



North Carolina Department of Public Safety

Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice

Roy Cooper, Governor
Erik A. Hooks, Secretary

Reuben Young, Interim Chief Deputy Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety
Chairs of Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety
Chairs of House Appropriations Subcommittee on Justice and Public Safety

FROM: Erik A. Hooks, Secretary *EAH*
Reuben Young, Interim Chief Deputy Secretary *RY*

RE: Mutual Agreement Parole Program Report

DATE: March 1, 2019

Pursuant to NC General Statute 143B-707.2.a, the Department of Public Safety and the Post-Release Supervision and Parole Commission shall report by March 1 of each year to the Chairs of the House of Representatives and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Justice and Public Safety and to the Chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety on the number of inmates enrolled in the mutual agreement parole program, the number completing the program and being paroled, and the number who enrolled but were terminated from the program. The information should be based on the previous calendar year.

MAILING ADDRESS:
4201 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4201
www.ncdps.gov



An Equal Opportunity Employer

OFFICE LOCATION:
512 N. Salisbury Street
Raleigh, NC 27604
Telephone: (919) 825-2761



Mutual Agreement Parole Program Report

March 1, 2019

Prisons Section

Kenneth E. Lassiter, Director of Prisons

Willis J. Fowler
Chairman

Graham H. Atkinson
Commissioner

Eric A. Montgomery
Commissioner

Angela R. Bryant
Commissioner

INTRODUCTION

The Mutual Agreement Parole Program (MAPP) helps to prepare selected parole-eligible offenders for release through structured activities, scheduled progression in custody levels, participation in community-based programs and conditional parole dates. The offenders, the Division of Adult Correction – Prisons Section and the Post-Release Supervision and Parole Commission sign a written agreement that sets forth a plan for the offender’s eventual parole.

* The offender agrees to meet certain conditions set by the Division of Adult Correction Prisons Section and the Post-Release Supervision and Parole Commission (Parole Commission). In turn, the Parole Commission agrees to consider paroling the offender if those conditions are met. Although they are not legally enforceable contracts, MAPP agreements have proven to be useful tools in influencing and promoting positive offender behavior.

The Mutual Agreement Parole Program (MAPP) began in North Carolina in 1975 as a pilot project and went statewide a year later. In the early years, the program focused on committed youthful offenders and adult offenders involved in certain highly regarded vocational training programs such as the Iredell Furniture Program, the Cleveland Comprehensive Education Program and vocational training at North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women. Gradually, the Parole Commission began to use MAPP to encourage improved behavior and to structure a gradual release from prison for a broader range of offenders. Today, MAPP is an effective management tool that encourages behavioral change, rewards appropriate behavior, evaluates an offender’s readiness for release and prepares the offender for successful re-entry into society.

ELIGIBILITY FOR THE PROGRAM

An offender is eligible for the MAPP Program if he or she meets the following criteria:

- The offender has reached his regularly scheduled parole review date;
- The offender is in medium or minimum custody;
- The offender is not subject to a detainer or pending court action which may result in further confinement;
- The offender has not had an infraction within the past 90 days;
- The offender was convicted of a felony under pre-Structured Sentencing laws; and
- The offender recognizes a need for involvement in MAPP and expresses an interest in one or more of the following: learning a skill, improving educational achievements, modifying specific behaviors or engaging in personal growth program.

*Official signatories include offender, the DOP MAPP Director, three Parole Commissioners and the MAPP Coordinator at the facility where the inmate is housed.

THE PROCESS

Offenders are reviewed for MAPP/parole each time they undergo a routine custody review. Once the review process begins, the Parole Commission sends notifications to victims, district attorneys and the media. Stakeholders have a 30-day period to provide information regarding the case. The Parole Commission reviews all information obtained through the investigation and makes a final decision.

If the case receives a favorable vote, the case is forwarded to the Division of Adult Correction – Prisons Section for development. During the development process, a case manager at the facility, housing the offender, develops a case plan to prepare the offender to transition back into the community. The plan includes activities and assignments that will address various needs identified by the case manager. In addition, a majority of offenders will be required to complete a psychological assessment as part of the development process.

Cases that have completed the development stage return to the MAPP Office to be scheduled for negotiations. During the negotiations process, the MAPP Director, a Parole Commissioner and the MAPP Coordinator, from the facility where the offender is housed, sit down with the offender, review the development plan and formulate the final agreement. Once all parties agree to the terms of the MAPP Plan, the parties sign the document and the offender is enrolled in MAPP. The average MAPP Agreement takes 65 days from referral to completion.

On January 1, 2018, 55 offenders were participating in MAPP. An additional 62 offenders were enrolled in the program during the calendar year, bringing the total to 117. Twenty-two (22) completed the program and were released; Three (3) were terminated from the program. At the end of the year, a total of 92 offenders were actively participating in MAPP. The number of offenders eligible for MAPP on 12/31/18 was 1,381. In situations where MAPP participation was suspended or terminated, it was the position of the Commission that these cases could not safely be paroled or participate in MAPP because of the nature of their offenses, their prison conduct and /or unfavorable psychological information.

The Post-Release Supervision and Parole Commission have granted MAPP participation to 8.5% of the eligible population for the year. With the passage of time the pool of qualified candidates has diminished. In identifying offenders for MAPP, we consider the needs of the system, the rights of the individual and the safety of the public. As the number of eligible offenders declines, the decisions become more difficult and more important.

It is imperative that offenders who are participating in MAPP be placed in and satisfactorily complete programs that have been agreed upon as part of their MAPP contract by the Commission and the inmate. Participation in community-based programs allows the offender to demonstrate that he/she has matured and can safely handle responsibility in the community. It also provides authorities additional time to determine the offender's suitability for release. If the offender does not participate in the agreed upon community-based programs, the Commission has no alternative but to suspend the agreement due to public safety concerns.

MAPP has proven to be an effective management tool in preparing offenders for a successful re-entry to society. NCDPS and the Post-Release Supervision and Parole Commission continue to work toward increasing MAPP participation without jeopardizing public safety.