

STATE OF ARKANSAS
CHILD WELFARE AGENCY
REVIEW BOARD MEETING

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
700 WEST MAIN STREET
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

December 10, 2019
1:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Ed Appler, Chairman
Ms. Mischa Martin
Mr. Andy Altom
Mr. Josh Bryant
Ms. Beverly Massey Foti
Mr. Sanford Tollette

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. David Griffin, Director
Ms. Skye Martin, Attorney for DHS
Mr. Joe West, Attorney for the Board
Ms. Ebony Russ,
Placement and Residential Licensing Manager
Mr. Charles Arnold, Licensing Specialist

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CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2019 MINUTES

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MEETING ADJOURNED

COURT REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

1 PROCEEDINGS

2 December 10, 2019,

3 CHAIRMAN APPLER: We will call to order the
4 December 10th meeting of the Child Welfare
5 Agency Review Board. Before we get into
6 business, I would like for David to share
7 something, that you shared with me earlier,
8 regarding your future.

9 MR. GRIFFIN: Thanks Ed. I would like to
10 address the Board and just say it's been a
11 pleasure working with all of you. I am
12 retiring on Friday of next week. I've been in
13 what's called the Drop Program here, so my
14 retirement is not optional. I have to step out
15 at that point, which really makes it a little
16 simpler for me, because there's a part of me
17 that really hates to step out.

18 It's been my honor and pleasure working
19 with all of you, and you have my utmost
20 respect, for the wonderful job that you do for
21 the State, so thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Thank you. Yeah, I was
23 appointed to this Board, I think in 2004, and
24 in the last two years, the faces around me have
25 changed, and they're continuing to change.

1 Okay. First item on the agenda -- has everyone
2 had a chance to read the minutes of the prior
3 meeting? Which I believe was a phone
4 conference.

5 BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Yes.

6 MR. ALTOM: I make a motion to approve the
7 minutes.

8 MR. TOLTETTE: I'll second.

9 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Any discussion?

10 (No audible responses given.)

11 CHAIRMAN APPLER: All in favor, say "Aye".

12 BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

13 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Opposed the same. Motion
14 carries. Item No. 1 -- let me ask a question
15 here. In front of No. 1, I'm seeing 21. Is
16 that just like a typo?

17 MS. RUSS: That was a request from the
18 provider. There was a travel issue, and she
19 requested to go first, so instead of confusing
20 the procedure, or the line of the packet, we
21 just moved 21 up first, Florence Crittenden
22 Home.

23 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Okay. So are we hearing
24 21, right now?

25 MS. RUSS: Yes.

1 MS. STEPPS: Fatima Stepps with the
2 Placement in Residential Licensing Unit. You
3 should have item 21 before you, for Florence
4 Crittenden Home. Staff, Mr. Stephen, is
5 requesting a special consideration for
6 permission to work with children on licensing
7 standard 103.11, which states no person guilty
8 of an excluded criminal offense, pursuant to
9 ACA 9-28-409, shall be permitted to have direct
10 and unsupervised contact with children, except
11 as provided in that statute.

12 You should have in your packet, copies of
13 the reports, and supporting documentation for
14 this request. This request will allow Mr.
15 Stephen to be able to work direct and
16 unsupervised with children and PRLU, does
17 support this request. I have Debbie Stripling
18 here from the agency, in case you have any
19 questions, and Mr. Stephen.

20 MR. TOLTETTE: Are we reviewing 21(a)?

21 MS. STEPPS: B, for Florence Crittendon
22 Home.

23 CHAIRMAN APPLER: All we have is a cover
24 page. We don't have any documentation for
25 this.

1 (Brief pause in proceeding.)

2 MS. STEPPS: We do apologize. We'll give
3 you time to review them.

4 MR. TOLTETTE: So nothing since '97?
5 Nothing has happened since '97?

6 MR. C.: No, sir.

7 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Was this a felony, or a
8 misdemeanor?

9 MR. C.: Felony.

10 MR. TOLTETTE: Good letters of support. If
11 none of my other colleagues have anything to
12 say, Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a
13 motion that we accept the recommendation of
14 staff.

15 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Motion. Is there a
16 second?

17 MR. ALTOM: Second.

18 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Motion and second. Is
19 there any discussion?

20 (No audible responses given.)

21 CHAIRMAN APPLER: If not, all in favor, say
22 "Aye".

23 BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

24 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Opposed the same. Motion
25 carries. Thank you, sir.

1 Okay. So now, we'll go to No. 1.

2 MS. CARLTON: I'm Rachel Carlton, Placement
3 Residential Licensing Unit. With me is Judy O
4 Oliver. DCFS is requesting special
5 consideration for P206.2, which states foster
6 parents shall be 21 years of age. The 19-year-
7 old prospective foster parent is the maternal
8 aunt of the four-year-old female child. They
9 have a close bond, and this placement would
10 allow the child to remain with a family member.

11 Licensing visited the home on November 19th
12 and noted no safety concerns. PRLU supports
13 this request as it is in the best interest of
14 the child.

15 MR. TOLTETTE: Is the young foster parent
16 here?

17 MS. CARLTON: No. She's at work.

18 MR. ALTOM: I'll make a motion to approve
19 the request.

20 MR. TOLTETTE: I'll second.

21 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Motion and second. Any
22 discussion?

23 (No audible responses given.)

24 CHAIRMAN APPLER: If not, all in favor say
25 "Aye".

1 BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

2 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Opposed, the same. And
3 you abstain, right?

4 MS. MARTIN: That's correct.

5 MS. CARLTON: Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN APPLER: This is no longer a
7 provisional?

8 MS. GLANTON: Correct. It is now a relative
9 foster home. Patty Glanton, item number two on
10 your agenda, DCFS is requesting a special
11 consideration for the home of Pedro, regulation
12 209.2, each bedroom shall have at least 50
13 square feet of floor space per occupant. The
14 home consists of six members, two parents, and
15 four placed children, two males, aged 11 and
16 16, two females, ages 13 and 15.

17 The home is three-bedroom, with the parents
18 occupying the master bedroom two females
19 occupying bedroom two, and the two males
20 occupying bedroom three. The bedroom three,
21 occupied by the males, measures 93 square feet,
22 a shortage of seven square feet. It's
23 furnished with twin bunk beds, and has a single
24 operable window.

25 Licensing visited the home November 21,

1 2019. A temporary approval was granted by
2 Ebony Russ 11-13-19. PRLU supports this
3 request, in the best interest of keeping the
4 children together. I have Darian Ison,
5 resource worker with DCFS here if you have any
6 further questions.

7 MR. TOLTETTE: Is there only -- just one
8 bedroom out of compliance?

9 MS. GLANTON: Yes

10 MR. TOLTETTE: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
11 make a motion that we accept the recommendation
12 of staff.

13 MS. MASSEY-FOTI: I'll second.

14 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Motion and a second. Any
15 discussion?

16 (No audible responses given.)

17 CHAIRMAN APPLER: If not, all in favor say
18 "Aye".

19 BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

20 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Opposed the same. Motion
21 carries. DCFS abstains.

22 MS. GLANTON: Patty Glanton, PRLU, item
23 number three on the agenda, Western Arkansas
24 Children's Therapeutic Homes, also known as
25 WATCH, is requesting a special consideration

1 for regulation 310.6, foster parent shall have
2 a current certification and completion of first
3 aid and CPR before a child is placed in the
4 home. The training shall require hands-on
5 skill-based instructions.

