



RHODE ISLAND PAROLE BOARD

2018 GUIDELINES

Chairperson

Laura A. Pisaturo, Esq.

Vice-Chairperson

Victoria M. Almeida, Esq.

Members

Dr. Jorge C. Armesto

Dr. Anne Nolan

Maj. Oscar Perez

Dr. Bonita Cade Ph.D., JD

Ms. Marilyn Cepeda Sanchez

ADMINISTRATOR

Matthew T. Degnan

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.1	PURPOSE	3
1.2	STATUTORY AUTHORITY	3
1.3	DEFINITIONS	3-4
1.4	PROCEDURES	4-5
	A. Submission of Materials	
	B. Parole Plans	
	C. Waivers/Continuances	
	D. Reconsideration - Timing	
	E. Pending Charges	
1.5	COMPONENTS OF THE PAROLE STANDARDS	6-9
	A. Discipline	
	B. Risk Assessment	
	C. Aggravating Factors	
	D. Mitigating Factors	
	E. Sexual Offenses	
	F. Special Parole Considerations for Persons Convicted as Juveniles	
1.6	REVOCAION OF PAROLE	10-10
1.7	ACTIONS BY CHAIR.....	10
1.8	PUBLIC RECORDS	10
1.9	TAPE RECORDINGS	11
1.10	OUT-OF-STATE INMATES	11
1.11	COMMUNITY SUPERVISION FOR CHILD MOLESTATION OFFENSES	11-11
1.12	VICTIMS	11

Rhode Island Parole Board

2018 Guidelines - Standards for Parole

1.1 PURPOSE

- A. The mission of the Rhode Island Parole Board is to enhance public safety, contribute to the prudent use of public resources and consider the safe and successful re-entry of offenders through discretionary parole.
- B. The purpose of this document is to adopt standards to be used by the Board in evaluating individual applications for parole and to establish, within the range of parole eligibility set by statute, the portion of a sentence which should be served depending on the likelihood of recidivism as determined by a validated risk assessment and the Board's independent case analysis, and shall serve as guidelines for the Board in making individual parole determinations.
- C. The board shall consider the applicable standard before rendering a decision on a parole application, and may make a determination at variance with that standard only upon a finding that the determination is warranted by individualized factors, such as the character, criminal history, and attitudes of the applicant that bear on the likelihood to reoffend, the conduct of the applicant while incarcerated, including meaningful participation in a risk-reducing program and substantial compliance with the rules of the institution, and risk reducing behavior and the criteria set forth in R.I. Gen. Laws § 13-8-14.
- D. In each case where the Parole Board grants an application prior to the time set by the applicable standard or denies an application on or after the time set by that standard, the Board will set forth in writing the rationale for its determination.

1.2 STATUTORY AUTHORITY

These guidelines are promulgated pursuant to R.I. General Laws § 13-8-14.1.

1.3 DEFINITIONS

As used herein:

- 1. "Department of Corrections", "RIDOC", or "DOC" means the Rhode Island Department of Corrections.

2. “Dynamic factors” means factors that may change over time and which reflect characteristics the offender has demonstrated since being incarcerated such as age, education level, custody assignment, prior disciplinary conduct in the prior 24 months.
3. “LSI-R” means the Level Service Needs Inventory (Revised).
4. “Rhode Island Parole Board”, “Parole Board”, or “Board” means the Rhode Island Parole Board.
5. “Risk-reducing program” means a program that adheres to those elements that are shown in research to reduce recidivism.
6. “Security Risk Group” or “SRG”, as identified and defined by the Department of Corrections, means a member of a Security Risk Group (SRG) because of the nature of the crime(s), associations, institutional records, notoriety, knowledge and/or backgrounds or an exceptionally high level of media attention.
7. “Static factors” means those factors that do not change over time such as criminal history, the sentenced/commitment offense, prior felony convictions, history of violent or assaultive convictions, status on probation or parole at the time of admission to the Adult Correctional Institutions.
8. “Street time” means the time between the release of the prisoner under the parole permit and the prisoner's return to the adult correctional institutions or the women's division of the adult correctional institutions under order of the Board.

