There are few things worse than getting ill in the summertime.

I did have a few policy questions that I wanted to pose to Director Eberhard, and if he's unavailable over the next day, if there is an assistant director I might be able to speak with.

Feel free to write back or give me a call at 350-7391.

Thanks,
Spencer W.

On Jun 2, 2013, at 5:59 PM, Rhonda Sharp wrote:

> Spencer - I am sick (appears to be flu) and probably won't be in till midweek. I will ask others to work on your questions and will send answers as soon as I get them.

>

> Rhonda Sharp

> DCC Public Relations Manager

> 501.682.9593

>

> On May 31, 2013, at 3:39 PM, "Spencer Willems" <swillems@arkansasonline.com> wrote:

>

>> One last thing. When is Dennis' revocation hearing?

Rhonda Sharp

From: Spencer Willems [swillems@arkansasonline.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 8:56 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: FOI

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

121 E. Capitol Ave., Little Rock, Ark. 72201
Phone: 501-350-7391 Fax: 501-372-4765

June 4, 2013

Attn: Department of Community Corrections
Public Affairs' Rhonda Sharp

Ms. Sharp,

This is a request for records under the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act, Ark. Code Ann. 25-19-101 eq seq.

I request copies of the following:

- Copies of the chronological discipline and overall parole tracking histories of one Darrell Dennis (DOB: 3/24/66)
- Copies of any correspondence, written or digital, by or received by DCC or Parole Board officials concerning Darrell Dennis.

Arkansas Code Annotated 25-19-105(a)(1)(a) and (e) states that public records are to be made available upon request unless the records are in active use or storage. In the event that the requested records are in active use or storage, the custodian of the records must certify this fact in writing to the requester and set a date and hour within three working days, at which time the records will be made available for inspection and copying.

Please contact me with questions at swillems@arkansasonline.com or call me at 501-350-7391.

Respectfully,

Spencer Willems
Reporter
City Desk
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette
501-350-7391; 319-481-0676

Rhonda Sharp

From: Spencer Willems [swillems@arkansasonline.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 8:56 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: FOI

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

121 E. Capitol Ave., Little Rock, Ark. 72201
Phone: 501-350-7391 Fax: 501-372-4765

June 4, 2013

Attn: Department of Community Corrections
Public Affairs' Rhonda Sharp

Ms. Sharp,

This is a request for records under the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act, Ark. Code Ann. 25-19-101 eq seq.

I request copies of the following:

-Copies of the chronological discipline and overall parole tracking histories of one Darrell Dennis
(DOB: 3/24/66)

-Copies of any correspondence, written or digital, by or received by DCC or Parole Board officials concerning
Darrell Dennis.

Arkansas Code Annotated 25-19-105(a)(1)(a) and (e) states that public records are to be made available upon request unless the records are in active use or storage. In the event that the requested records are in active use or storage, the custodian of the records must certify this fact in writing to the requester and set a date and hour within three working days, at which time the records will be made available for inspection and copying.

Please contact me with questions at swillems@arkansasonline.com or call me at 501-350-7391.

Respectfully,

Spencer Willems
Reporter
City Desk
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette
501-350-7391; 319-481-0676

Rhonda Sharp

From: Dan Roberts
Sent: Wednesday, June 05, 2013 9:06 AM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: FW: Darrell Dennis # 085865

From: Dan Roberts
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 10:46 AM
To: David Eberhard
Subject: RE: Darrell Dennis # 085865

The jail will not hold them while they are waiting for transport to TVC. He was released before we could put a monitor on him and left.

From: David Eberhard
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 10:35 AM
To: Dan Roberts
Subject: Fw: Darrell Dennis # 085865

Did we release our hold on this guy on May 8 or did the jail decide to release him. If we did release our hold, why did we do so? It appears as if he was going to TVC.

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device

From: Kristle Baker
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 11:25 AM
To: DCC Incident Notification Committee; Jessica Leach (DCC)
Cc: Debra James
Subject: Darrell Dennis # 085865

Rhonda Sharp

From: Dan Roberts
Sent: Wednesday, June 05, 2013 9:06 AM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: FW: Darrell Dennis # 085865
Attachments: Dennis, Darrell 085865.docx

From: Dan Roberts
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 10:40 AM
To: Kristie Baker
Subject: FW: Darrell Dennis # 085865

Can you answer this?

From: David Eberhard
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 10:35 AM
To: Dan Roberts
Subject: Fw: Darrell Dennis # 085865

Did we release our hold on this guy on May 8 or did the jail decide to release him. If we did release our hold, why did we do so? It appears as if he was going to TVC.

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device

From: Kristie Baker
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 11:25 AM
To: DCC Incident Notification Committee; Jessica Leach (DCC)
Cc: Debra James
Subject: Darrell Dennis # 085865

Rhonda Sharp

From: Dan Roberts
Sent: Wednesday, June 05, 2013 9:07 AM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: FW: DCC Incident Report #3 05-24-13

From: Dan Roberts
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 8:10 AM
To: Kristie Baker
Subject: RE: DCC Incident Report #3 05-24-13

Why was this guy not revoked to ADC? I see where he was set for hearings but never had any?

From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 7:43 AM
To: David Eberhard; Dan Roberts
Subject: FW: DCC Incident Report #3 05-24-13

F.Y.I.

From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 7:42 AM
To: Shari Gray; Jenny Wilkinson (Jenny.Wilkinson@governor.arkansas.gov)
Cc: Mary Parker (ADC); Mark Colbert
Subject: DCC Incident Report #3 05-24-13

Arkansas Department of Community Correction

INCIDENT REPORT

Name of Person Making Report: Debra James
Title or Resident Number: Probation/Parole Officer II
Office/Area or Shift: North Little Rock
Incident Date: 05/10/2013
Incident Time: Unknown
Incident Location: E-Z Mart on 12th and Woodrow in Little Rock

Rhonda Sharp

From: Dan Roberts
Sent: Wednesday, June 05, 2013 9:06 AM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: FW: DCC Incident Report #3 05-24-13

From: Dan Roberts
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 9:30 AM
To: Kristie Baker
Subject: RE: DCC Incident Report #3 05-24-13

thanks

From: Kristie Baker
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 9:25 AM
To: Dan Roberts
Subject: Re: DCC Incident Report #3 05-24-13

He was under an ACT 3 mental health evaluation for over a year. The board will not do a hearing on someone under an ACT 3. Thanks

AM Baker, Sent from my iPhone

On May 24, 2013, at 8:09 AM, "Dan Roberts" <Dan.Roberts@arkansas.gov> wrote:

Why was this guy not revoked to ADC? I see where he was set for hearings but never had any?

