Transcript of the Testimony of
Child Welfare Agency Review Board
meeting 9-23-2020

Date: September 23, 2020

Case:

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MEETING OF
CHILD WELFARE AGENCY REVIEW BOARD
TAKEN ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2020
AT 1:30 P.M.
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
700 WEST MAIN STREET
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72201

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BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

MR. CHARLES FLYNN, CHAIRMAN
MR. ANDREW WATSON
MR. ANDY ALTOM
MS. BEVERLY MASSEY FOTI
MR. JOSH BRYANT (VIA ZOOM)
MS. SANDI DOHERTY (VIA ZOOM)
MR. SANFORD TOLLETTE (VIA ZOOM)

ALSO PRESENT:

MR. JOE WEST, ATTORNEY FOR THE BOARD
MS. EBONY RUSS, PLACEMENT AND RESIDENTIAL LICENSING MANAGER
MR. CHARLES ARNOLD, MEETING FACILITATOR
MS. MICHELLE BRIDGES BELL, ATTORNEY FOR PRLU
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MR. ARNOLD: For our foster parents we want to be using your first names for confidentiality purposes. This is not any matter -- any disrespect. Whenever we call your name -- and this is a new thing -- be sure and whenever you're speaking, state your name and whenever you're on Zoom, we may not have your my iPhone on yet, so if you'd state your name and ask him to hear you, then we can make sure everybody can be heard at that time. For those that are in the -- in the room, if you parked in the parking desk, Ms. Pam has a validation card for you. You can see her before you leave. After your matter has been heard, you can go ahead and leave or you can stay. This is a public meeting, but most people go ahead and leave or exit the Zoom meeting, and I believe that is everything that I have for our pre-announcements.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: We'll come to order the September 23rd, 2020, meeting of the Child Welfare Agency Review Board. This is a question. Ms. Court Reporter, do you have the names of the board member that -- that are the not in room. Just for the board, who is -- who is online? Which board members are online?

MR. ARNOLD: Mr. Tollette is online,
I believe Sandi Doherty is online, and Josh Bryant is online, too. So first order of business today is to approve the minutes from the July 22nd meeting. Is there a motion?

MR. ALTOM: I make a motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Motion by Andy.

MR. TOLLETTE: Tollette, second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Sanford second. All in favor say aye?

(Ayes voiced.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Anybody opposed same sign? No one's opposed so we will move on to special considerations from Mr. Arnold.

MR. ARNOLD: Ms. Lendy and Mrs. Bridgett will be the first one up. As you come in, if you'll grab the Lysol wipes so you can hold the microphone. And as we pass these -- we'll pass these out. We'll let the board members have a few minutes to look over these because this will be the first time that they've seen these packets.

MR. TOLLETTE: Mr. Chairman, since I'm not there I can't really vote on these special considerations. Am I correct?

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: You're correct. All
the board members online will sit there and kind of listen to the discussion and after we finish this section, then we'll be back up to vote, but not during these four.

MR. TOLLETTE: A point of clarification, Mr. Chairman. If I happen to have an opinion, can I still express it even though I can't vote?

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: That would be -- yes, you can -- you can speak towards the -- towards the discussion.

MR. TOLLETTE: I might rephrase it as an observation.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Okay.

MR. TOLLETTE: Thank you, sir. I'm going to -- I'm going to go back to mute.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Everybody agrees that no one in the room is capable of keeping Sanford from us. We welcome you, Sanford, all right.

MR. TOLLETTE: I'm being nice.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Go ahead and introduce yourselves.

MS. JONES: I'm Lendy Jones. I'm with DCFS and this is Ms. Bridgett.
CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Okay. Thank you. Just give us a minute here. We're going to review this.

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

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All right. I have a motion to approve the request, so I need a second. Can someone second that?

MS. FOTI: Second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Okay. Beverly has a second. Any other questions or comments? All in favor say aye?

(Ayes voiced.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All opposed same sign? All right.

MR. TOLLETTE: Mr. Chairman, can you hold the mike up?