1.4 PROCEDURES

- A. Submission of Materials – Timing - All submissions to the Parole Board by an inmate or on behalf of an inmate from a person or party outside of the Department of Corrections, including submissions by attorneys, must be in writing and must be received by the Parole Board Office prior to the first day of the month of the inmate’s scheduled parole hearing. The Board will be under no obligation to consider any material not submitted within the timeframe under this section.
- B. All parole plans should include an updated job offer, which must be notarized, or on official company stationery; a residence letter, which shall contain the address and phone number of the residence with a brief statement by the occupant/ property owner indicating a willingness to have the parole candidate reside at that location; and, any or all, supportive letters and certificates of program completion.

C. Waivers/Continuances

1. An inmate may continue or waive his/her right to be considered at an Initial Parole Hearing (i.e. the first parole hearing eligibility date as calculated by the Department of Corrections), and may also continue a scheduled Reconsideration Hearing, and must do so in writing, on a waiver form provided by the Department of Corrections. Reconsideration hearings are discretionary and set by the Parole Board and requests to continue such hearings will be subject to approval by the Board, which may adjust a continuance date based on scheduling needs.

D. Reconsideration – Timing

1. If the Board votes to deny parole, the Board, in its discretion, may deny parole without further reconsideration or the Board may afford an inmate another opportunity, at a reasonable interval, to present evidence of changes in the factors previously used in the formation of the Board's decision. If a majority of the Board sitting as a subcommittee cannot agree on setting a reconsideration hearing or on denying parole without reconsideration, the vote shall default to reconsideration and the Chairperson shall be authorized to schedule a reconsideration hearing at an interval proportionate to the time remaining on the inmate's sentence. In cases where reconsideration is set, the interval time for reconsideration shall not exceed six (6) years.
2. This provision on reconsideration hearings shall operate *prospectively* and not retroactively to any matter adjudicated by the Board prior to December 5, 2015.
3. Notwithstanding the above, in all cases where the inmate was a youthful offender at the time of the offense for which s/he is serving, if the Board denies the inmate's initial application for parole, and if the Board in its discretion also votes to reconsider the inmate for parole release at a future date, then the timeframe for said reconsideration shall not exceed three (3) years. As used in this section, youthful offender is defined as a person who was twenty-one (21) years of age or younger at the time the offense was committed.

E. Pending Charges – Continuation

In order to protect an accused's right against self-incrimination and to allow the Parole Board to fairly consider all information concerning an inmate, the parole consideration hearing for any inmate who has a pending criminal charge(s) may be continued until disposition of the charge(s) is completed.

1.5 COMPONENTS OF THE PAROLE STANDARDS

A. Discipline - Substantial observance of the rules of the institution.

1. The Parole Board will view negatively any significant institutional disciplinary record and generally will not parole an inmate unless he or she has had no infractions in the prior six (6) months. The Board may, for any inmate who is in disciplinary confinement at the time of his or her scheduled parole consideration hearing, continue said hearing for a minimum of three (3) months following the inmate’s scheduled release from disciplinary confinement.

B. Risk Assessment

1. The Rhode Island Parole Board has adopted an automated, validated risk assessment instrument as per R.I. Gen. Laws § 13-8-14.1(a). The risk assessment score is not presumptive to parole release or denial but is one factor considered by the Board.
2. The risk assessment instrument takes into consideration static and dynamic factors. The following matrix, adopted by the Board in December 2016, balances the offense severity and risk assessed.
3. The Parole Board will also refer to an inmate’s LSI-R needs assessment, when available, to assist with condition setting or program referral.
4. Parole Risk Assessment Matrix

Offense Severity	Risk Level		
	High Risk	Moderate Risk	Low Risk
Highest	5	4	4
High	5	4	3
Moderate	4	3	2

Low/Moderate	4	3	1
Low	3	2	1

- a. 1 – Parole recommended.
- b. 2 – Parole recommended at next hearing unless significant aggravating factors exist.
- c. 3 – Parole recommended unless significant aggravating factors exist, provided appropriate parole plan in place. Require appropriate programming in community for moderate or high-risk cases (consider LSI-R scores).
- d. 4 – Not recommended for parole unless significant mitigations factors present, absence of significant aggravating factors. If granted parole, appropriate programming in community for moderate and high-risk cases (consider LSI-R scores). Higher supervision in the community should be considered.
- e. 5 – Not recommended for parole – focus on risk reduction programming (consider LSI-R scores).