From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 7:43 AM
To: David Eberhard; Dan Roberts
Subject: FW: DCC Incident Report #3 05-24-13

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Cc: Mary Parker (ADC); Mark Colbert
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Arkansas Department of Community Correction

INCIDENT REPORT

Name of Person Making Report: Debra James
Title or Resident Number: Probation/Parole Officer II
Office/Area or Shift: North Little Rock
Incident Date: 05/10/2013
Incident Time: Unknown
Incident Location: E-Z Mart on 12th and Woodrow in Little Rock

Rhonda Sharp

From: Spencer Willems [swillems@arkansasonline.com]
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2013 1:49 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: few minor questions

Hey Rhonda,

Thanks for the FOI response.

I had a few housekeeping questions though. Just to be clear, there have been no other DCC emails regarding Darrell Dennis? How far back do you guys store your data/old emails?

When is his revocation hearing slated for? And when was it slated?

Rhonda Sharp

From: Spencer Willems [swillems@arkansasonline.com]
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2013 3:59 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: Re: few minor questions

Thanks Rhonda.

Per the second question (data storage), what is DCC policy? Can I please get any available copies of policy governing emails/data storage?

On Jun 10, 2013, at 3:37 PM, Rhonda Sharp wrote:

Spencer - see answers below:

-----Original Message-----

From: Spencer Willems [mailto:swillems@arkansasonline.com]
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2013 1:49 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: few minor questions

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Not that I am aware of.

How far back do you guys store your data/old emails?
Each individual stores his/her own and it varies.

When is his revocation hearing slated for? And when was it slated?

As per standard procedure, a revocation hearing for Dennis was requested on May 23. A revocation hearing is requested any time an offender is charged with a violent and/or sex-related crime. The hearing was held on June 5 and his parole was revoked with a notation that he will be considered again for parole (on existing convictions, not new charges) in May 2014.

Rhonda Sharp

From: Spencer Willems [swillems@arkansasonline.com]
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2013 4:22 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: Re: few minor questions

Thanks!

On Jun 10, 2013, at 4:20 PM, Rhonda Sharp wrote:

The records policy is attached.

From: Spencer Willems [mailto:swillems@arkansasonline.com]
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2013 3:59 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: Re: few minor questions

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To: Rhonda Sharp
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<Records.pdf>



Rhonda Sharp

From: Spencer Willems [swillems@arkansasonline.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2013 1:04 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: Re: few minor questions

Thanks for those.

I've been checking on Dennis daily at the jail. It says he's on hold waiting transfer to ADC. Do you know when that might occur? What's the usual timeline for re-commitment after revocation?

On Jun 10, 2013, at 4:20 PM, Rhonda Sharp wrote:

The records policy is attached.

From: Spencer Willems [mailto:swillems@arkansasonline.com]
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2013 3:59 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: Re: few minor questions

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To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: few minor questions

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June 5 and his parole was revoked with a notation that he will be considered again for parole (on existing convictions, not new charges) in May 2014.

<Records.pdf>

Rhonda Sharp

From: Drew Petrimoulx [DPetrimoulx@kark.com]
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2013 8:39 AM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: Darrell Dennis

Ms. Sharpe,

Here's what I'm looking for...

How many years did Darrell Dennis spend in prison on the Agg. Robbery and Theft charge from 1989?

When was he released?

What were the terms of his release?

How many times did he violate parole by getting arrested or failing to meet with his probation officer after release?

Why wasn't he sent back to prison?

Thank you,

Drew Petrimoulx
Reporter KARK/KLRT
501-529-9745 Cell
dpetrimoulx@kark.com
@drewpetrimoulx

Rhonda Sharp

From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2013 9:05 PM
Subject: NEWS - DCC Under Fire After Parolee Charged With Murder

DCC Under Fire After Parolee Charged With Murder

By: Drew Petrimoulx

KARK - 4 News

Updated: June 17, 2013

LITTLE ROCK, AR -- The Arkansas Department of Community Correction is under fire over the murder of a Little Rock man.

Family members describe 18-year-old Forrest Abrams(pictured) as a "loving young man with a warm heart and a kind spirit."

Little Rock Police found his body dumped near 11th Street and Woodrow early in the morning on May 10th.

Investigators believe Abrams was murdered by 47-year-old Darrell Dennis during a robbery.

"If the Department of Community Correction had followed its own policies Mr. Dennis would be behind bars today and Mr. Abrams would still be alive," said State Senator David Sanders(R-Little Rock).

Department of Community Correction records show Dennis was released from prison in 2008 after serving less than a third of a 60-year sentence.

In the five years that followed, Dennis was accused of violating terms of his parole more than 10 times and had multiple felony arrests.

"It points to system failure in a glaring way," said Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola.

After an arrest on April 3rd of this year, documents show a parole officer asked for a hearing to determine whether Dennis should be returned to prison.

But he was released, arrested two weeks later and released again without a hearing ever being held.

Two days after the final release, he's accused of killing Abrams.

Spokeswoman Rhonda Sharp said D.C.C. signed off on Dennis' releases at the request of jail staff. Since then, policy has been changed to deny release for offenders awaiting parole hearings, Sharp said.

She defended her department's handling of Darrell Dennis.

"D.C.C. supervised this offender to the best of its ability," she said.

On Monday, the family of Forrest Abrams released the below statement:

"The family of Forrest Abrams is devastated by his loss. Forrest was a loving young man with a warm heart and a kind spirit. It is the family's wish that these things be remembered in his honor.

If what we have seen and read is true, it appears there has been a systemic failure on the part of the Department of Community Corrections, to ensure that violent offenders are kept off the streets of our cities.

It is our hope that further light will be shed on the matters, and that measures will be taken to prevent such instances from occurring in the future so that other citizens, and their families, may be spared needless tragedy.

We wish to thank the Little Rock Police Department for their ongoing efforts to bring justice to those directly responsible for Forrest's death. In addition, we are most grateful for the thoughts and prayers of the community."

Rhonda Sharp

From: Rhonda Sharp
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 8:21 AM
Subject: NEWS - Beebe calls for review of parolee

Beebe calls for review of parolee

By Spencer Willems

AR Democrat-Gazette

This article was published today at 12:30 a.m.

After meeting with the head of the state's parole and probation agency Monday morning, Gov. Mike Beebe's office announced that state agencies will conduct a "thorough" review of their handling of an eight-time Arkansas parole absconder recently charged in a Little Rock murder.