6 The agency is requesting this is for Mr. M,
7 who is a disabled vet, with a disability that
8 prevents him from engaging in the course, the
9 physical part. There is a safety plan, that
10 the foster father will never be alone with the
11 children. Either the foster mother or suitable
12 -- you know like a babysitter type, standard
13 stuff, but he won't be left alone with the
14 children in the home.

15 Temporary special consideration, was
16 granted 11-13-19, by Ebony Russ. PRLU supports
17 this request and I have Paula Riggs here with
18 WATCH, if you have any further questions.

19 MR. TOLTETTE: Just an inquiry, have you
20 thought about the possibility, even though
21 there may be a physical challenge, of just
22 going through the academic part, in terms of
23 awareness?

24 MS. RIGGS: We could do that.

25 MR. TOLTETTE: It's just a thought, because

1 the information can be absorbed. No other
2 limitations?

3 MS. GLANTON: Just the reg reads it has to
4 be physical hands-on, so that's why we're
5 asking for this.

6 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Was sort of system do you
7 have in place that ensures that he will not be
8 alone with the children?

9 MS. RIGGS: Foster mom, or -- well, he
10 doesn't either. Neither one of them works, so
11 she's home all the time, you know.

12 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Do you make monthly
13 visits?

14 MS. RIGGS: Weekly visits. At least weekly.
15 Sometimes twice a week.

16 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Are those visits
17 spontaneous, or planned in advance?

18 MS. RIGGS: Some are, and some are planned.
19 We haven't opened the home yet. They've gone
20 through all the training, and background checks
21 have been sent in, but we haven't done the home
22 study yet. Before they go any further, we
23 wanted to do this.

24 MR. TOLTETTE: I guess I'm on a role, Mr.
25 Chairman. I'd like to make a recommendation

1 that we accept the request of staff -- a motion
2 that we accept the recommendation.

3 MR. BRYANT: I'll second.

4 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Motion and a second. Is
5 there any discussion?

6 (No audible responses given.)

7 CHAIRMAN APPLER: If none, all in favor say
8 "Aye".

9 BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

10 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Opposed, the same. Motion
11 carries.

12 MS. GLANTON: Patty Glanton, PRLU, item
13 number four, Western Arkansas Children's
14 Therapeutic Home, also known as WATCH, is
15 requesting a special consideration for
16 regulation 310.4, foster parent shall be
17 trained in crisis prevention and intervention,
18 before a child is placed in the home.

19 The agency is requesting this for Mr. M,
20 disabled vet, physical disability, that will
21 prevent him from engaging in the course. A
22 safety plan is included, stating that at no
23 time will Mr. M be left alone with the
24 children.

25 Licensing visited the home 11-20-19, to

1 discuss and clarify the safety plan. A
2 temporary special consideration was granted
3 November 13th, by Ebony Russ. PRLU supports
4 this request. And this is the same home, as
5 the previous one. I have Paula Riggs here with
6 WATCH if you have any further questions.

7 MR. ALTOM: I have a question, Mr. Chairman.
8 I know it says in here that this individual is
9 in a wheelchair, but how much -- how disabling
10 is -- is it just the wheelchair? Does he still
11 have use of his arms, and that type of thing?

12 MS. RIGGS: Yes. And I've seen him walk
13 with a walker, also. Because he took the
14 foster parent training. He went through the
15 training.

16 MR. TOLTETTE: So with that statement then,
17 he has the cognitive ability to be able to say,
18 "Don't do that," or "That's dangerous"?

19 MS. RIGGS: Yes.

20 MR. ALTOM: Because a big part of CPI is de-
21 escalation techniques, and that's just talking
22 people down. Matter fact, the physical stuff,
23 you shouldn't even be doing, unless there's
24 three individuals involved. If you're doing
25 the one that most of us are trained on, so I

1 don't know that -- I guess my question is --

2 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Well, I was going that
3 direction also. It seems to me from what we've
4 heard, that he can take this training.

5 MS. RIGGS: Yes, he could. He just can't do
6 the physical training.

7 CHAIRMAN APPLER: But he can go through the
8 training, to the extent --

9 MS. RIGGS: Right.

10 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Okay. We would like to
11 see him go through that training.

12 MS. RIGGS: Okay.

13 CHAIRMAN APPLER: So what we're going to do
14 -- Mr. West, can she just withdraw her request,
15 so we don't have to make a vote on it?

16 MR. WEST: If she wants to.

17 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Do you want to withdraw
18 your request? Otherwise, we'll vote no.

19 MS. RIGGS: Okay.

20 CHAIRMAN APPLER: So you're withdrawing the
21 request?

22 MS. RIGGS: Okay. I'll withdraw the
23 request.

24 CHAIRMAN APPLER: All right. Cool. Thank
25 you. Okay. And you'll provide documentation

1 at some point, that he's gone through this?

2 MS. GLANTON: Yes. When they actually open,
3 I will go review the record, and that's one of
4 the things that I look for, this is
5 certification, yes.

6 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Okay. Good. Thank you.

7 MS. GLANTON: Patty Glanton, PRLU and item
8 number five on the agenda. Arkansas Baptist
9 Children's Home is requesting a special
10 consideration for regulation to 11.6, foster
11 home shall not have more than two children,
12 under the age of two years, including the
13 foster parents own children.

14 Currently, there are five children placed
15 in the home, three under the age of two. A
16 female three, female six, female 18 months,
17 female 10 months, and one male 23 months. The
18 home is three-bedroom, with the parents
19 occupying the master bedroom. The second
20 bedroom, is occupied by a three-year-old and
21 six-year-old females. The third, is occupied
22 by the two children, two females, ages 10
23 months, and 18 months, along with the one male,
24 age 24 months. The room is furnished with two
25 cribs, and one toddler bed, has two single

1 operable windows.

2 Licensing visited the home to 2-26-19, with
3 no deficiencies, and again 11-7-19, due to this
4 request, to ensure the sleeping arrangements
5 would meet regulations. This request is time-
6 limited, due to one child turning three years
7 of age, January 26th. PLRU supports this
8 request. It's child specific, and in the best
9 interest of keeping the siblings together, in a
10 known family, due to previous placement. And I
11 have Ryan Ropp here with Arkansas Baptist
12 Children's Homes if you have any questions.

13 MR. ALTOM: I'll make a motion to approve
14 the request.

15 MR. TOLTETTE: I'll second.

16 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Motion and second. Any
17 discussion?

18 (No audible responses given.)

19 CHAIRMAN APPLER: If not, all in favor say
20 "Aye".

21 BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

22 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Opposed, the same. Motion
23 carries.

24 MR. BRYANT: Just for the record, I need to
25 abstain on that one, I'm on the Board of

1 Director's for the Children's Home, so I'm
2 going to abstain on that vote.

3 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Okay. Thank you.

4 MS. WHITE: LaKesha White, Placement and
5 Residential Licensing Unit. I will be
6 presenting items number six, seven, and eight.
7 Item number six is a request for space from
8 DCFS. DCFS is requesting a special
9 consideration for regulation 209.2, which
10 states each person shall have at least 50
11 square feet of floor space per occupant. This
12 request is to allow three females ages five,
13 six, and eight to share a bedroom that measures
14 146 square feet, which is four square feet,
15 less than the 150 needed for three people. The
16 bedroom consists of a full size bed, and a set
17 of stacked bunkbeds.