C. Aggravating Factors

In addition to an offender’s risk assessment score, the Parole Board may consider any other factor that detracts from serious parole release consideration, including but not limited to

- 1. Negative institutional conduct/behavior.
- 2. The failure to complete or early termination from required or recommended programming.
- 3. Failure or termination from in a Work Release Program.
- 4. Nature of the offense as it relates to the parole candidate’s motivation for committing the offense, his/her role in the offense, level of violence used, the amount of loss and/or injury to the victim, and the degree of sophistication evidenced in the offense.

5. Unfavorable re-entry preparation or plan.
6. Pattern of parole supervision failure.
7. Special concerns of the victim(s) or community.
8. Status in a Security Risk Group as it impacts the re-entry plan.
9. Escape
10. Sexual predatory activities
11. Any other factor determined by the Parole Board in its discretion that detracts from serious parole release consideration.

D. Mitigating Factors

In addition to an offender's risk assessment score, the Parole Board may consider any other factor that enhances serious parole release consideration, including but not limited to:

1. Appropriate participation and success in Work Release Program where available.
2. Completion of required or recommended programming.
3. Favorable and realistic re-entry plan.
4. Strong community support.
5. Within 12 months of Sentence Completion Date.
6. Any other factor determined by the Parole Board in its discretion that enhances serious parole release consideration

E. Sexual Offenses

1. An individual found guilty of a sexual offense will not generally be seriously considered for parole until he/she has successfully taken part in the Sex Offender Treatment Program (SOTP). In considering such cases, the Board may also consider the recommendation of the Sex Offender Treatment Program when evaluating an inmate for potential release on parole. The Board should also consider, when available, the inmate's risk for sexual recidivism level as assessed and assigned by the Rhode Island Sex Offender Board of Review (RI SOBR).

2. All offenders sentenced to the crime of child molestation shall be required to cooperate with the parole board psychiatrist/psychologist who may be asked to complete a comprehensive psychiatric/ psychological examination to determine if the offender is at high risk to reoffend. The Board may consider recommended conditions for release and post-release counseling as per this or other evaluations.

F. Special Parole Considerations for Persons Convicted as Juveniles

1. When a person who is serving a sentence imposed as the result of an offense or offenses committed when he or she was less than eighteen years of age becomes eligible for parole pursuant to applicable provisions of law, the Parole Board shall ensure that the procedures governing its consideration of the person's application for parole make certain that he or she is provided a meaningful opportunity to obtain release and shall adopt rules and guidelines to do so that are consistent with existing case law.
2. During a parole hearing involving a person described in subsection (1) of this section, in addition to other factors required by law or under these Guidelines to be considered by the Parole Board, the Board shall also take into consideration the diminished culpability of juveniles as compared to that of adults, the hallmark features of youth and any subsequent growth and increased maturity of the prisoner during incarceration. The board shall also consider the following:
 - a. A review of educational and court documents;
 - b. Participation in available rehabilitative and educational programs while in prison;
 - c. Age at the time of the offense;
 - d. Immaturity at the time of the offense;
 - e. Home and community environment at the time of the offense;
 - f. Efforts made toward rehabilitation;
 - g. Evidence of remorse; and
 - h. Any other factors or circumstances the Board considers relevant

1.6 REVOCATION OF PAROLE

A. The Parole Board considers any violation of the conditions of parole to be a very serious matter. After parole revocation as per R.I. Gen. Laws §13-8-18, it will be solely within the discretion of the Parole Board to determine whether the inmate will be reconsidered for parole release during the same sentence and, if so, the length of time the inmate will serve before any such reconsideration.