In a statement released Monday afternoon, Beebe spokesman Stacey Hall said that the governor was "extremely concerned" by an article in Monday's Arkansas Democrat-Gazette about the chain of criminal and parole offenses attributed to Darrell Dennis, who was arrested and charged with aggravated robbery, kidnapping and capital murder in the May 10 slaying of 18-year-old Forrest Abrams.

Arkansas Department of Community Correction spokesman Rhonda Sharp deferred comment about the meeting to department Director David Eberhard. A message left with Eberhard's assistant Monday afternoon was not returned.

Hall declined to be interviewed Monday about the meeting between Beebe and Eberhard.

"The Department of Community Corrections and the Arkansas Parole Board will do a thorough review of the specific case in question," the statement read. "They will also focus on whether current practices and procedures need to be restructured. Governor Beebe wants an investigation of the current system to discern whether this is an isolated incident or a systemic problem."

Dennis, 47, is awaiting transfer to a state prison after a June 5 revocation hearing before the state's Parole Board. That hearing was the first revocation hearing for Dennis, who racked up 14 arrests, including at least 10 felony charges, and was arrested for absconding from parole eight times since he paroled out of prison in late 2008 after serving time for aggravated robbery.

State Sen. David Sanders, who has been critical of some Community Correction Department policies in the past, said he was encouraged by the governor's announcement and said it was high time for a comprehensive review of the way the state releases, monitors and disciplines its parolees.

"This has been needed for a long time," the Little Rock Republican said. "We're looking at a systemic failure within DCC. The difference is, this time, we've been able to see what's been happening or transpiring."

Sanders, who sponsored Act 1029 this past session, legislation that required the Community Correction Department to initiate revocation proceedings for any parolee with a new arrest for violent or sex crimes, said he plans to push for a legislative review of the Dennis case as well as other similar cases that may illustrate problems in state's system.

Sanders sits on the Joint Performance Review Committee, one of four senate committees with oversight over the department. He said the committee will move on its own review very soon.

"Certainly the case with what happened with Mr. Dennis has shown there are some structural problems as well as some philosophical problems and leadership problems [in the department]," Sanders said. "It does require a top-down analysis. We have to go back and look at numerous cases where there has been a loss of life or pain or injury afflicted on Arkansans by people who are on parole."

Dennis was scheduled in March 2010 for a revocation hearing in August of that year, after two separate arrests by Little Rock anti-drug detectives on drug and weapons charges. But according to records obtained by the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Dennis never showed up. An absconder warrant was issued for his arrest. His name was added to the list for a revocation hearing again that November, but according to department officials, he never had a hearing.

Dennis failed to report to parole officers several times in the past 4 1/2 years and failed at least five drug tests. He was arrested on May 1 of this year for absconding, his seventh such arrest, and held at the jail until May 8, when after being told that he may have to go to a technical violator's center, was released with instructions to report within 24 hours.

There is no record of him reporting again in the documents and his eighth absconder warrant was issued on May 22, the same day Little Rock homicide detectives arrested him and nearly two weeks after police found Abrams' body dumped at West 11th and South Woodrow streets.

Sharp has declined several times to comment directly on the Dennis case but said there are several variables to consider before initiating a revocation proceeding.

Under the department's own "accountability interventions matrix," the number of absconder violations racked up by Dennis warrant a revocation hearing.

State Sen. Jeremy Hutchinson, R-Benton, called the Dennis case "tragic," but he thinks it demonstrates a greater problem in the state's criminal and parole system.

"I am familiar with other cases with a similar ending, just not as tragic," Hutchinson said. "It sure feels like there has been a spike in criminal activity [by parolees] and whether or not that coincides with the criminal justice reform we did two years ago... there's certainly enough correlation that it deserves some study."

Hutchinson, who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee, said he is taking steps for a review of the efficacy of Act 570, a 2011 reform that heightened thresholds for certain drug and property crimes to be felonies in order to reduce prison overpopulation.

He said that in the past the Department of Community Correction has not had enough data to show whether or not the reforms are working. So he wants whatever raw data they do have.

"They need to give it to us now and let us extrapolate from it," Hutchinson said. "We can't wait a few years to take action if it warrants it."

The chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. Marshall Wright, D-Forrest City, said he is supportive of a top-down review of policies and procedures in the state's parole system.

"Any time something like this happens, it's a tragedy," Wright said. "Always it makes you look at the way things are done now and the way things can change."

Wright said that the department, like every state department, is overworked and needs better resources and more funding. Still, he thinks the Community Correction Department's parole standards, and policies, have room for improvement.

"I think the system, it could be a little more hard-nosed with their sanctions," Wright said. "If we see something that can be done ... if it's a tougher sanction, a harder sanction or a smarter sanction, anything we can do to tighten [parole conditions] up, we'd welcome that."

While legislators and state officials debate the strengths or weaknesses of the state's parole system, Little Rock detectives are still searching for two other suspects they think were involved in Abrams' slaying.

And Abrams' Little Rock family continues to grieve. Chris Russell, Abrams' step-father, issued a statement on behalf of the family on Monday afternoon.

"The family of Forrest Abrams is devastated by his loss," the statement read. "Forrest was a loving young man with a warm heart and a kind spirit."

The statement added: "It appears there has been a systematic failure, on the part of the Department of Community Corrections, to ensure violent offenders are kept off the streets... it is our hope that further light will be shed on this matter, and that measures will be taken to prevent such instances from occurring in the future."

Front Section, Pages 1 on 06/18/2013

Rhonda Sharp

From: Chad Day [cday@arkansasonline.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 11:39 AM
To: David Eberhard; Rhonda Sharp
Co: swillems@arkansasonline.com; Sonny Albarado; dshameer@arkansasonline.com Contact
Subject: FOI - AR DEM GAZ June 18, 2013

June 18, 2013

David Eberhard
Director
Arkansas Department of Community Correction

or

Custodian of Records
Arkansas Department of Community Correction

Sir,

This is a request for records under the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act, Ark. Code Ann. 25-19-101 et seq.

I request the following:

— All correspondence, electronic or otherwise, between employees of the Arkansas Department of Community Correction and Gov. Mike Beebe's office between May 8, 2013, and June 18, 2013.

Should any of the records be maintained electronically, I request electronic copies.

If my request is denied in whole or in part, I ask that you explain in writing within three days of receipt of this request the basis for your action and specify the statutory exemption that provides for nondisclosure of the records or deletion of portions thereof.