18 DCFS would like to place these children in
19 this home, because they have lived there for
20 three years, prior to coming into care. This
21 request is child specific, and time limited,
22 until December of 2021. PRLU granted a
23 temporary approval on 10-15-19. A monitored
24 visit was completed on 10-29-19. PRLU supports
25 this request. I have a Yvonne Peeler here,

1 with DCFS if you have any additional questions.

2 MR. ALTOM: I'll make a motion to approve
3 the request.

4 MS. MASSEY-FOTI: Second.

5 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Motion and a second. Is
6 there any discussion?

7 (No audible responses given.)

8 CHAIRMAN APPLER: If none, all in favor say
9 "Aye".

10 BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

11 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Opposed, the same. Motion
12 carries. DCFS abstains. Thank you.

13 MS. WHITE: Item number seven is also a
14 request for from DCFS for sleeping
15 arrangements. DCFS is requesting a special
16 consideration for regulation 209.10, which
17 states foster children except infants under the
18 age of two years, shall not share a sleeping
19 room with adults. This age will increase to
20 age 4, for a grandparent to the child, and a
21 teen parent in care with her child.

22 This request is to allow a three-year-old
23 male foster child to share a bedroom with his
24 aunt. The bedroom measures 174 square feet,
25 and consists of a king-size bed, and a toddler

1 bed. The family resides in a three bedroom
2 home, but the other rooms are occupied by the
3 foster child siblings, and other relatives.
4 This child has also lived with the aunt for
5 three years, prior to coming into care.

6 This request is child specific, and child
7 limited, until December of 2021. PRLU granted
8 temporary approval on 10-15-19. A monitored
9 visit was completed on 10-29-19. PRLU supports
10 this request. Yvonne Peeler here with DCFS, if
11 you have any additional questions.

12 MR. TOLTETTE: I make a motion that we
13 accepted the request of staff.

14 MR. ALTOM: I second.

15 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Motion and second. Any
16 discussion?

17 (No audible responses given.)

18 CHAIRMAN APPLER: If none, all in favor say
19 "Aye".

20 BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

21 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Opposed, the same. DCFS
22 abstains. Thank you.

23 MS. WHITE: Thank you. Item number eight is
24 also a request for DCFS, for space. DCFS is
25 requesting a special consideration for

1 regulation 209.2, which states each bedroom
2 shall have at least 50 square feet of floor
3 space per occupant. This request is to allow
4 two females, ages 10 and 13, to share a bedroom
5 that measures 92 square feet, which is eight
6 square feet less than the 100 needed for two
7 people. The bedroom consists of two beds and a
8 dresser.

9 DCFS would like to place these children in
10 this home, because they would be together with
11 a relative. DCFS also feels this home is in
12 the best interest of the children. This
13 request is child specific, and time limited,
14 until December 2021. PRLU granted a temporary
15 approval on 10-30-19. A monitored visit was
16 completed on 11-5-19. PRLU supports this
17 request. I have Tracy Holloway, supervisor
18 with DCFS, if you have any questions.

19 MR. ALTOM: I make a motion to approve the
20 request.

21 MR. TOLTETTE: I second.

22 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Motion and second. Any
23 discussion?

24 (No audible responses given.)

25 CHAIRMAN APPLER: If not, all in favor say

1 "Aye".

2 BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

3 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Opposed, the same. DCFS
4 abstains.

5 MS. WHITE: Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Number nine has been
7 canceled. Looking at 10.

8 MS. WESLEY: Ute Wesley with the Placement
9 and Residential Licensing Unit. I have with me
10 the DCFS resource worker, Erin Smith. Special
11 consideration is requested for regulation
12 209.2, which states that each bedroom shall
13 have at least 50 square feet of floor space per
14 occupant.

15 DCFS is requesting that three boys, ages
16 13, seven and six, will be allowed to share a
17 142.5 square feet bedroom. The six and seven-
18 year-old boys, that are in the bedroom, are the
19 couples grandchildren, whom they have custody
20 of. The 13-year-old -- the foster parents, are
21 the maternal uncle and aunt, to the 13-year-
22 old. The request is child specific, and is in
23 the best interest of the child. Temporary
24 approval was granted on 11-6-2019. The
25 licensing supports this request, and a

1 licensing visit was conducted on 12-5-19.

2 MR. ALTOM: I move that we approve the
3 request.

4 MR. BRYANT: Second.

5 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Motion and second. Any
6 discussion?

7 (No audible responses given.)

8 CHAIRMAN APPLER: All in favor say "Aye".

9 BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

10 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Opposed, the same. DCFS
11 abstains.

12 MS. WESLEY: This is number 11. Ute Wesley,
13 with the Placement and Residential Licensing
14 Unit. I have the Children's Homes caseworker,
15 Sarah Wade, with me for any questions.

16 Children's Homes is requesting special
17 consideration, for regulation 211.6, which
18 states that foster homes shall not have more
19 than two children under the age of two years.

20 The placement agency is requesting that a
21 set of two month -- a set a five month old
22 twins, be allowed to stay in the home, along
23 with another foster child who will be two years
24 old in May of 2020. The one-year-old has been
25 in the home since April of 2019. The foster

1 parents also have a 15-year-old daughter, and a
2 12-year-old son in the home, and they're
3 actually a lot of help to the parents.

4 If approved, this will allow for the twins
5 to be placed together in the same home, and
6 this request is child specific, and also time-
7 limited, two 5-26-2020. The request is in the
8 best interest of the children. Temporary
9 approval was granted on 10-3-2019. The
10 licensing unit supports this request. A
11 licensing visit was made on 12-3-19.

12 MR. TOLTETTE: Can you explain to me the
13 sleeping arrangements. I'm trying to look at
14 the map. If you could just reexplain it to me.

15 MS. WADE: Okay. The twins are in the
16 bedroom with the parents, the foster parents.

17 MR. TOLTETTE: Is that a master bedroom?

18 MS. WADE: Yes. And their son is in a room
19 across the hallway.

20 MR. TOLTETTE: And a bathroom in between?

21 MS. WADE: Yes. And then, upstairs, their
22 daughter has a room to the right. Upstairs and
23 to the left is the foster -- Braylon's room,
24 the other foster child.

25 MR. TOLTETTE: Bedroom three?

1 MS. WADGE: Yeah. There's two rooms
2 upstairs. One is the foster child. One is
3 their daughter.

4 MR. BRYANT: Is there's plenty of square
5 footage when the foster children reach age two
6 and need their own room?

7 MS. WADE: Yes.

8 MR. BRYANT: I move to approve this request.

9 MR. ALTOM: Second.

10 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Motion and second. I have
11 a question. The two -- is it five months old?

12 MS. WADGE: Yes.

13 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Sleeping in the adults
14 room. Is there supposed to be a request for that
15 to occur also?

16 MS. WESLEY: No. As long as it meets square
17 footage. They are under two; they can share a
18 sleeping room with adults.

19 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Somebody help me out here.
20 Don't we have a regulation that talks about
21 children under the age of two, sleeping -- or
22 what is it?

23 MR. ALTOM: It's over the age of two.

24 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Okay. Motion and second.
25 Any further discussion?

1 (No audible responses given.)

2 CHAIRMAN APPLER: If not, all in favor say
3 "Aye".

4 BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

5 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Opposed, the same.