Per R.I. Gen. Laws 13-8-19, the Parole Board may choose to credit or revoke all or part of the time while released under the permit from the original sentence (“street time”), taking into consideration the seriousness of the violation that prompted revocation. If a parolee is returned to the Adult Correctional Institution on a new criminal charge/sentence the Board may have discretion to revoke up to all of the parolee’s street time while under parole supervision. If a parolee is returned to the Adult Correctional Institution for technical violation(s) of parole not amounting to a new criminal charge(s), the Board may have discretion to revoke up to half of the parolee’s street time while under parole supervision, and, in both instances, may take into consideration any history of violations while under parole supervision. The Board may make a decision outside of this guideline when justice so requires provided the Board sets forth in writing the rationale for its determination.

B. Expedited Procedure: The Parole Board will utilize an expedited revocation procedure for parole violations not involving new criminal offenses, where there is no dispute as to the charged violation, the parolee charged with such violation freely admits to the violation and accepts the appropriate sanction imposed.

1.7 ACTIONS BY CHAIR

The Chairperson of the Rhode Island Parole Board is authorized to act for the Board between scheduled meetings in rescinding warrants, administratively approving discharge plans ordered by the Board, adjusting the timeframe set for reconsideration hearings in the interests of justice and consistent with these Guidelines, amending parole permits and other matters related to the supervision of parolees. Any such actions are subject to ratification by the Board or a subcommittee thereof at a scheduled meeting.

1.8 PUBLIC RECORDS

It is the policy of the Parole Board not to release any information obtained from documents or records, which are not deemed to be public records pursuant to the provisions of R.I. Gen. Laws § 38-2-2 *et. seq.* Parole Board records are exempt from

public disclosure since these records contain personal or medical information relating to an individual.

1.9 TAPE RECORDINGS

The Rhode Island Parole Board shall record all Parole Board hearings with the use of a tape recording device and tape-recorded records of all hearings shall be maintained by the Board Administrator for a period of three (3) years and shall not be deemed a public record.

1.10 OUT-OF-STATE INMATES

Inmates voluntarily serving out of state who are eligible for parole consideration by the Board will be considered *in absentia*, unless they request tele-conferencing or videoconferencing (if available), subject to the discretion of the Parole Board. Eligible inmates who have been involuntarily transferred out of state may apply to the Rhode Island Department of Corrections for a return to Rhode Island for their scheduled Board hearing as provided under applicable Rhode Island law.

1.11 COMMUNITY SUPERVISION FOR CHILD MOLESTATION OFFENSES

- A. Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 13-8-30 through 33 the Parole Board will impose terms and conditions of community supervision on persons convicted of first and second-degree child molestation at the completion of the offender's prison sentence, release from incarceration or commencement of probation and may revise, alter or amend said conditions at any time.
- B. The Chairperson of the Parole Board is authorized to set the initial terms of community supervision, subject to amendment or later modification by a subcommittee of the Board.

1.12 VICTIMS

- A. In order to ensure that victims (or immediate family members of minor or deceased victims) who meet with the Parole Board feel free to express their opinions and feelings about an inmate's application for parole and possible release from prison without concern about possible retribution (from the inmate or any other party) or invasion of their privacy.
 - 1. Victims (or immediate family members of minor or deceased victims) who request a meeting with the Parole Board may meet with the Board privately.
 - 2. The Parole Board will not inform inmates that victims met with the Board, without consent from victims.

3. Media coverage (television, radio, newspaper) may be present only with the consent of the victim(s).
- B. § 1.12 of this Part is intended to comply with R.I. Gen. Laws § 12-28-2 (Victim's Rights), which requires that all crime victims be treated with dignity, respect and sensitivity in all phases of the process. § 1.12 of this Part is consistent with R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-46, which recognizes as a legitimate exception any discussions of the physical or mental health of a person or persons.