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Yeah. I'm sorry. We've dealt with this, Sanford. There was no discussion and we are moving on.

MR. TOLLETTE: So I can vote?

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: And good luck. Thank you very much for coming in today. All right. Sanford.

MR. TOLLETTE: Mr. Chairman, that's
okay. I can see a pretty picture. I don't see yours.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: We don't have a camera in here. I'm not wearing overalls, either.

MR. ARNOLD: Mr. Charles, you'll be next.

MS. MCDANIEL: I'm Cathleen McDaniel from DCFS. This is the foster parent.

MR. ALTOM: You have not had any issues since 1998; is that correct?

A. (Charles K) Yes, sir.

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

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Got a motion to approve. Is there a second?

MR. ALTOM: I'll second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All in favor say aye?

(Ayes voiced.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Anyone opposed a like sign? Thank you for coming in.

MR. ARNOLD: Item No. C has been -- is no longer needed, so we'll go on to letter D.

It's Ferlin G.

MS. HOUSTON: My name is Keisha
Houston. I'm with DCFS. I'm here with Ferlin G.
with the adoptive home.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: You're very specific
about what age you're interested in adopting.
That's good. How did you and your wife decide to --
to come up to seek an adoptive placement?

A. (Ferlin G) We had two daughters. My
stepdaughters, of course, in the home and we just
have a lot of room, you know, and have a heart for
the children. We had originally -- what really set
it all off we considered this years ago, but I was
under the impression that I wouldn't have an
opportunity because of my past when I was a young
man, but we received a call from St. Louis,
Missouri, on my phone trying to find my wife, and it
was like her third or forth cousin's children had
been taken and we were going to take the child, and
so they said they would -- let's see the terminology
I want to use -- they would overlook my past
experience because it was a relative. We started
researching and learning the need that there is for
children out there and how we could be a help and we
were going for a child and then found out it had
autism and Aspergers and they decided to keep the
child in Missouri with the doctors and counselors
they had and they found a family, so we do know there was a need for the children, especially teenagers, so we decided to pursue this knowing that there may be a chance that we may not be approved, but the child's life is worth the effort, so . . .

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Thank you for coming in today and being willing to share your story, even though you could stay home and not do that and not be --

MR. TOLLETTE: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Yes, Sanford.

MR. TOLLETTE: I am touched by the story, especially with the -- when we have someone that's going to step up and give them a safe, wonderful home for children in need, and especially since it's still with family. When you call for it, I'd like to make the motion that we accept the recommendation of staff.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: We don't even know if you can do that since you haven't seen the documents. I think we'd be better to ask someone in the room that's seen the documents.

MR. TOLLETTE: This was just an observation. I retrack my motion.

MR. WEST: I don't think we need --
may I have a microphone, if I may, to address the
board? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All right. Joe is
going to talk to us.

MR. WEST: I don't believe there's an
issue if Mr. Flynn or any of the other board members
would make a motion. I have been -- I think it's
generally prudent that they have chosen not to vote
on these things since they don't have the documents
in front of them, but if -- if lack of knowledge
with any other board or commission member or any
other board or commission voting on it, there would
be several votes that would be invalidated, so if
Mr. Tollette wishes to make a motion, let the motion
be voted on and I don't see any issue with that if,
Mr. Chairman, you want to.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: I'm comfortable do
they -- do they vote or do they just make a motion?

MR. WEST: They can vote. I believe
there is a decision from what I -- what I can recall
from these meetings that they are volunteering, not
voting because they don't have the paperwork in
front of them, but if what -- if what Mr. Tollette
has heard is enough for him to pull the trigger on
making a motion and voting, that's his call as a
member of the board if he wants to do that.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: I'm comfortable with
that. I'm sure the other board members feel the
same, so, Sanford, your vote is now -- your motion
is on the record. We need a second.

MR. TOLLETTE: Thank you, sir, and
thank you, Counselor. I'll tell the Chairman to
give you a raise.

MR. WEST: Thank you, Mr. Tollett.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: We have a motion.

Do we have a second?

