

State of South Carolina
Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services

HENRY McMASTER
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October 22, 2019

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Edward R. Tallon Sr.
Legislative Oversight Committee Subcommittee Chair
Post Office Box 11867
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Representative Tallon:

Please find below responses to four questions set forth in your October 8, 2019, letter, which was received by our office on that same date.

1. Are there situations in which an inmate is not granted parole and/or released until the inmate has completed one or more required programs?

Yes, there have been situations in which an inmate is granted conditional parole by the Board of Paroled and Pardons (the Board), and therefore may not be released until the inmate has completed one or more required programs or conditions.

As it relates to SCDC Programming, there are currently two behavioral/rehabilitative type programs which are used by the Board as a pre-release condition: The Addictions Treatment Unit (ATU) and the Self-Paced In-Class Education Program (S.P.I.C.E.). There was also a Pilot Cognitive Restructuring Therapy (CRT) program in 2018, which involved a total of nine inmates and which has since been discontinued.



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2. If so, for each of the last three years please provide the number of different inmates to which this applied and reason(s) for the requirement.

The charts below show the number of inmates who were ordered to complete these programs, prior to parole release. Please note, some inmates were ordered to complete both programs prior to release. The total number of inmates impacted is described in a specified area below. The programming is required, as the Board deems necessary to address identified criminogenic needs and to ultimately aid in the inmate's successful societal reintegration, thereby reducing recidivism.

Addictions Treatment Unit (ATU)

As described by the SC Department of Corrections, the program is designed to address substance abuse, criminal-thinking and other life skill issues using a Therapeutic Community Model treatment approach for 6 months. Court ordered and conditionally paroled offenders with identified substance abuse program needs are assigned priority admission status.

	2017	2018	2019
ATU	261	118	161

Self-Paced In-Class Education (SPICE)

In conjunction with the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC), the Department has initiated a statewide life-skills development employment placement program. This program is designed to provide offenders housed in SCDC with the opportunity to participate in classes geared towards preparing them for suitable employment upon release from prison via the Parole process.

	2017	2018	2019
SPICE	119	27	42

Total Inmates Impacted

	2017	2018	2019
ATU/SPICE	335	141	199
Parole			
Granted	933	1357	1255
% Impacted	35.9	10.4	15.9

Cognitive Restructuring Therapy (CRT) – PILOT PROGRAM

A joint pilot-program between SC Department of Corrections and SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services designed for use in correctional facilities to treat offenders with behavioral disorders and associated behavioral problems.

	2017	2018	2019
CRT		9	



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In addition to SCDC Programming, there are other situations in which an inmate is granted parole but is not released until the inmate has completed certain requirements or conditions. They are listed below:

Detainer

Often inmates are paroled, who are wanted in connection with court proceedings and/or criminal investigations. These inmates are not released to the community, but to the jurisdiction of the unresolved action. Inmates who are released to detainers are released to report immediately upon release from custody.

	2017	2018	2019
Detainer	110	127	145

Parole Employment Program (PEP)

24-21-640 requires that no prisoner may be paroled until suitable employment has been secured. The Parole Employment Program is a joint effort between the SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services and the SC Department of Vocational Rehabilitation that is described as a statewide employment skill development and assisted job placement program. Inmates are screened and accepted prior to release. The inmate's initial appointment is provided on the release documents.

	2017	2018	2019
PEP	155	189	235

Psychological Evaluation

24-21-610 ensures that inmates who have served a total of ten consecutive years or more in prison may not be paroled until the Board has first received a report as the inmate's mental condition and his/her ability to adjust to life outside the prison from a duly qualified psychiatrist or psychologist. Additionally, the Board requires the same evaluation for inmates whose incarceration is the result of sexual violence.

	2017	2018	2019
PSYC	71	59	55

Sexually Violent Predator Review

44-48-40 requires that if the Board grants the conditional parole of a person convicted of a sexually violent offense, the parole or the conditional release must be granted to be effective one hundred eighty days after the date of the order of parole or conditional release.

	2017	2018	2019
SPR	9	8	4

3. Does the agency have information on the type of program each inmate was required to complete? If so, in what format could the agency provide that information to the subcommittee?

Yes - each program is described above, in response to question 2.



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4. Does the agency obtain, have, or maintain information whether the program was available to the inmate? If so, in what format could the agency provide that information to the subcommittee?

SCDPPPS has no information regarding the availability of SCDC programming to inmates at any particular time. It does know; however, that CRT was only available to those individuals who participated in the pilot program.

If you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jerry B. Adger
Director