MINUTES
MARCH 26, 2020
RHODE ISLAND PAROLE BOARD
PUBLIC MEETING AT THE PAROLE BOARD OFFICE AND VIA TELECONFERENCE

- 1) Call to Order- Chairperson Laura Pisaturo called the meeting to order at 4:03pm
- 2) Roll Call- Roll call taken by Board Administrator Matthew Degnan

Present: Chairperson Laura Pisaturo, Vice-Chairperson Victoria Almeida, Dr. Jorge Armesto, Dr. Bonita Cade, Dr. Anne Nolan, Major Oscar Perez, Marilyn Cepeda

3) New Business

Chairperson Pisaturo welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that the Parole Board was convening both in person and by telephone conference pursuant to the governor's Executive Order 20-05, issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and which temporarily allows the Board to meet and vote by telephone or other form of conference. In addition to Board members and staff there were approximately 30 persons on the call. The chairperson asked each person on the call to mute their line until they were ready to speak. She advised the group that the Board was not going to be discussing specific inmates cases and invited anyone who wished to comment on a specific inmate to write to the parole board at 40 Howard Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920 or send an email [email posted to the Board's public website www.pparoleboardri.gov]

a. Past Actions of the Chair subject to ratification by the Board.

The chairperson asked for a motion to table agenda item so she could have additional time to prepare these matters for Board consideration. MOTION made by vice-chair Almeida, seconded by Dr. Cade. There was no discussion on the motion, and all voted in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Roll call vote was taken by the Administrator and documented. Motion Passed. Ms. Cepeda was absent for this motion.

The remaining agenda items related to considerations to make temporary modifications to Parole Board practices and procedures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chairperson Pisaturo introduced these items with the following comments: the pandemic has shifted the ground under all of us and put us - state and federal governments, private business and non-profits, all communities and individuals - - into uncharted territory. Health and safety are of paramount concern and underlye the agenda items. She noted that the Parole Board has a limited but important function and one that is very much dependent on statute. She reminded those present that we are not here to panic, but to prepare and consider whether there are proactive steps we can take to address matters uniquely within our parole function and that still provide for safe and successful release of inmates who meet parole release

MINUTES
MARCH 26, 2020
RHODE ISLAND PAROLE BOARD
PUBLIC MEETING AT THE PAROLE BOARD OFFICE AND VIA TELECONFERENCE

criteria. Some of the agenda items also relate to temporarily modifying our meeting practices to ensure the safety of board, staff, victims and inmates while still honoring due process and victim rights.

b. Consideration of amendments to conditions or contingencies of parole previously set for those persons previously granted parole and awaiting release.

The chairperson explained that this agenda item relates to those persons who have already had a parole hearing before a panel of the Board and were granted parole but are not yet released from the ACI because their release has conditions or contingencies related to such things as programming, treatment or a specific release date. She suggested that the board may wish to review those cases that have a release date April-June 2020 to lift program or other contingency where the person otherwise has a stable home plan and release conditions that allow for safe release to the community.

MOTION made by Dr. Cade, seconded by vice-chair Almeida to review those cases that have a release date April-June 2020 to lift program or other contingency where the person otherwise has a stable home plan and release conditions that allow for safe release to the community. Discussed ensued. Dr. Armesto asked if the motion could indicate “*could* consider lifting program or other contingency” so it was clearer that it was not definitive. Dr. Cade agreed to amend her motion to use this phrasing, Ms. Almeida seconded the amendment to the motion. The MOTION, as amended, is now to review those cases that have a release date April-June 2020 to consider lifting program or other contingency where the person otherwise has a stable home plan and release conditions that allow for safe release to the community. Discussion ensued. Dr. Cade noted that consideration would also need to be given to the impact on resources, both inside the prison and in the community, as a result of the health crisis. There was no further discussion on the motion; all voted in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Roll call vote was taken by the Administrator and documented. Motion Passed. Ms. Cepeda was absent for this motion.