6 MS. MARTIN: I'm abstaining. Even though
7 it's Children's Homes, my foster care kids.

8 CHAIRMAN APPLER: So you're abstaining?

9 MS. MARTIN: Yes.

10 MS. GALUSHA: Charlotte Galusha with
11 Placement and Residential Licensing. DCFS has
12 requested a special consideration for minimum
13 licensing standards 209.2, that each bedroom
14 shall have at least 50 square feet of floor
15 space per occupant.

16 DCFS has placed three siblings into the
17 home of their great aunt and uncle, they placed
18 a 12-year-old female, an eight-year-old female,
19 and a nine-year-old male. Also living in the
20 home, is the couples 10-year-old son, as well
21 as two 16-year-old granddaughters. Due to the
22 placement, the 12-year-old, and eight-year-old
23 females will be sharing a bedroom, with the two
24 16-year-old females. The bedroom measures
25 120.66 square feet, which is almost 80 square

1 feet under the required minimum.

2 Licensing did have some initial concerns,
3 due to the square footage being such a short
4 amount, but I went out to the home on 12-2. I
5 inspected the bedroom of the home where the
6 girls are sleeping. They have two sets of bunk
7 beds. The window was -- well, we raised it
8 while we were there. There is a clear direct
9 path to the bedroom door, in case they need to
10 get out. So I did feel comfortable with the
11 sleeping arrangements. There was a temporary
12 special consideration granted on 1025, for two
13 of the children, and then another temporary
14 approval was granted on 11-6, for the third
15 sibling to be placed in the home.

16 DCFS feels that this is in the best
17 interest of the children, as they can remain
18 together, in a relative's home, and the
19 licensing unit does support this request. I'm
20 here with Kathleen Armstrong from DCFS, and
21 also, the aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. L are
22 here as well. They are in the back, if you
23 have any questions.

24 CHAIRMAN APPLER: So there's four kids in a
25 bedroom?

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1 MS. GALUSHA: Four children in a bedroom,
2 and it's almost 80 square feet short the
3 minimum required.

4 MR. TOLTETTE: So you paid a visit to the
5 home?

6 MS. GALUSHA: I did. An unannounced visit,
7 actually.

8 MS. TOLTETTE: It sounds tight.

9 MS. GALUSHA: It was small, you know, with
10 four girls in there, but they did have adequate
11 sleeping arrangements. There was still a path.
12 It wasn't a lot of room, but it was still safe.

13 MR. BRYANT: How many feet between each set
14 of bunk beds?

15 MS. GALUSHA: One was facing this way, and
16 the other one was facing this way, so they
17 connected on that end, but I did look at that
18 as well, and there was room for them to exit
19 the beds.

20 MS. BRYANT: And where's the window, in
21 relation to bunkbeds?

22 MS. GALUSHA: I'm sorry. It's hard to
23 explain. You have two sets of bunk beds like
24 this, and then the window is over here on the
25 side.

1 MR. BRYANT: And is not obstructed by
2 bunkbeds?

3 MS. GALUSHA: It was not.

4 MR. TOLTETTE: It's close to the bathroom?

5 MS. GALUSHA: Yes.

6 MR. TOLTETTE: This may not have anything,
7 Mr. Chairman, but just thinking about that
8 tight area, for the girls to study, is there a
9 place, like the kitchen?

10 MS. GALUSHA: There is a kitchen/dining
11 area. They have a large table there. I
12 suppose the girls could sit at the table and
13 study, as well as the living room area.

14 MR. TOLTETTE: I'm just thinking about some
15 of the social interactions of four girls in a
16 small room.

17 MS. GALUSHA: And the foster parents did
18 inform me that they are looking for a bigger
19 place. They just have not been able to get one
20 yet.

21 MR. TOLTETTE: So this would be temporary?

22 MS. GALUSHA: They plan for it to be.

23 MR. ALTOM: This is all relative care,
24 though, right?

25 MS. GALUSHA: Yes. They are aunt and uncle

1 to the children.

2 MR. ALTOM: I'll make a motion to approve
3 the request.

4 MR. TOLTETTE: I'll second.

5 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Motion and second. Any
6 discussion?

7 (No audible responses given.)

8 CHAIRMAN APPLER: If not, all in favor, say
9 "Aye".

10 BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

11 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Opposed, the same. DCFS
12 abstains.

13 MS. STEPPS: Fatima Stepps, with Placement
14 and Residential Licensing Uunit. I have items
15 number 14 and 15 on your agenda. Item number
16 14, comes from Ouachita Children's Center.
17 Ouachita Children's Center, recently contracted
18 with DCFS to implement a QRTP program. This
19 program will provide services for up to four
20 children. This request is a two-part. The
21 agency is requesting a change of status to
22 their current license, to add a new residential
23 license, and to increase their current capacity
24 by four.

25 With this change, the additional makes the

1 total license capacity 26 children, and they'll
2 be providing services for zero to 18 years of
3 age.

4 I conducted an inspection on November 19,
5 2019, and the building does meet licensing
6 standards. I have Amy Higgins and Mr. Mark
7 Howard hear from the agency, in case you have
8 any questions, and PRLU does support the
9 request.

10 MR. ALTOM: Do these require two separate
11 motions?

12 CHAIRMAN APPLER: I don't know. Can
13 somebody tell me if it needs two motions or
14 just one.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think one should be
16 sufficient.

17 MR. ALTOM: I'll make a motion that we allow
18 Ouachita Children's Center, to change their
19 licensure status; is that correct? Requesting
20 they also increase the capacity with that.

21 MR. WEST: I think as long as both things
22 are covered in the motion, you're good.

23 MR. TOLTETTE: And I'll second that motion.

24 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Motion and a second. Any
25 discussion?

1 (No audible responses given.)

2 CHAIRMAN APPLER: If none, all in favor say
3 "Aye".

4 BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

5 CHAIRMAN APPLER: Opposed, same. Motion
6 carries.

7 MS. STEPPS: Your next item is number 15,
8 from Sunlight House. Sunlight House, is
9 requesting a special consideration on licensing
10 standard 201.11, which states the facility
11 shall admit children for a maximum of 90 days.
12 This request will allow a sibling group of four
13 children, ages six, 11, and eight and eight, to
14 remain as an emergency placement, exceeding 90
15 days, to prevent disruption of their current
16 placement.

17 DCFS believes, that this is in the best
18 interest of the children, to remain in this
19 placement, until the outcome of their court
20 date, in January 2020. I have Gayle with me
21 here, in case you have any questions, and PRLU
22 does support the agency's request.

23 CHAIRMAN APPLER: What's the purpose of the
24 court date? Is that for terminating of
25 parental rights or what?

1 MS. GAYLE: They're hoping that they will
2 find out more information by then, to see if
3 they can get placed or to go home. I don't
4 know for sure, and I don't know the process of
5 that, but they're hoping that they will know
6 something by the court date in January.

7 CHAIRMAN APPLER: All right.

8 MR. TOLTETTE: How old are they?

9 MS. GAYLE: Eight years old.

10 MR. TOLETTE: Are they going to school?

11 MS. GAYLE: Yes, and they're doing really
12 well. They are pretty well adjusted.
13 Academically, yes they are doing well.