If you redact a record, I remind you that you must redact only the exempt information on the record, per the FOI. For instance, an e-mail that contains some exempt information and some open information must be released with the open information intact. The existence of exempt information on a document does not in and of itself make the entirety of the record closed.

Also the attorney general has said unsolicited complaints filed against public officials, including law enforcement, are not employee evaluations and should be disclosed. The attorney general's office "has long held that unsolicited complaints against public employees ... should be disclosed," according to opinion 2010-109 released Aug. 27, 2010. This would mean any discussion of unsolicited complaints against DCC officials is open public information and should be released.

Arkansas Code Annotated 25-19-105(a)(1)(a) and (e) states that public records are to be made available upon request unless the records are in active use or storage. In the event that the requested records are in active use or storage, you as the custodian of the records must certify this fact in writing to the requester and set a date and hour within three working days, at which time the records will be made available for inspection and copying.

Prior to performing any billable action on this request, please notify me if my costs to obtain these records will exceed \$25.00.

Please contact us with questions at swillems@arkansasonline.com or cday@arkansasonline.com or 399-3674.

Respectfully,

/s/ Spencer Willems
Spencer Willems
Reporter
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette
501-350-7391

/s/ Chad Day
Chad Day
Reporter
Investigative Projects
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette
501-399-3674

cc: Rhonda Sharp, Sonny Albarado, Danny Shameer

Rhonda Sharp

From: Anita Collie
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 1:52 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: Drew Pegrimoux, Ch. 4 and 16

501-529-9745

Rhonda Sharp

From: Drew Petrimoulx [DPetrimoulx@kark.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 1:57 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: Couple questions

Ms. Rhodes,

1) You said Monday that DCC signed off on Darrell Dennis' release at the request of the jail. But the jail says DCC sent over a speed letter and the jail had to release him. What gives?

2) When you said Monday that DCC will no longer grant release from jail for parolees awaiting hearings in front of the parole board... Does that apply to everyone that's arrested while on parole?

Thanks,

Drew Petrimoulx
Reporter KARK/KLRT
501-529-9745 Cell
dpetrimoulx@kark.com
@drewpetrimoulx

Rhonda Sharp

From: Anice Browning
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 2:59 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Cc: Wade Hodge
Subject: Darrell Dennis case

Spencer Willems, with the Arkansas Democrat called need to speak with you his PH# is 501-350-7391.

Rhonda Sharp

From: Drew Petrimoulx [DPetrimoulx@kark.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 2:56 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: RE: Couple questions

Ms. Sharp,

Follow up questions:

You said:

"In the future, the DCC will no longer release holds, based upon the request of a jail, that we place on parolees who face going to TVC or being returned to prison."

What triggers DCC to place a hold on an inmate?

In the future, will DCC grant hold releases for inmates awaiting parole hearings?

What is the purpose of TVC?

Sorry about the "Rhodes" mix-up. I had just emailed a "Rhodes."

Thanks,

Drew Petrimoulx
Reporter KARK/KLRT
501-529-9745 Cell
dpetrimoulx@kark.com
[@drewpetrimoulx](https://twitter.com/drewpetrimoulx)

From: Rhonda Sharp [Rhonda.Sharp@arkansas.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 2:35 PM
To: Drew Petrimoulx
Subject: Re: Couple questions

Ms. Rhodes,

I am not sure who Ms. Rhodes is, but I will attempt to answer your questions.

1) You said Monday that DCC signed off on Darrell Dennis' release at the request of the jail. But the jail says DCC sent over a speed letter and the jail had to release him. What gives?

We did not "sign off" on a jail release - that is not something the DCC has the authority to do. The DCC staff was asked by jail staff to release the parole hold DCC had on Dennis and we did. It is not uncommon to receive such requests when a jail is planning to release someone. Releasing a hold is not the same thing as a decision to release someone from jail.

2) When you said Monday that DCC will no longer grant release from jail for parolees awaiting hearings in front of the parole board... Does that apply to everyone that's arrested while on parole?

The DCC does not now nor has it ever determined who is or is not released from a jail - we do not "grant releases" from jail. The DCC does not have that authority. Even when a parole hold is released, it is the determination of the jail as to whether someone is allowed to leave a jail. In the future, the DCC will no longer

release holds, based upon the request of a jail, that we place on parolees who face going to TVC or being returned to prison.

We told this to jail staff who responded by saying they will release anyone they believe they need to release.

Rhonda Sharp
DCC Public Relations

Rhonda Sharp

From: Anita Collie
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 4:19 PM
To: David Eberhard; Wade Hodge; Rhonda Sharp
Subject: Chad Day, Dem-Gaz

Called. Said he sent an FOI email to us and wanted to make sure we got it. 399-3674

Rhonda Sharp

From: Wade Hodge
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 4:21 PM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: Fwd: FOI - AR DEM GAZ June 18, 2013

Why are they asking me to verify this?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Chad Day <cday@arkansasonline.com>
Date: June 18, 2013, 3:44:05 PM CDT
To: <wade.hodge@arkansas.gov>
Subject: Fwd: FOI - AR DEM GAZ June 18, 2013

Wade,

I sent this in earlier today but didn't receive an acknowledgment that it had been received. Can you confirm that DCC has officially received this FOI request?

Chad

Chad Day
Reporter
Investigative Projects
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette
121 E. Capitol Ave., Little Rock, AR 72203
(501) 399-3674
cday@arkansasonline.com

Begin forwarded message:

From: Chad Day <cday@arkansasonline.com>
Date: June 18, 2013 11:39:09 AM CDT
To: david.eberhard@arkansas.gov, Rhonda Sharp
<Rhonda.Sharp@arkansas.gov>
Cc: swillems@arkansasonline.com, Sonny Albarado
<salbarado@arkansasonline.com>, Danny Shameer
<dshameer@arkansasonline.com>
Subject: FOI - AR DEM GAZ June 18, 2013

June 18, 2013

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Director
Arkansas Department of Community Correction

or

Custodian of Records
Arkansas Department of Community Correction

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This is a request for records under the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act, Ark. Code Ann. 25-19-101 et seq.

I request the following:

— All correspondence, electronic or otherwise, between employees of the Arkansas Department of Community Correction and Gov. Mike Beebe's office between May 8, 2013, and June 18, 2013.

Should any of the records be maintained electronically, I request electronic copies.

If my request is denied in whole or in part, I ask that you explain in writing within three days of receipt of this request the basis for your action and specify the statutory exemption that provides for nondisclosure of the records or deletion of portions thereof.

If you redact a record, I remind you that you must redact only the exempt information on the record, per the FOI. For instance, an e-mail that contains some exempt information and some open information must be released with the open information intact. The existence of exempt information on a document does not in and of itself make the entirety of the record closed.