MINUTES
MARCH 26, 2020
RHODE ISLAND PAROLE BOARD
PUBLIC MEETING AT THE PAROLE BOARD OFFICE AND VIA TELECONFERENCE

c. Consideration of temporary modification to parole guidelines or practices related to:

i. In-person meetings for victim impact statements

The chairperson explained that, under Rhode Island law, victims have a right to address the Board before the Board acts on a parole application. The Board's current Guidelines (section 1.12) and practice includes in-person meetings with victims of crime who wish to address the Board. Given the current health crisis, Chairperson Pisaturo recommended that the Board temporarily suspend in-person meetings with victims of crime and provide alternative methods for victim impact, perhaps teleconference or written submissions (including submissions to the VOCA victim advocate who works with the Parole Board. "Victims" includes direct victims, parent/guardian of minor victims or a representative of a deceased victim in death case. Victims of crime who receive a notice from the Parole Board can call the victim advocate (401) 462-0914.

MOTION made by vice-chair Almeida, seconded by Major Perez, to temporarily suspend in-person meetings with victims of crime and provide alternative methods for victim impact. No further discussion. All present voted in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Roll call vote was taken by the Administrator and documented. Motion Passed.

ii. In-person meetings with inmates within the Adult Correctional Institution

The chairperson noted that the current crisis also compels a review of the Board's practice with respect to meeting with inmates, in-person, inside the prison. She indicated that, after research and consultation with legal counsel, there does not appear to be statutory entitlement for an inmate to meet in-person with the Parole Board. Nonetheless, in-person meetings with inmates has been a longstanding and important practice of the Board. Due to the current COVID-19 crisis and state of emergency, the chairperson recommends temporary suspension of in-person meetings within the ACI and instead accept written submissions from inmates. Inmates coming up for parole consideration or review can take an opportunity to submit letters or other supportive materials in advance of their hearing.

MOTION made by Major Perez, seconded by Dr. Armesto to temporarily suspend meeting in-person with inmates inside the ACI due to the pandemic. No further discussion. All present voted in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Roll call vote was taken by the Administrator and documented. Motion Passed.

MINUTES
MARCH 26, 2020
RHODE ISLAND PAROLE BOARD
PUBLIC MEETING AT THE PAROLE BOARD OFFICE AND VIA TELECONFERENCE

iii. Actions of the Chair – scope of authority of chairperson to act between meetings, subject to ratification by the board

Chairperson Pisaturo stated that current Parole Board Guidelines, Section 1.17, allow the chairperson to act on certain matters on behalf of the Board, between scheduled meetings. This includes addressing violations in the community, modifying the time for reconsideration hearings and the like. As Board members know, actions of the chairperson that occur between meetings are subject to review and ratification by the Board or a panel of the Board at a later meeting. The chairperson inquired whether, in light of the current crisis and necessary responses that occur or change almost daily, the Board wished to consider modifying Section 1.17 to allow the chairperson, for example, to undertake the review discussed in Agenda item 3b. or other administrative matters that may need action between meetings and that do not involve the official act of granting parole or revoking parole.

MOTION made by Dr. Cade, seconded by Dr. Nolan, until further notice to expand the scope of Actions of the Chairperson, under Guidelines Section 1.17, to allow the chairperson to undertake the review approved in Agenda item 3b. and to take action on other administrative matters that do not involve the official act of granting parole or revoking parole and that all such actions will require review and ratification by the Board or a panel of the Board at a later meeting. All present voted in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Roll call vote was taken by the Administrator and documented. Motion Passed.

iv. Other parole guidelines or practices requiring modification during the current state of emergency related to the COVID-19 public health.

Chairperson Pisaturo made a MOTION to amend this agenda item to remove the word “parole” in order to allow the Board to discuss modifying other guidelines beyond parole guidelines including those related to sex offender community notification. The Motion was seconded by vice-chair Almeida. All present voted in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Roll call vote was taken by the Administrator and documented. Motion Passed.