14 CHAIRMAN APPLER: And you're just
15 anticipating the children to remain there,
16 until January 31, 2020?

17 MS. GAYLE: Yes.

18 MR. TOLTETTE: So it sounds like it's up to
19 the court, to determine what's going to happen?

20 MS. GAYLE: Yes.

21 MR. TOLTETTE: So you may wind up coming
22 back here again?

23 (No audible responses given.)

24 MR. ALTOM: I have a question. I know We've
25 seen providers before, that come in with

1 situations like this. These would be
2 candidates to go to a sibling style group home,
3 correct?

4 MS. MARTIN: I think so. Last time I was at
5 -- if this is the same one, you do have a -- do
6 you have a house parent living there or are you
7 operating on just staff?

8 MS. GAYLE: No, we have a house mom that
9 stays there 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

10 MR. ALTOM: So in the past, we've had
11 providers to come forward to try to do a
12 license to where they don't disrupt placements
13 like this. They come in under emergency
14 shelter, and then they end up -- find out it's
15 in the best interest to keep the child where
16 they are, and transition into that residential
17 license category, or umbrella. Is that an
18 option here?

19 MS. GAYLE: We're licensed as residential,
20 and emergency shelter. We have both license.

21 MR. ALTOM: So why are you wanting to keep
22 them as emergency shelter, versus residential?

23 MS. GAYLE: The placement right now, is what
24 it is.

25 MS. MARTIN: Is it because you have a

1 contract with DCFS, to pay for emergency
2 shelter, and you don't have a contract to pay
3 for residential?

4 MS. GAYLE: Right. We no longer have a
5 residential contract.

6 MR. ALTOM: So where would these kids go
7 eventually?

8 MS. MARTIN: Are you asking me?

9 MR. ALTOM: Yes ,I'm asking you.

10 MS. MARTIN: I was just making sure. I
11 mean, it just really depends. I mean they are
12 a sibling group. I can tell from my placement
13 unit email, they were trying to keep the
14 siblings together. I don't think that we have
15 any family-style care -- this is in Fordyce?

16 MS. GAYLE: Yes, this is in Fordyce.

17 MS. MARTIN: So I think that's one of the
18 issues, that we could look at one of our
19 family-style providers, but there's nothing
20 close to Fordyce. Do you happen to know where
21 these children are from?

22 MS. GAYLE: They're from Pulaski County. I
23 mean, I don't know how many questions I can
24 ask, it would just depend on where they would
25 go, based on what their needs are,, if they

1 have a foster parent and Polasky County who
2 could take them. I think one of the reasons
3 that my placement unit recommended it, is
4 because this is a house parent model and they
5 are doing well. It would be different if it
6 was an emergency shelter, that was running
7 shift staff I make a motion to approve the
8 request. I'll second motion and second. In a
9 discussion. I'm sorry. You know if the case
10 plan right now for permanency planning is
11 reunification, or as a family placement? They
12 are working on that now. I don't know how far
13 along there going to be. They have visitation
14 with her. Any further discussion? If none,
15 all in favor say I. Opposed the same. Motion
16 carries. You don't have to abstain from this
17 point, do you? I mean, I think I need a legal
18 opinion on this, but I'm going abstain today,
19 and then I'm going to get a legal opinion on
20 this. It makes me very nervous, voted on only
21 thing that relate to foster children. Yeah I
22 know. After the meeting, but today, I'm going
23 to abstain. With the placement and residential
24 licensing units. I will have 16 to 19 on the
25 agenda. Item 16 is a request from Trinity

1 behavioral healthcare systems for their ranch
2 facility. This facility has been an active for
3 over a year, and the agency is requesting a
4 license to remain open and in active status,
5 while pain examine their options, for their
6 facility and license. Placement and
7 residential licensing unit is in support of
8 this request. I have Joe here representing the
9 agency, to answer any questions that you might
10 have. So are you doing strategic planning
11 right now, or you don't have a vision? I think
12 the options are still open. No. I'm talking
13 about the process. I don't think they know
14 fully what they plan on doing quite get. We
15 were just hoping to keep the status of it open,
16 and the secession of licenses unbroken, close
17 last time you had kids in care? August 2015, I
18 believe. I make a motion to approve the
19 request. I'll second. Motion in a second.
20 Any discussion? Have you not initiated any
21 kind of strategic planning process? No, not
22 yet. The person who has been involved in that
23 process,. Are you still without a director?
24 Yes. I guess you can say the closest thing to
25 a director we have, is Ms. Kirk. She's the

1 infant individual whose submitted this request
2 in writing, and had it emailed to Ms. Painter,
3 on August 23, and 29. Actually, we're
4 continuing to say okay, but I believe that some
5 point, MI be good for the board to have
6 something to base it on, with regard to
7 strategic planning, in conversations, or
8 something that gives us an illusion, that
9 something else is moving forward. I actually
10 expected you to ask that, which is why I did
11 make it a point to contact Mr. Some money. I
12 did speak to him last night, and again, we
13 don't know what the options are. As far as the
14 regulations go, section 100.20 simply says is
15 shall lapse, unless is requested, and the
16 request shall be granted. So the regulations
17 don't have a time period, but we understand
18 that they can't continue right. And I'm just
19 thinking, from a layman's standpoint, that it
20 would be nice to know something is moving
21 forward. Certainly. Maybe a meeting or
22 something may I ask a question you shall just
23 for clarification, and I apologize, I'm sure
24 this is not an intelligent question, but by
25 continuing this license, you just saying that

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1 at some point, they can open the facility?
2 What are we actually saying by continuing the
3 license? What are we actually approving? I
4 can answer that, with what licensing has told
5 our facility, and that is, before we take kids
6 back into care, were supposed to notify the
7 placing placement my fixing unit, so that they
8 can send out a specialist to do an inspection,
9 and to personnel review, before kids Ashley
10 come to care. So you can't actually take a
11 child in right now? Not until we get a review
12 from the place meant licensing unit. But you
13 still have this facility? Is it just one
14 facility, at 1033 old bear growth? That's
15 correct. Essentially two types of licenses,
16 and I think it's license under eternity
17 behavioral health, if I'm not mistaken. One is
18 residential, unwanted psychiatric. And that's
19 the next request, I would guess. That's why
20 there are two requests on the agenda. Did I
21 hear, it's been an active year? How long have
22 you not had a placement? I think the last
23 child in care, left in August 2015. I'm sort
24 of uncomfortable, just to give giving you a
25 blank check, when you've shown no planning

1 process, no nothing. It's just, we give you
2 the license, and at some point you can take
3 kids, but you know, if there's no plans to do
4 that, that I've heard. And I think a couple of
5 board members share that concern also. Since
6 2015, we don't just want to keep given you a,
7 renewing your license every year. We want to
8 see something happening, to benefit the
9 children the slower call the child welfare
10 agency review board. So, do you want us to
11 take a vote on this, or do you want to withdraw
12 this? No I like to submit the request. I
13 don't believe the rules permit a denial at this
14 point, but I do take your consideration
15 seriously, and will make sure I communicate
16 that this is not something that can continue,
17 with a open ended. Can I ask another question?
18 So based on that response, can you reference me
19 what rules require, or allow us to give you an
20 additional license? If in general requirements
21 of the residential licensing, the child welfare
22 agency license and rules, section 100.20.
23 Which basically says all you have to do is keep
24 axing for valid license, or if you have a
25 license, you keep axing? Can somebody give me