MR. ALTOM: I'll second it.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Andy. All in favor
to approve this request say aye?

(Ayes voiced.)

MR. TOLLETTE: Can I vote?

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Yeah, you can vote.

We just -- we've just opened up that, Sanford, so
you guys out there around the state can participate
and if anyone is opposed, a like sign. And no one
is. Congratulations and thank you for coming today.

MS. GALUSHA: I'm Charlotte Galusha,
a specialist with Ouachita Children's home and I
believe we have Amy Higgins from Ouachita.

MS. HIGGINS: Yes, ma'am, this is
Amy. Can you hear me?

MS. GALUSHA: Yes, Amy, we can hear you. Thank you. Ouachita Children's Center has requested a increase of capacity of two for their residential treatment program. They -- the building they've used, they have recently taken a room that wasn't used and converted it to a bedroom and there's room for two children in that bedroom. I have myself saw no deficiency and the PRLU supports the request.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Thank you, Charlotte. All right. Any questions from the board?

MR. BRYANT: I move to accept the recommendation.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Is there a second?

MR. TOLLETTE: Sanford, second.

THE COURT: All in favor say aye?

(Ayes voiced.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Anyone opposed like sign. Request approved. Thank you.

MR. ARNOLD: The next item on the agenda is Texarkana Baptist Children's Home, and I believe Mrs. Sha, are you on Zoom? We cannot hear you. Ms. Sha, are you -- can you unmute your --
Mrs. Sha is our supervisor for the PRLU. She is presenting this. Is this Ms. Heather Thompson from Texarkana Baptist as well? Sha, are you available?

MS. LITZSEY: Yes, I am.

MR. ARNOLD: Okay. We're ready for this item.

MS. LITZSEY: Okay. This is Sharra Litzsey presenting for Texarkana Baptist Children's Home. Texarkana Baptist Children's Home has a certificate of exemption. The agency has been in substantial compliance with and it's determined through monitoring of personnel records, children's records and facility inspections. The agency is requesting to continue to operate under the church-operated exemption. The placement and residential licensing unit supports this request.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Okay. Anyone have any questions for Heather or for anyone? All right. No questions. I have a motion?

MR. BRYANT: This is Josh Bryant. I so move.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Josh Bryant made a motion to approve. Is that correct, Josh?

MR. BRYANT: It is.

THE COURT: All right. Do I have a
second?

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: I'll second. All in
favor say aye.

(Ayes voiced.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Anyone opposed the
like sign. All right. It approves. See you,
Heather.

MR. ARNOLD: Mr. Chairman, I have the
next three or four items on the agenda. My name is
Charles Arnold with the licensing unit. Our first
one is for New Life Children's Home. Mr. Measles,
are you on the line?

MR. MEASLES: Yes, Mr. Arnold, I am
and I also have Mr. Bounpous.

MR. ARNOLD: I have Mr. Measles and
Mr. Bounpous on for representatives of the New Life
Children's Home. New Life Children's Home is
requesting the special consideration to Standard
104.1 to hire Mr. Measles as the administrator
without having his bachelor's degree as of yet. Mr.
Measles is in school and anticipates graduating with
his bachelor's in May of 2021. Mr. Measles will be
under the supervision of Dr. Anna Webb until he
graduates, and since Mr. Measles has worked for
almost five years at New Life Children's Home and
will be under the supervision of Ms. Webb -- Dr. Webb, the placement residential licensing unit supports this request.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: I have a motion to approve the request.

MS. DOHERTY: Second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Sandra Doherty. All right. I have a motion and a second. One other question to ask and quick because we need to vote.

MR. TOLLETTE: What's his degree? What is he studying? This is Sanford.

MR. MEASLES: I have a general studies degree with emphasis on sociology, criminology and education.

MR. TOLLETTE: Great. Are you planning to keep on going for your master's?

MR. MEASLES: Yes, sir, I am.

MR. TOLLETTE: I felt that. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Ready for the vote.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All right. Mr. Sanford, thank you for that encouraging comment. All in favor say aye.