Also the attorney general has said unsolicited complaints filed against public officials, including law enforcement, are not employee evaluations and should be disclosed. The attorney general's office "has long held that unsolicited complaints against public employees ... should be disclosed," according to opinion 2010-109 released Aug. 27, 2010. This would mean any discussion of unsolicited complaints against DCC officials is open public information and should be released.

Arkansas Code Annotated 25-19-105(a)(1)(a) and (e) states that public records are to be made available upon request unless the records are in active use or storage. In the event that the requested records are in active use or storage, you as the custodian of the records must certify this fact in writing to the requester and set a date and hour within three working days, at which time the records will be made available for inspection and copying.

Prior to performing any billable action on this request, please notify me if my costs to obtain these records will exceed \$25.00.

Please contact us with questions
at swillems@arkansasonline.com or cday@arkansasonline.com or 399-3674.

Respectfully,

/s/ Spencer Willems
Spencer Willems
Reporter
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette
501-350-7391

/s/ Chad Day
Chad Day
Reporter
Investigative Projects
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette
501-399-3674

cc: Rhonda Sharp, Sonny Albarado, Danny Shameer

Rhonda Sharp

From: Google Alerts [googlealerts-noreply@google.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2013 9:34 AM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: Google Alert - Arkansas Department of Community Correction

News

1 new result for **Arkansas Department of Community Correction**

Beebe wants review of Arkansas parole system

Greenwich Time

"The **Department of Community Corrections** and the **Arkansas Parole Board** will do a thorough review of the specific case in question," a statement from his ...

Tip: Use site restrict in your query to search within a site (site:nytimes.com or site:.edu). [Learn more](#).

[Delete](#) this alert.

[Create](#) another alert.

[Manage](#) your alerts.

Rhonda Sharp

From: Google Alerts [googlealerts-noreply@google.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 9:32 AM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: Google Alert - DCC arkansas

News

2 new results for DCC arkansas

Officials Blast DCC After Parolee is Accused of Murder

FOX16.com

LITTLE ROCK, AR -- The Arkansas Department of Community Correction is under fire ... Spokeswoman Rhonda Sharp said DCC signed off on Dennis' releases at the ...

DCC director called in to Beebe office

Arkansas Times

Mike Beebe summoned Department of Community Corrections Director David Eberhard to his office this morning after an Arkansas Democrat-Gazette story outlined ...

This once a day Google Alert is brought to you by Google.

Delete this alert.

Create another alert.

Manage your alerts.

Rhonda Sharp

From: Google Alerts [googlealerts-noreply@google.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2013 9:32 AM
To: Rhonda Sharp
Subject: Google Alert - DCC arkansas

News

1 new result for DCC arkansas

DCC Blames Pulaski Jail for Release of Darrell Dennis

FOX16.com

LITTLE ROCK, AR -- Blame is flying back and forth over the release of a parolee ... But DCC says it was officials at the Pulaski County Jail who pushed for ...

Tip: Use site:restrict in your query to search within a site (site:nytimes.com or site:.edu). [Learn more.](#)

[Delete this alert.](#)

[Create another alert.](#)

[Manage your alerts.](#)

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LIST OF
HEARING
REQUESTS

ACT 3
and
CHARGES

Kristie Baker

From: Debra James
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2013 9:26 PM
To: Kristie Baker
Subject: You up?

Kristie Baker

From: Debra James
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2013 9:39 PM
To: Kristie Baker
Subject: Dennis ADC#085865 Incident Report
Importance: High

Incident report is complete. I sent it to Violet's email a few minutes ago. The detective called and gave me the heads up.

Kristie Baker

From: Violet Renee
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2013 10:01 PM
To: Kristie Baker
Subject: Incident Report Dennis, DarrellPID #: 0005941ADC #: 085865
Attachments: Incident Report Template.docx

Importance: High

Please see attached. I screwed up on this one. When I did his last conference I think I went off the wrong edition of the matrix. Recommended TVP and he waived. Under the latest edition it should have just been a hearing.

Kristie Baker

From: Violet Renee
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2013 10:49 PM
To: Kristie Baker
Subject: FW: Incident Report Dennis, DarrellPID #: 0005941ADC #: 085865
Attachments: Incident Report Template.docx

Importance: High

Correction, I did not mess up. There was a hearing request submitted on May 2nd and it was denied on May 6th with instructions to send him to TVP. I made the recommendation based off of that. It was not in eOMIS, but I have the email.

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To: Kristie Baker
Subject: Incident Report Dennis, DarrellPID #: 0005941ADC #: 085865

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Kristie Baker

From: Violet Renee
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 8:33 AM
To: Kristie Baker
Subject: Re: Incident Report Dennis, DarrellPID #: 0005941ADC #: 085865

Sure. I think the first one was because he had not absconded enough under 570. The second Mr. McNeal denied.

Violet

On May 23, 2013, at 8:30 AM, "Kristie Baker" <Kristie.Baker@arkansas.gov> wrote:

I don't remember this guy can you send me the emails so I can see why I said TVC

Thanks

From: Violet Renee
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2013 10:49 PM
To: Kristie Baker
Subject: FW: Incident Report Dennis, DarrellPID #: 0005941ADC #: 085865
Importance: High

Correction, I did not mess up. There was a hearing request submitted on May 2nd and it was denied on May 6th with instructions to send him to TVP. I made the recommendation based off of that. It was not in eOMIS, but I have the email.

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From: Violet Renee
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 8:37 AM
To: Kristie Baker
Subject: FW: Dennis, DarrellPID #: 0005941ADC #: 085865

From: Kristie Baker
Sent: Thursday, April 04, 2013 8:31 PM
To: Violet Renee
Subject: Re: Dennis, DarrellPID #: 0005941ADC #: 085865

Will he not just waive to TVC. If he has no court dates maybe he can be bumped on the list.

AM Baker, Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 4, 2013, at 6:55 PM, "Violet Renee" <Violet.Renee@arkansas.gov> wrote:

Please request a parole hearing with TVP recommendation for this client due to Abscond 3rd. He is currently unassigned and has not had an ORAS due to the fact that he has not reported into the office since January 2011. He has had two previous AAM conferences in the Pulaski County Jail, but has not reported upon release.

Thank you,
Violet Renee

Kristie Baker

From: Violet Renee
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2013 10:05 PM
To: Kristie Baker
Subject: Hearing Request

Importance: High

Dennis, Darrell
PID #:
0005941
ADC #:
085865

No ORAS Score due to failure to report.