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1 some clarification on why they're entitled to
2 this continued license? Because I think that
3 was your statement, is that we don't have a
4 reason to deny it, but what is the authority,
5 that we are supposed to continue to give you
6 that license? If you give me a moment, I'll
7 pull it up. So this does not say that the
8 board can grant a license, or not grant a
9 license. We have the option of going either
10 direction is when I'm reading. Here is what
11 I'm going Mr. Chair, I'm not trying to make it
12 difficult for anyone. I'm just trying to look
13 at the fact that we keep doing this, but we are
14 not seeing anything this seems to be moving
15 forward, to justify having a license. They
16 didn't have the license, then it would make a
17 difference. I don't want to be difficult, but
18 I was trying to find a little bit more
19 justification to make this license available,
20 if they don't have any kind of accountability
21 to live are giving out the license, they were
22 not being accountable ourselves. Not trying to
23 be difficult. I'm just trying to be logical
24 and rational about this. But it does say a
25 request in writing, that it remain open. A

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1 request means it can be denied, it's my
2 understanding and then, the next sentence says
3 the request shall be approved. Right. That's
4 the sentence that I was talking about. And to
5 me, if anyone is going to approve it, it has to
6 be the board, but to me, it doesn't mean you
7 have to approve it. That's my interpretation.
8 Here they were there requesting it from you.
9 Is there a motion on the floor at all? There
10 is. Have a motion to approve it, and the
11 reason I submit the motion to approved it, is
12 based on prior actions of this board, when
13 people have come forward, and we we haven't
14 asked that many questions about what you plan
15 to do, especially when it's adoption agencies,
16 who don't do anything in Arkansas, continuously
17 keep up license here. We don't even question
18 that, so I guess that's where I'm coming from.
19 I will say, that I think this is an instance,
20 where they married be some reason to question
21 you know, what is the plan long-term and stuff,
22 but there's also some business impacts to what
23 will come, I guess in the second place, is
24 because there's a POA tied to it. That's the
25 reason for the request that a peer so there's a

1 motion and a second. Any further discussion?
2 All in favor, say I oppose the same motion
3 motion carries. With respect to item, that was
4 number 16. All right. So item number 17, is a
5 request from Trinity behavioral health system
6 for their Trinity behavioral health facility
7 this facility has been an active four-year, and
8 the agency is requesting their license to
9 remain open in an active status, as they
10 continue to examine their options for the
11 facility, and license. Placement residential
12 licensing unit is in support of this request
13 and if I may, this is the same request with
14 respect to the psychiatric? Right. So this is
15 tied to the PLA, so there's a POA discounted in
16 the bed count, for the state of Arkansas? Yes.
17 And when these beds aren't field, that impact,
18 is that taken into consideration, by the health
19 service permit agency? That's the reason,
20 involvement of the health services payment
21 agency is the reason for the request. It is
22 written in Arkansas code annotated 928 4783,
23 that any licensed capacity, licensed as of
24 2003, is exempt from the PLA process, and these
25 are licenses that have been in place 13 years,

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1 before that date. So these don't impact the
2 POA? No, because there exempt from the PLA.
3 Do they get counted in the bed count, though?
4 I imagine they do, but also say this so. We
5 used to get the annual surveys from the health
6 services permit agency, and I don't recall
7 recall seeing one in the last year or two. We
8 would have had nothing to report, anyway. May
9 I ask a question though? So basically, if your
10 license continues as a child welfare licensing
11 agency, and you keep your license, your
12 exemption will allow you to expand out-of-state
13 beds, without going through health service
14 permit, right? Well, we would have been able
15 to expand for out-of-state children with POA
16 anyway, but I mean under this regime, we will
17 still have to contact residential licensing,
18 floor and inspecting visit before we can do
19 that. But if you lose your license, if your
20 license goes, if you lose your license, you
21 will no longer be exempt from the health
22 service permit? That's correct. So keep in
23 your license would make that facility? What is
24 the point, and obviously, that's the advice
25 I've given my client. If the license was not

1 continuously in effect. So the license would
2 transfer to, you would have to come back before
3 the board, to get a different license, for a
4 new provider you wouldn't transfer the license?
5 Like, but the exemption would be transferable.

6 Based on what?

7 Arkansas code annotated 928 407 a three a. A child
8 welfare agency license, has to be licensed or permitted
9 by the board, as of March 1, 2003, whether held by the
10 original licensee, or by a successor in interest to the
11 original licensee is exempted from obtaining so let's
12 transferable. The exemption is transferable. The
13 exemption is in a license or permit from the office of
14 long-term care obtaining any permit from the health
15 services permit agency, and obtaining a permit from the
16 agency, from the health services permit any future
17 capacity, to. So just to be clear, we approve your
18 license, and you then sell the facility, and transfer
19 the license, that new owner would be exempt from
20 basically, anything related to health service which
21 includes regulating all out-of-state band? Correct.
22 They would also have to contact the residential
23 licensing, to initiate and entirely new, I would
24 imagine. So you would have to license them, the new
25 owner, from the top down. But the exemption status

1 would be transferable. Do you have pediatric staff?
2 I'm sorry? Do you have pediatric staff? Not at this
3 time, no. Okay. There's been plenty of discussion. Is
4 there a motion on the floor? Boy, this is something.
5 It just leaves us, where he studied of all. As a
6 lawyer, you can prepare, and in that preparation, I
7 think you can recognize, that some of us have concerns,
8 but I don't hear anything illegal, so at this point in
9 time, I would like to make a motion to accept the
10 recommendation of staff. So there is a motion. Is
11 there a second anywhere? I'll second. Motion in the
12 second. Any further discussion? All in favor, signify
13 by saying I. And all the fault poles, same son. So the
14 board is tied. What do we do in that situation?
15 There's not a majority vote, the motion fails. Okay.
16 The motion failed. Sorry. Thank you. Number 18? Item
17 18 is a request from the young children's home. The
18 agency is requesting a special consideration to be
19 granted, to about a sibling group to remain in their
20 emergency cottage, class there 90th day. The agency
21 feels that it is in the best interest of the children,
22 to remain at the young children's home, in order for
23 them to remain together, and they're also meeting the
24 children's me at this facility. This request is time-
25 limited, and will expire on March 31, 2020. A temporary

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1 approval was granted by Anthony Russ on 11 four 2019.
2 Placement in residential licensing unit is in support of
3 this request and he with me today is administrator
4 Marlon Nelson to answer any questions that you might
5 have.do you expect reunification to occur? No, Sir. So
6 if it doesn't occur, there was going to happen to the
7 kids? We have three other homes on the property, that
8 are have long-term licenses, and the objective is once
9 one of those homes becomes available, these seven
10 siblings, was shift around to one of the other homes on
11 campus. We actually anticipated that happening long
12 before now, but it had several setbacks on the other
13 cases. I make a motion that we accept the request.
14 I'll second. Motion, and a second. Is there any
15 discussion? If not, all in favor, say I. I. Opposed
16 the same. Motion carries. Item 19, is a request from
17 Northwest Arkansas children's shelter. They are
18 requesting a special consideration, to allow the child
19 to remain at the facility past the 90th day, while this
20 facility continues to work on a transitional plan for
21 this child. Temporary approval, was approved by Ebony
22 Russ, and the request is time-limited, and will expire
23 on December 31, 2019. Placement residential licensing
24 unit, is in support of this request, and here with me
25 today, the social services director, Brenda Richard, and