(Ayes voiced.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Anyone opposed with a like sign. And the request is approved. Good
luck.

MR. ARNOLD: The next item on the agenda is No. 5 is Timothy Hill. I believe we have Thaddaeus Hill and Mr. James Clifford on the line. Mr. Chairman, this is a request for a new license for a transitional living and before we get into this one, I will be presenting a request for a new license. Then I'll be asking for two special considerations due to the fact that new licenses standards have not been promulgated yet. They are in the works to have a transitional living program as a stand-alone program. Right now their regulation is part of the residential facility that they -- that the children have to be in that residential facility before they turn 18 and then they can go to transitional living. We are in the process to -- with the regulation, like I said, to make this as a stand-alone, so we would like to go ahead and present this request for a new license and then I will request the two special considerations that are needed, so Timothy Hill Children's Ranch is requesting a new transitional living license to provide services to clients ages 18 to 21 for the capacity of four clients to start. Based on Timothy Hill's application and other information obtained
through the agency, the licensing unit recommends that Timothy Hill Children's Ranch be granted a provisional transitional living license, and Mr. Thaddeus Hill is here and he can describe more of their program that they have in -- in other states for many years. Mr. Thaddeus Hill.

MR. HILL: Yes, sir, Mr. Arnold.

Thank you very much. Know that I'm the new person on the block and grateful to be a part of this. I'm not new to Arkansas. My family's got some roots that go back to the 1950s and I myself was a student at Harding University in 1990s, so getting back after 1995, and so we are happy to say we've been incorporated since 1976. Our home base is out of Long Island, New York. We have a lot of southern groups: Oklahoma, Arkansas and Tennessee. We are licensed also in the State of Tennessee and started work at the DCFS there and we have had a vision of connecting with Arkansas for a long time. We specifically in the last 15 to 20 years have had a lot of specialty programs relating to what we consider transitional-aged youth and we work with the young, 17, go up to 25, and various programs in that capacity, but we largely consider ourselves a faith-based organization. We present ourselves as
very work-force development centered program. I
think one of the best things we can do for young
people is teach them how to fish instead of giving
them a fish and we take that very seriously, so we
actually, believe it or not, for some of you that
may not be familiar with the New York landscape, we
actually have a working ranch near Long Island, New
York. We obviously have a great facility in
Tennessee as well, but we are scheduled and slated
to close on some property in Searcy on Monday of
this coming week. I'll be getting on a plane and
flying down tomorrow and spending some time down
there to get that facility ready, so we would be
very honored to have this license granted and it
would be an honor to be able to partner with working
with transitional youth in the State of Arkansas.
And I'll proffer any questions.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Thank you for a good
explanation. I have tried to read a little bit of
this myself in the last couple of days, so pending
approval of this, I would like to welcome you to
Arkansas. I think this is one of my least favorite
things I'm told is having someone with a good
license not available so we can meet you face to
face and get to know more about you, so we
welcome -- we look forward to doing that after you -- you're in the state, but does anyone have any questions about this request?

MR. TOLLETTE: Mr. Chair, I may have a couple of questions to make and comments, if I may.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Go ahead, sir.

MR. TOLLETTE: This is Sanford Tollette. How do I say your last name, sir?

MR. HILL: My last name is Hill.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Thaddeus Hill, Sanford.

MR. TOLLETTE: Thaddeus Hill. I saw Chief Hill, so I got confused. But, Mr. Hill, you say you're based in New York?

MR. HILL: Yes, sir.

MR. TOLLETTE: Okay. First thing is at the ranch -- and I'm a camp director if you can tell by my attire -- are you familiar with the out-of-bound concepts and spiritual educational strategies?

MR. HILL: Yes, sir, and I'm a big fan of Kurt Hahn, yes, sir.

MR. TOLLETTE: Okay. Well, I'm a Kurt Hahn award winner, okay?
MR. HILL: Okay.

MR. TOLLETTE: At the -- at the international AE, so we can talk the language. So are you implementing spiritual education in your faith-based programs?