On or about 05/10/2013, Dennis committed the offense of capital murder, 2 counts of kidnapping, 2 counts of aggravated robbery, and 2 counts of theft of property.

Brief Narrative:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On or about 05/22/2013, Dennis was arrested and charged in this case.

Kristie Baker

From: Owen Castleman
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 2:57 AM
To: Debra James; Kristie Baker
Cc: Charles Easley; Damian McNeal; Jessloa Leach (DCC); Jim Williams (DCC); Laura Ann-Marie Harp; Lois Hansberry; Owen Castleman; Rick Kematlok; Ricky Hogg; Ruth Akins; Sharon Lewis; Steve Arnold; Violet Renee
Subject: HIT CONFIRMATION

OFFENDER: DENNIS, DARRELL

ADC # 085965

HELD AT – PULASKI COUNTY DETENTION CENTER
LITTLE ROCK, AR.

CONTACT PHONE -501-340-7001
FAX -501-340-7037

HIT RECEIVED: 05/23/13 1:45 A.M

SGT. OWEN T CASTLEMAN
ALPHA SHIFT
Central Arkansas Center
Department of Community Correction
4823 West 7th Street
Little Rock, AR 72205
501-686-9800 (Office)



Kristie Baker

From: Kristie Baker
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 10:43 AM
To: Debra James
Subject: RE: Dennis ADC#085865 Incident Report

That was needed in the report also what dates was he in the state hospital?? I am adding this to the report

Thanks

From: Debra James
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 10:40 AM
To: Kristie Baker
Subject: RE: Dennis ADC#085865 Incident Report

Name placed back on the hearing 11/23/2010.

New charges on 12/29/2010.....he was in custody at the jail and the State Hospital.

Event	Date/Time	Room	Location	Judge
OMNIBUS HEARING	10/04/2010 08:30 AM	COURTROOM 420, 1ST DIVISION	CIRCUIT	HON. LEON JOHNSON - 1ST DIVISION 6TH CIR
ACT 3 HEARING	12/17/2010 08:30 AM	COURTROOM 420, 1ST DIVISION	CIRCUIT	HON. LEON JOHNSON - 1ST DIVISION 6TH CIR
REPORT/STATUS	01/07/2011 08:30 AM	COURTROOM 420, 1ST DIVISION	CIRCUIT	HON. LEON JOHNSON - 1ST DIVISION 6TH CIR
OMNIBUS HEARING	01/07/2011 09:30 AM	COURTROOM 420, 1ST DIVISION	CIRCUIT	HON. LEON JOHNSON - 1ST DIVISION 6TH CIR
REPORT/STATUS	01/14/2011 08:30 AM	COURTROOM 420, 1ST DIVISION	CIRCUIT	HON. LEON JOHNSON - 1ST DIVISION 6TH CIR
REPORT/STATUS	01/20/2011 08:30 AM	COURTROOM 420, 1ST DIVISION	CIRCUIT	HON. LEON JOHNSON - 1ST DIVISION 6TH CIR
JURY TRIAL	01/20/2011 09:30 AM	COURTROOM 420, 1ST DIVISION	CIRCUIT	HON. LEON JOHNSON - 1ST DIVISION 6TH CIR

ACT 3 HEARING	04/18/2011 08:30 AM	COURTROOM 420, 1ST DIVISION	CIRCUIT	HON. LEON JOHNSON - 1ST DIVISION 6TH CIR
ACT 3 HEARING	06/22/2011 08:30 AM	COURTROOM 420, 1ST DIVISION	CIRCUIT	HON. LEON JOHNSON - 1ST DIVISION 6TH CIR
REPORT/STATUS	07/07/2011 08:30 AM	COURTROOM 420, 1ST DIVISION	CIRCUIT	HON. LEON JOHNSON - 1ST DIVISION 6TH CIR
ACT 3 HEARING	09/21/2011 09:30 AM	COURTROOM 420, 1ST DIVISION	CIRCUIT	HON. LEON JOHNSON - 1ST DIVISION 6TH CIR
ACT 3 HEARING	12/08/2011 08:30 AM	COURTROOM 420, 1ST DIVISION	CIRCUIT	HON. LEON JOHNSON - 1ST DIVISION 6TH CIR
REPORT/STATUS	02/13/2012 01:30 PM	COURTROOM 420, 1ST DIVISION	CIRCUIT	HON. LEON JOHNSON - 1ST DIVISION 6TH CIR
ACT 3 HEARING	03/14/2012 08:30 AM	COURTROOM 420, 1ST DIVISION	CIRCUIT	HON. LEON JOHNSON - 1ST DIVISION 6TH CIR
ACT 3 HEARING	06/25/2012 01:30 PM	COURTROOM 420, 1ST DIVISION	CIRCUIT	HON. LEON JOHNSON - 1ST DIVISION 6TH CIR
ACT 3 HEARING	08/14/2012 08:30 AM	COURTROOM 420, 1ST DIVISION	CIRCUIT	HON. LEON JOHNSON - 1ST DIVISION 6TH CIR
REPORT/STATUS	08/16/2012 08:30 AM	COURTROOM 420, 1ST DIVISION	CIRCUIT	HON. LEON JOHNSON - 1ST DIVISION 6TH CIR

Kristie Baker

From: Kristie Baker
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 10:26 AM
To: Debra James
Subject: RE: Dennis ADC#085865 Incident Report

Can you just email back to me why he ultimately never attended a parole hearing. I know he absconded several times. He was put back on the list 11/23/10. He went to jail a few times after that and never had a hearing. I am not talking about recently when he was denied and referred for TVC

Thanks....

From: Debra James
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2013 9:39 PM
To: Kristie Baker
Subject: Dennis ADC#085865 Incident Report
Importance: High

Incident report is complete. I sent it to Violet's email a few minutes ago. The detective called and gave me the heads up.

Tracking:

Kristie Baker

From: Kristie Baker
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 10:55 AM
To: Debra James
Subject: RE: Dennis ADC#085865 Incident Report

Did you get the date that he was in the State Hospital and is that his jury trial that was set for 8/22/13??

From: Debra James
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 10:40 AM
To: Kristie Baker
Subject: RE: Dennis ADC#085865 Incident Report

Name placed back on the hearing 11/23/2010.

New charges on 12/29/2010.....he was in custody at the jail and the State Hospital.