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1 Stephanie Banks. Matt asked the question. I think I
2 know who this gait is so this kid was ordered into the
3 shelter, right? Correct. And has remained there, for
4 some time, because he was ordered into the shelter?
5 Correct. I don't abstain from this? Yeah, I probably
6 should. How is the kid doing? Wonderful. He's doing
7 great. We have on-site school, that he attends. He's
8 overcome a lot of difficulties, a lot of milestones.
9 Not the same child is when he came in. Do they have the
10 age of the child? He's seven. The relative is a DCFS
11 employee, that were working with? Yes. And were only
12 talking to three weeks tops? The 23rd, actually, is one
13 planning on transitioning to a relative. Has the court
14 approved that? I don't know. Yes. As long as
15 everything is going okay, yes. I moved to approve as
16 requested. I'll second. Okay. Motion and second. Any
17 further discussion? All in favor, say I. I. Opposed
18 the same. Motion carries. Thank you. So item number
19 20 has been pulled. Never getting into special
20 considerations. Are we doing 20 1A, or do we already do
21 that. So this is 20 1A? Yes. Item 20 1A, is a request
22 from Maggie house, for special consideration, for
23 permission to work. He with me today, representing the
24 agency, his administrator Stephen wants and staff, to
25 answer any questions that you might have, and the PRLU

1 is support in of this request. Everything good since
2 2002? Yes, Sir. Thing is most recent is 2010 arrest?
3 For hot check, yes. Sometimes things happen, and it's
4 okay things happen. I wasn't a very good kid. I
5 learned. When you do them as it Maggie's house?,
6 Residential tech. I make a motion to approve the
7 request. I'll second. Motion and a second. Any
8 discussion? All in favor say I. Opposed the same,
9 motion carries. Ronnie M these next items, the board is
10 just now getting the packets, so they're going to take
11 some time to read over them. So we ask for your
12 patience in doing that. So it's been 12 years? Yes,
13 Sir. So you guys want to become foster parents, right?
14 Yes, Sir. Have you started any of the training at all?
15 Yes, Sir. So what's the motivation, for wanting to do
16 foster care? Was your motivation? I took a lot of
17 wrong choices, and made a lot of mistakes coming up. I
18 can't really blame it on anybody, my mom and dad did the
19 best they could,. My trouble ended when I got out of
20 prison. I always wanted to give back, and since I've
21 been in the church, that's what I've been doing. Me and
22 my wife had a lot of hard times, trying to have our
23 first child. We tried for 10 years, she has six
24 miscarriages. Finally, we had to, but she wanted more,
25 and I just didn't want to see her go through any of the

1 physical threatening things, that can happen to a woman.
2 So we've just always had a love for children. That's
3 all she's done in her whole occupation, you know, we
4 just love children. I hate to did hated to tell her
5 didn't want to have any more of our own, because of the
6 risk, but this will put us closer to home. It will do
7 me some justice, on giving back. So what are you doing
8 now, to make a living? I worked for Smith Blair. I run
9 a chat line laser. I do some welding. I'm running 250
10 ton press, plate role. I've been there nine years.
11 I've got letters of recommendation. I don't know if
12 it's in your package. I have my own. I just wanted
13 this to go so well. I've been there nine years, and
14 would've had perfect attendance, had it not been for
15 taken off to come to this meeting. I don't feel bad
16 about that. It's for good calls. I work on cell
17 phones, and I've got my own barbecue catering business.
18 How long have you and your wife been together? 21
19 years, December 4. So she stayed with you of this
20 process? By the grace of God. Do you listen to her?
21 Most of the time she's right, but I still struggle with
22 the little bit of pride, yes sir how do. You don't have
23 to work on that. Yes, Sir. The chairman is watching
24 everything. Yes Sir. On. I take it very seriously.
25 Do you currently work or volunteer with kids? Yes, Sir.

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1 Would you do? We visit nursing homes often. We sponsor
2 the kids in our youth group, and also teach Sunday
3 school. I mean, just anything I can do to help the
4 kids, because I just always look down on myself, and
5 I've got a lot of friends that try to pick me up, I know
6 I can't erase the past, but I can make a difference in
7 the future. I make a motion that we approve the
8 request. I second. Motion is second. Any further
9 discussion? If none, all in favor say I. DCFS
10 abstains. Thank you, Sir. Thank you. Jessica M Wells
11 you just share with us was going on. Okay. My name is
12 Kayla. I'm a family service worker for Franklin County.
13 I'm here today, to represent Ms. Jessica. Ms. Jessica
14 is a provisional placement it can for a foster child.
15 Ms. Jessica has two criminal convictions from 2009. We
16 are asking for special consideration for the foster
17 child to remain in the home. Ms. Jessica is here to
18 answer any questions you may have. And who was with
19 her? She's the foster child. But they know each other,
20 right? It's bit of canned? Yes. I make a motion we
21 approve the request. I'll second. Smoking it motion
22 and a second, any discussion? If not? All in favor say
23 I. Opposed to same. DCFS abstains thank you. Daniel
24 R. So you're wanting to provide care for this child
25 that's the second time in foster care, right? Yes, Sir.

1 And you care for him before? It's a girl but yes Sir.
2 Yes. I know her since she was a baby, and the last time
3 her mom and her did live with me. She's very close to
4 my kids as well. Have you had any contact have you been
5 in contact with the young lady? Recently? She's placed
6 provisionally. We got temporary approval from Charles
7 plan on 11 eight of 19. So jersey is already placed in
8 the home with Amanda. How old is she? She's 17. I
9 read what you went through. You can own attorney. I've
10 overcome a lot. Yes, you have. And this young lady
11 feels a whole. My children her brothers and sisters,
12 yes. Tracy wanted child feels that this was really the
13 best placement? Because jersey had lived with her
14 earlier in 2019, pursuant to a power of attorney, while
15 her mother and father was going through some other
16 things. Jersey is part of a sibling group of four, and
17 fathers are involved with some of the other children.
18 There is one sibling that Miss Amanda you know, is
19 willing to consider, but some childcare has to be worked
20 out. But you really did think that there was a bond
21 between jersey and Miss Amanda? Yes. And we had lots
22 of fictive kin options. We didn't really have any
23 relative options that were viable. We had a fit of can
24 option, of someone that worked at the school, and when
25 we spoke with Jerzy about you know, what her hope would

1 be, she immediately said Amanda, without given a choice,
2 she mentioned Amanda as somewhere was she will feel
3 safe. Mr. Chair, I'd like to make a motion that we
4 accept the request of staff. I'll second. Motion and a
5 second. In the discussion? If not, all in favor say I.
6 Opposed the same, and DCFS abstains. Tonya C. So this
7 is your niece and nephew, that you want to care for?
8 Yes, Sir. And nothing since 1999? No, Sir. You were
9 going to nursing school. Did you complete that? I did
10 not. I went instead to medical assistant school, and I
11 work for an internal medicine doctor and and and
12 chronologist now, for two years. Before that, I worked
13 in an urgent care. Is that where you're working now? I
14 do. I worked at a place called the garment clinic, for
15 inner internal medicine doctor, and an endocrinologist.
16 Make a motion to approve the request. I'll second.
17 Motion in the second. Any discussion? If not, all in
18 favor say I. I. Post the same. So the history has
19 been expunged, right? Yes, Sir. Have a copy of the
20 expungement in my pocket, if you want to see it. This
21 request is for your grandchildren? Yes, ma'am. Well,
22 it's my girlfriend's grandchildren. I'm just as happy.
23 I've been in their lives since day one. We love them?
24 Are you are you currently working Sir? Yes, Sir. I
25 drive a truck. How often are you on the road? I'm