MR. HILL: Yes, sir. In fact, my -- my master's degree -- I have two master's degrees in business and in social work and my thesis was done on the therapeutic value of experience with spiritual-based learning program.

MR. TOLLETTE: Okay. So I'm already impressed. You went to Harding, so you've got Arkansas roots.

MR. HILL: Yes, sir.

MR. TOLLETTE: I hope you know how to call the Hogs every once in a while. There you go, but I'm really interested in my last question. How old is the facility that you have inherited?

MR. HILL: The facility that's in Arkansas is --

MR. TOLLETTE: Correct, correct.

MR. HILL: So I think the gentleman built the house about 20 years ago, but the construction is phenomenal. Obviously we'll be taking the next four to six weeks to -- to make sure
that it meets code. We've had Mr. Arnold walk us through very carefully in terms of making sure of what the specs are on that and it will be -- it's a small, 18-acre working ranch, but we've got cattle fenced off, we've got use of things on that property. You know, ultimately we want to give them some of the basic workforce readiness skills. We do an on-site internship with young people to start. I think that's a critical piece before we put them into the work force, and so then we partner with job placement. We don't send them out looking for a job. We partner with employers that we prescreen and we actually place them in the areas of their interest and we look for applying people who can give them the work opportunity, not just minimum wage.

MR. TOLLETTE: And the last comment and -- and maybe question. When you say work force, which I'm really interested in, are you concentrating on certain types of skills to develop our kids to go in? I say our kids in Arkansas, but all kids.

MR. HILL: Yes, sir.

MR. TOLLETTE: Do you have a specialty that -- that you're pursuing or are you
just a general in terms of the approach?

MR. HILL: Yeah. We will have some areas of mutuality that we feel like the property that we have and so there may be some agricultural pieces there. Obviously construction, landscaping, culinary. You know, we generally have about six or eight different areas we'll focus on and not certificate programs, but we're really -- we're interested in developing that work ethic to get them above board and kind of show that their efforts prove that they're work ready so that we're putting our stamp on it. In New York we have several employers who, when they call us up, they don't ask for an interview. They just say give us a resume and we have them show up at a certain time because they know we're putting our stamp on it. We're not just going to send somebody who's not work ready, but ultimately these young people have to figure out how to get it on their own and we have a great passion for that, and I honestly, Mr. Chairman, the State of Arkansas, this is a conversation we began about four years, but -- with DHS and we -- and I really tip my hat to several of the staff within DHS including Ms. Harper and some of the others that are deep within the walls there because I think that
they take in a very solid, comprehensive look at how
to change the model and the mindset in Arkansas as
it relates to transitional programming and I think
that what I saw that this is a big step forward for
this state and I'm very honored that we get a chance
to be a part of it.

MR. TOLLETTE: Thank you, Mr. Hill,
and thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know I -- I
generally am blended, but I -- I needed to get that
information. Mr. Hill, you have more than
adequately responded to my comments, observations
and questions.

MR. HILL: Thank you, sir.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: And this is not the
last time Sanford -- Sanford will probably come and
see you. He's definitely -- he's got the --

MR. TOLLETTE: I sincerely say that.
I'm looking forward to meeting you.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: And, Thaddaeus, I
think you're going to enjoy being in Arkansas. We
have a -- we have great relationships here with our
service agencies, with the Division of Children and
Family Services and a lot of opportunity here and I
think you guys are going to be very successful.

MR. HILL: Well, the only other place
that I've been for five years outside of my homeland here in Eastern Long Island and I enjoyed it and,
Mr. Sanford, I'll be on the ground as of Friday morning through Thursday of next week, so if you want to host, I'll be more than happy. Mr. Arnold here has my contact information. I'll be more than happy to host you.

MR. TOLLETTE: I'm definitely very curious because there's not many people that know anything about Kurt Hahn, so you can roll egg rolls with me and I think a lot of people need to research him. Powerful human being.

MR. HILL: There's more of this than we know.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: So, Sanford, can I guess you want to make a recommendation, Sanford?