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ACT 3 HEARING	04/18/2011 08:30 AM	COURTROOM 420, 1ST DIVISION	CIRCUIT	HON. LEON JOHNSON - 1ST DIVISION 6TH CIR

Kristie Baker

From: Kristie Baker
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 11:26 AM
To: DCC Incident Notification Committee; Jessica Leach (DCC)
Cc: Debra James
Subject: Darrell Dennis # 085865
Attachments: Dennis, Darrell 085865.docx

Arkansas Department of Community Correction
INCIDENT OR HAZARD REPORT/WITNESS STATEMENT

Kristie Baker

From: Kristie Baker
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 11:31 AM
To: Debra James
Cc: Violet Renee
Subject: INCIDENT REPORTS

Always put "your" title. You didn't include that he was detained yesterday to show that an investigation was on-going. Never quote according to any source. The report has to be in your words. You left several incidents out of his history. You didn't give his intake date/information. Disposition only stated that he would attend a hearing.

*Kristie Baker, Area Manager
Pulaski & Lenoire Counties
Office (501) 371-1595
Cell (501) 837-3003
Fax (501) 324-9183*

Tracking:

Kristie Baker

From: Kristie Baker
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 10:57 AM
To: Steve Arnold
Subject: FW: Dennis, Darrell # 085865 (Hearing Request)

Importance: High

Working on his Incident Report

Thanks

From: Violet Renee
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2013 10:05 PM
To: Kristie Baker
Subject: Hearing Request
Importance: High

Dennis, Darrell
PID #:
0005941
ADC #:
085865

No ORAS Score due to failure to report.

On or about 05/10/2013, Dennis committed the offense of capital murder, 2 counts of kidnapping, 2 counts of aggravated robbery, and 2 counts of theft of property.

Brief Narrative:

[REDACTED]

On or about 05/22/2013, Dennis was arrested and charged in this case.

Tracking:

Kristie Baker

From: Violet Renee
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 8:37 AM
To: Kristie Baker
Subject: FW: Hearing Request ADC#085865 Darrell Dennis

From: Debra James
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2013 10:14 PM
To: Violet Renee
Subject: FW: Hearing Request ADC#085865 Darrell Dennis

From: Jim Cheek
Sent: Monday, May 06, 2013 10:10 AM
To: Debra James
Subject: FW: Hearing Request ADC#085865 Darrell Dennis

Per Asst. Director McNeal. We will send Dennis to TVC. Thanks

Please scheduled Dennis for and AAM Conference. Thanks

From: Debra James
Sent: Thursday, May 02, 2013 5:05 PM
To: Jim Cheek
Subject: Hearing Request ADC#085865 Darrell Dennis
Importance: High

Current Charges: MANUFACTURE DELIVER POSSESS CONTROLLED SUBS SCHED I,II < 28g NARCOTIC METH;
FY, DRUGS AND FIREARMS, SIMULTANEOUS POS OF; FY, MAINTAIN DRUG PREMISES - FAIL TO KEEP
RECORDS, ETC. - DRUGS; POSSESS USE DELIVER ADVERTISE DRUG PARAPHERNALIA, (Felonies); ESCAPE -
3RD DEGREE; MA, CLASS A MISDEMEANOR, POSSESS FIREARMS BY CERTAIN PERSONS; FB, Disp:

Paroled on: 11/05/2008

Abscond warrant #1 issued 05/28/2009

Abscond warrant#2 issued 09/22/2009

New charges on 04/08/2010: possession of controlled substances, multiple counts, maintaining a drug premise,
possession of firearm

06/25/2010 served hearing paperwork

07/25/2010 served hearing paperwork again

Parole revocation hearing postponed twice.

08/18/2010, failed to report for hearing

Abscond warrant#3 issued 08/31/2010 .

11/23/2010 committed the offense of domestic battery 3rd

11/23/2010, name placed on the hearing list.

12/29/2010, committed the offense of trying to influence a public servant, tampering with evidence, refusal to submit to arrest, disorderly conduct, harassment and public intoxication.

01/06/2011, served hearing paperwork (placed on Act 3, released and then failed to report)

07/28/11, Abscond warrant#3 reentered.

05/03/2012 released, AAM conference held

06/07/2012, Abscond warrant#4 issued.

09/04/2012, AAM conference held, TVP (should have gone to a hearing)

09/20/2012, Abscond warrant#5 issued.

04/03/2013, arrest for obstruction of governmental operations, possessing instruments of crime.

04/29/2013, Abscond Warrant#4 re-entered (4 Abscond Violations since July of 2011 but a total of: 7 since being on parole). He should have gone to his hearing previously and didn't because he claimed Act 3, was released and no one looked closer to see that he should be rescheduled.

This officer formally requests a hearing for this offender.

Cheek, my number is 773-7382, call me if approved and I will go serve him.

Violet Renee

From: Debra James
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2013 9:33 PM
To: Violet Renee
Subject: Darrel Dennis, ADC#085865
Attachments: Incident Report Template.docx

Importance: High

Violet Renee

From: Violet Renee
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2013 10:05 PM
To: Kristie Baker
Subject: Hearing Request

Importance: High

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PID #:
0005941
ADC #:
085865

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From: Violet Renee
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2013 10:16 PM
To: Debra James
Subject: RE: Hearing Request ADC#085865 Darrell Dennis

Thank you!

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To: Violet Renee
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From: Violet Renee
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To: Kristie Baker
Subject: FW: Incident Report Dennis, DarrellPID #: 0005941ADC #: 085865
Attachments: Incident Report Template.docx

Importance: High

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To: Kristie Baker
Subject: Incident Report Dennis, DarrellPID #: 0005941ADC #: 085865

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Violet Renee

From: Owen Castleman
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 2:57 AM
To: Debra James; Kristle Baker
Cc: Charles Easley; Damian McNeal; Jessica Leach (DCC); Jim Williams (DCC); Laura Ann-Marie Harp; Lois Hansberry; Owen Castleman; Rick Kematick; Ricky Hogg; Ruth Akins; Sharon Lewis; Steve Arnold; Violet Renee
Subject: HIT CONFIRMATION
Categories: Abscond

OFFENDER: DENNIS, DARRELL

ADC # 085965

HELD AT — PULASKI COUNTY DETENTION CENTER
LITTLE ROCK, AR.