1 usually home about 23 nights a week. All I do is like
2 run Arkansas into Southeast, Georgia, Mississippi,
3 Alabama and Tennessee. If you eat at the restaurants
4 here around around Little Rock, they service by Cisco,
5 chances are, come back in from the west, on one of our
6 church. Nothing since 1995?) It was a bad decision,
7 you know. Moved to approve. Second motion in a second.
8 Any further discussion? If not, all in favor say I.
9 Oppose the same, motion carries, DCFS of stains. Thank
10 you all. Do you get any services from the VA? Yes, I
11 do. Is it helping you fit in? It's better, yes. I've
12 been going to the VA since 2012. Thank you for your
13 service. Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a
14 motion that we accept the request of staff. Second.
15 Motion in the second. In the discussion? Nine, all in
16 favor say I. Oppose the same. Motion carries, DCFS of
17 stains. Thank you for your time. This is
18 grandchildren? Yes, Sir. One of them you can here in
19 the hallway. We had temporary approval on 1121, the
20 children were placed on that date. Where do you work
21 at? I work at Simmons food and maintenance. Nothing
22 since 94? No, Sir. 10 years. I make a motion to
23 approve the request. I second. Motion and second. In
24 the discussion? Not. All in favor say I. Oppose the
25 same, motion carries, DCFS of stains think out. Nothing

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1 since 95? Correct. 2001. Yes, that's correct. You
2 grew up in the foster care system? I did this is your
3 nephew right, you're willing to foster? Yes. The
4 parent situation is pretty grim? Are they incarcerated?
5 I let my life elaborate on that. Both of the parents,
6 or mentally not able to take care of the child, nor
7 financially able to take care of the child. Do the kids
8 continue to have contact with their parents? We would
9 most definitely do whatever the court tells us to do, as
10 far as that matter goes. These are still under act 326?
11 Excuse me? Were these sealed under acts 346? Right.
12 Yes. If it have been three months from now, I don't
13 think I'll be standing here run a process. Moved to
14 approve this placement. The second. Motion a second.
15 In a discussion? Is nine, all in favor, say I. Oppose
16 the same, motion carries, DCFS abstains. Thank you,
17 Sir. Thank you. Do you work at a, Sir?,
18 Superintendent, well, actually to apartment complexes in
19 Texarkana. Prior to that, I was a hotel general
20 manager, that I step down on, after my wife got sick
21 with breast cancer. I'm still writing my book. You
22 know, as you can see, who I am and what I've done speaks
23 for itself, but I've changed. I'm 51 years old in May.
24 My wife has gone through breast cancer, starting as of
25 last year on her birthday, and we just recently finished

1 chemo and all of that. We got a clean bill of health.
2 And while this went on, my mother passed away. I lost
3 my mother on Mother's Day. Her sister died right after
4 you know, at 32 years old. You know, Sharonda just
5 recently came to me, and we went to the class and talk
6 to me about the situation going on. And I said to
7 myself, you know, my mother named me after Paul, and my
8 story wasn't over with. And were talking about a two-
9 year-old did here, that needs a chance. You know, a
10 chance that he may not get from somewhere else. You
11 know, I automatically told her that you know, whatever I
12 could do. And we went down to the Arkansas side, and
13 they asked me about my background. You know, because
14 that was the end. You know, I know who I am now. I can
15 look at myself in the mirror, and I know I would be a
16 good role model for this boy, to show him how to become
17 a man, because I can show him everything that I've gone
18 through. And you can't, you don't have to go that way.
19 My wife, she has worked for the agency, as you can see,
20 for 18 years and six months. If anybody is a child
21 advocate, you know, anybody that saved my life, it's
22 been my wife. My life saved me, because she married me,
23 even when I went to prison. So whatever we can do for
24 this child, whatever I can do for my life, I'm going to
25 do it until I leave here. She saved me. I'm the lucky

1 one. A man. It's hard to stand there, is amiss, Sir?
2 Y'all just have no idea, Sir. I met this lady, in
3 Nacogdoches Texas. We met at a pizza place. You know,
4 this is my life story. She came in, one of her
5 roommates was looking for an application for a job.
6 We've never forgotten each other all this time. And I
7 went to prison after that, not something that I've done,
8 but because of what my mother told me. People places
9 and things. One day you're going to cry Wolf, and
10 they're not going to believe you, and that was the date.
11 She stood by me all those years. I wrote her letters,
12 and sent her letters. She thought I was crazy when I
13 went to jail, but I never lost contact with her. And
14 when I got out, I went to Texarkana, and I told her that
15 I was better off with her, then without her. We had
16 Brooklyn. Best thing to ever happen to us, because our
17 daughter Brooklyn came in between losing my mom. The
18 best thing that ever happened to me, and her losing a
19 sister. So like I said, whatever I have to do for this
20 for, to get into the next step, before I leave this
21 earth, I'm going to do it. And it looks like those 90s
22 were broken? Yes, they was. A temporal life about that
23 all the time. I wasted 15 years of my life. 15 years
24 of my life, and here I am now. I'm 50. And I tell my
25 daughter, seven years old every day, you're going to

1 listen, if you want to think about it when I'm gone, but
2 you need to listen while I'm here. My mom told me,
3 don't jump around the clock for me when I'm dead. Show
4 me that love while I'm here, and listen to me, and obey
5 my commandments. She'll tell you, I have this
6 conversation with her every morning. I'm not here to
7 tell you what to do. I'm here to help you navigate this
8 life, because I've already lived it. Did you get my
9 brother over there? Yes. I make a motion to approved.
10 I accept. Motion and a second, any further discussion?
11 If not, all in favor say hi oppose the same. Motion
12 carries. DCFS abstains. Thank you, sir. No, I thank
13 you all. Report of temporary approvals, actions.
14 Everything on that list was either taken care of today,
15 or has been placed on the January agenda. So everything
16 is done? Yes, Sir. All right. Other business? No
17 other business? Okay. Our next meeting is Wednesday,
18 January 22 and 2020. Merry Christmas everybody. We're
19 adjourned.

20 (WHEREUPON, the proceedings were concluded
21 in this matter at *** .m.)
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CERTIFICATE

STATE OF ARKANSAS)
) ss
 COUNTY OF PULASKI)

I, Tiffanie N. Harrison, CCR, Certified Stenomask Reporter before whom the foregoing testimony was taken, do hereby certify that the witness was duly sworn by me; that the testimony of said witness was taken by me and was thereafter reduced to typewritten form under my supervision; that the deposition is a true and correct record of the testimony given by said witness; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by the parties to the action in which this deposition was taken, and further, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto, nor financially interested in the outcome of this action.

I FURTHER CERTIFY, that I have no contract with the parties within this action that affects or has a substantial tendency to affect impartiality, that requires me to relinquish control of an original deposition transcript or copies of the transcript before it is certified and delivered to the custodial attorney, or that requires me to provide any service not made available to all parties to the action.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL this ** day of ***,
 2019.

 TIFFANIE N. HARRISON
 Arkansas State Supreme Court
 Certified Court Reporter #757