On the amended agenda item chairperson Pisaturo explained that the Sex Offender Community Notification Unit (SOCN Unit) sits at the Parole Board. The SOCN Unit supports the work of the Parole Board and the work of the Sex Offender Board of Review (a separate board). As chair of the parole board who has overall supervision of the staff assigned to the Board, and because of the current pandemic, chairperson Pisaturo has suspended all in-person interviews conducted by the SOCN Unit field investigators. This includes the in-person interviews that are offered to those persons who must be leveled by the Sex Offender Board of Review (SOBR). There is no provision in law for this, but it is done as part of the field investigation and is one of many pieces of information and materials field investigators

MINUTES
MARCH 26, 2020
RHODE ISLAND PAROLE BOARD
PUBLIC MEETING AT THE PAROLE BOARD OFFICE AND VIA TELECONFERENCE

gather and submit to the SOBR to assist that board in its work to consider and assign risk levels.

Under Rhode Island law, however, it is the Parole Board that approves the materials provided to the SOBR.

At this time, due to the current pandemic chairperson Pisaturo recommends and MOVES that the Parole Board temporarily exclude in-person interviews from among the materials gathered and submitted by SOCN Unit field investigators to the SOBR. Instead, just as the Parole Board has adopted with its parole process, the SOCN Unit staff can offer all person's subject to leveling an opportunity to make a written submission to the SOBR prior to that Board's leveling decision. The chairperson notes that the SOBR will continue to meet and the materials considered by the SOBR will still include a risk assessment or Structured Professional Decision-Making and all other materials typically submitted by the SOCN Unit; and Level II and III sex offenders will continue to be posted to the public website.

MOTION was seconded by vice-chair Almeida. Board discussion ensued. Dr. Cade noted some concerns with not allowing those currently incarcerated in the ACI an opportunity for an in-person interview. She further noted, however, that it would be unfair to offer some and not all person's subject to leveling an in-person interview and understood the rationale underlying the chairperson's motion. No further discussion. All present voted in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Roll call vote was taken by the Administrator and documented.
Motion Passed

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice Chairperson, Victoria Almeida made a MOTION to open the public comment portion of the meeting, seconded by Dr Cade. With a voice vote, all present voted in favor, none abstained, and the motion passed.

Members of the public who offered public comment:

Tal Frieden, from Never Again RI, asked if the board might consider early release for inmates based on medical considerations and questioned whether the Board could go beyond the June 2020 considerations to consider inmates paroled with release dates July-December 2020.

Attorney Lisa Holley asked if the board might reconsider medical parole applications previously denied. Natalia Friedlander, representing the Rhode Island Center for Justice, asked submitted written comments which will be incorporated into the record as Exhibit A to the minutes. Ms. Friedlander highlighted the Center's comments during public comment including whether the Board could take into account as "mitigating factors" public health, whether submission deadlines could be extended, whether the requirement for notarization of job plans could be relaxed and whether rescinding outstanding technical warrants could also be considered.

MINUTES
MARCH 26, 2020
RHODE ISLAND PAROLE BOARD
PUBLIC MEETING AT THE PAROLE BOARD OFFICE AND VIA TELECONFERENCE

Chairperson Pisaturo responded to the public comments as follows: there are approximately 28 inmates granted parole with release dates between April-June 2020 and another approximately 24 with release dates July-December 2020. She stated the Board could certainly consider later reviewing inmates with parole release dates between July-December 2020 and this may very well occur. As to the several suggestions made by Ms. Friedlander on behalf of the Center for Justice the chairperson pointed out that several current Board Guidelines allow the Board to consider a host of matters as mitigating or aggravating factors and the list is not exclusive so the suggestions made by the Center for Justice could be considered without formal motion. She added that the Board has some restrictions and cannot consider anyone prior to the time allowed by statute and that the medical parole statute is specific in its provisions. The chairperson has not at this time explored ways to modify or expand existing statutory provisions related to parole.

Chairperson Pisaturo solicited any further public comment, there was none. Major Perez made a MOTION to close public comment and Dr. Anne Nolan seconded the Motion. With a voice vote, all voted in favor, none abstained, and this Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT: Dr. Nolan moved to Adjourn. Ms. Almeida Seconded the Motion. With a voice vote, all voted in favor, none abstained, and the meeting adjourned at 5:02pm.

###