CONTACT PHONE -501-340-7001
FAX -501-340-7037

HIT RECEIVED: 05/23/13 1:45 A.M

SGT. OWEN T CASTLEMAN
ALPHA SHIFT
Central Arkansas Center
Department of Community Correction
4823 West 7th Street
Little Rock, AR 72205
501-686-9800 (Office)



Violet Renee

From: Charles Easley
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 7:26 AM
To: Violet Renee
Subject: Dennis, Darrell-PID #: 0005941/ADC #: 085865

Importance: High

Categories: Abscond

<u>05/23/2013</u> Tracking Notes	LR Probation & Parole Easley, Charles T	[REDACTED]
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From: Owen Castleman
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 2:57 AM
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Cc: Charles Easley; Damian McNeal; Jessica Leach (DCC); Jim Williams (DCC); Laura Ann-Marie Harp; Lois Hansberry; Owen Castleman; Rick Kematick; Ricky Hogg; Ruth Akins; Sharon Lewis; Steve Arnold; Violet Renee
Subject: HIT CONFIRMATION

OFFENDER: DENNIS, DARRELL

ADC # 085965

HELD AT – PULASKI COUNTY DETENTION CENTER
LITTLE ROCK, AR.

CONTACT PHONE -501-340-7001
FAX -501-340-7037

HIT RECEIVED: 05/23/13 1:45 A.M

SGT. OWEN T CASTLEMAN
ALPHA SHIFT
Central Arkansas Center
Department of Community Correction
4823 West 7th Street
Little Rock, AR 72205
501-686-9800 (Office)

Violet Renee

From: Kristie Baker
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 8:31 AM
To: Violet Renee
Subject: RE: Incident Report Dennis, DarrellPID #: 0005941ADC #: 085865

I don't remember this guy can you send me the emails so I can see why I said TVC

Thanks

From: Violet Renee
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2013 10:49 PM
To: Kristie Baker
Subject: FW: Incident Report Dennis, DarrellPID #: 0005941ADC #: 085865
Importance: High

Correction, I did not mess up. There was a hearing request submitted on May 2nd and it was denied on May 6th with instructions to send him to TVP. I made the recommendation based off of that. It was not in eOMIS, but I have the email.

From: Violet Renee
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2013 10:01 PM
To: Kristie Baker
Subject: Incident Report Dennis, DarrellPID #: 0005941ADC #: 085865

Please see attached. I screwed up on this one. When I did his last conference I think I went off the wrong edition of the matrix. Recommended TVP and he waived. Under the latest edition it should have just been a hearing.

Violet Renee

From: Violet Renee
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 8:33 AM
To: Kristie Baker
Subject: Re: Incident Report Dennis, DarrellPID #: 0005941ADC #: 085865

Sure. I think the first one was because he had not absconded enough under 570. The second Mr. McNeal denied.

Violet

On May 23, 2013, at 8:30 AM, "Kristie Baker" <Kristie.Baker@arkansas.gov> wrote:

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From: Violet Renee
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 8:37 AM
To: Kristie Baker
Subject: FW: Dennis, DarrellPID #: 0005941ADC #: 085865

From: Kristie Baker
Sent: Thursday, April 04, 2013 8:31 PM
To: Violet Renee
Subject: Re: Dennis, DarrellPID #: 0005941ADC #: 085865

Will he not just waive to TVC. If he has no court dates maybe he can be bumped on the list.

AM Baker, Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 4, 2013, at 6:55 PM, "Violet Renee" <Violet.Renee@arkansas.gov> wrote:

Please request a parole hearing with TVP recommendation for this client due to Abscond 3rd. He is currently unassigned and has not had an ORAS due to the fact that he has not reported into the office since January 2011. He has had two previous AAM conferences in the Pulaski County Jail, but has not reported upon release.

Thank you,
Violet Renee

Violet Renee

From: Violet Renee
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 8:37 AM
To: Kristle Baker
Subject: FW: Hearing Request ADC#085865 Darrell Dennis

From: Debra James
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2013 10:14 PM
To: Violet Renee
Subject: FW: Hearing Request ADC#085865 Darrell Dennis

From: Jim Cheek
Sent: Monday, May 06, 2013 10:10 AM
To: Debra James
Subject: FW: Hearing Request ADC#085865 Darrell Dennis

Per Asst. Director McNeal. We will send Dennis to TVC. Thanks

Please scheduled Dennis for and AAM Conference. Thanks

From: Debra James
Sent: Thursday, May 02, 2013 5:05 PM
To: Jim Cheek
Subject: Hearing Request ADC#085865 Darrell Dennis
Importance: High

Current Charges: MANUFACTURE DELIVER POSSESS CONTROLLED SUBS SCHED I,II < 28g NARCOTIC METH;
FY, DRUGS AND FIREARMS, SIMULTANEOUS POS OF; FY, MAINTAIN DRUG PREMISES - FAIL TO KEEP
RECORDS, ETC. - DRUGS; POSSESS USE DELIVER ADVERTISE DRUG PARAPHERNALIA, (Felonies); ESCAPE -
3RD DEGREE; MA, CLASS A MISDEMEANOR, POSSESS FIREARMS BY CERTAIN PERSONS; FB, Disp:

Paroled on: 11/05/2008

Abscond warrant #1 issued 05/28/2009

Abscond warrant#2 issued 09/22/2009

New charges on 04/08/2010: possession of controlled substances, multiple counts, maintaining a drug premise,
possession of firearm

06/25/2010 served hearing paperwork

07/25/2010 served hearing paperwork again

Parole revocation hearing postponed twice.

08/18/2010, failed to report for hearing

Abscond warrant#3 issued 08/31/2010

11/23/2010 committed the offense of domestic battery 3rd

11/23/2010, name placed on the hearing list.

12/29/2010, committed the offense of trying to influence a public servant, tampering with evidence, refusal to submit to arrest, disorderly conduct, harassment and public intoxication.

01/06/2011, served hearing paperwork (placed on Act 3, released and then failed to report)

07/28/11, Abscond warrant#3 reentered.

05/03/2012 released, AAM conference held

06/07/2012, Abscond warrant#4 issued.

09/04/2012, AAM conference held, TVP (should have gone to a hearing)

09/20/2012, Abscond warrant#5 issued.

04/03/2013, arrest for obstruction of governmental operations, possessing instruments of crime.

04/29/2013, Abscond Warrant#4 re-entered (4 Abscond Violations since July of 2011 but a total of: 7 since being on parole). He should have gone to his hearing previously and didn't because he claimed Act 3, was released and no one looked closer to see that he should be rescheduled.

This officer formally requests a hearing for this offender.

Cheek, my number is 773-7382, call me if approved and I will go serve him.

Violet Renee

From: Kristie Baker
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 9:01 AM
To: Violet Renee
Subject: RE: Hearing Request ADC#085865 Darrell Dennis

Now I remember this is one that Debra tried to sell for a hearing but it was denied due to him not having any charges pending at all...

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