MR. TOLLETTE: Yes, sir. I would like to make a motion that we accept the recommendation of staff.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All right. We have a recommendation for a request for a new license. We have two more things we're going to vote on related to -- related to the program, but right now I have a motion and a second. Sanford made the motion and Andrew made the second or we have two
people with the same name. Andrew. Andy or Andrew. They kind of spoke together. I can hear Andy. He's close to me, so all in favor say aye.

(Ayes voiced.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All opposed with like sign. There's not, so moving on, Charlie to the second item.

MR. ARNOLD: The second item is special consideration to Standard 101.1 that a agency seeking a transitional living license. That agency shall have residential licensing in good standing. Timothy Hill Children's Ranch is requesting this special consideration so they can operate a stand-alone transitional living program. Timothy has policies and procedures in place for this type of program and they have experience offering transitional living programs for the last 40 years. Licensed in New York and recently licensed in Tennessee, and since the new regulation that are being proposed to allow this stand-alone transitional living program, the placement residential licensing unit supports this request.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Does anyone have any question about the process right now? Not about the program, about the process of making these
recommendations? If not, then I'll maintain a
motion to approve this request.

MR. TOLLETTE: I second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: I'll make the motion
and you second it. How is that? All in favor say
aye.

(Ayes voiced.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Anyone opposed with
like sign?

MR. ARNOLD: And one more for this
specific Timothy Hill agency. They are asking
special consideration to 802.1.b stating that a
resident that is at least 18 years of age is
transferred directly from their residential program
into their transitional living program without a
break in care. Timothy Hill Ranch is requesting a
special consideration to be able to admit clients
directly into their transitional living program, not
from a -- their own residential program. All the
clients will -- admitted will be 18 years of age to
21 years of age and they will be still in the
custody of DCFS allowing them to be still be
considered as children instead of adults because of
their -- the definition of -- in our law. Again,
all these things are based on their application and
they're providing services and other as a licensing agency in New York and Tennessee and the PRLU supports this request.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All right. Any questions about this? This is -- couple of times at least today, so -- and as I understand this process is promulgated, after December these requests will all be covered. This is kind of a unique type of district for us while these rules are promulgated, so does anyone have any questions about this vote?

MR. ALTOM: I make a motion that we approve the request.

MS. FOTI: I'll second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Andy and Beverly. And all in favor say aye.

(Ayes voiced.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Anyone opposed like sign? And there is none, so thank you, guys, and I look forward to seeing you guys in --

MR. TOLLETTE: I hope I see you, Mr. Hill. Let's make contact.

MR. HILL: Yes, sir. I look forward to it.

MR. TOLLETTE: I'm really curious about what you're doing.
MR. ARNOLD: Thank you, Mr. Hill.

Thank you.

MR. HILL: Thank you. I do have to step into another meeting, so I apologize and so I thank you folks for your time and honor.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Thank you for being here.

MR. ARNOLD: Mr. Chairman, the next item on the agenda is from Children's Homes. It's No. 8 on the agenda. Is Sara Wade on the line?

MS. WADE: I'm here.

MR. ARNOLD: Mr. Chairman, Children's Homes is requesting special consideration to S/C No. 209.10, the foster children except infants under the age of two shall not sleep in the room with the adults unless they're age 4 and there will be an increase to age 4 for a grandparent. Children's Homes is requesting this special consideration to allow BJ to continue to sleep in the master bedroom with the foster parents, Ryan and Carla S, after he turns two and he will be on October the 2nd of this year. BJ has several medical needs that give weight to this request and the placement residential licensing unit supports the request and per regulations this will be time limited until
September 30th of 2022, and I did monitor the home on 8/20 of this year.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Any questions from the board?

MR. TOLLETTE: Mr. Chairman, I have no objections and I'd like to make a motion to accept the recommendation of staff.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: We have a motion from Sanford. We have a motion from Sanford.

MR. BRYANT: Josh Bryant. I'll second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Second. All in favor say aye.

(Ayes voiced.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Any opposed a like sign and there is none. Thank you. Request is approved.

MR. ARNOLD: The next item on the agenda is for Fostering Change, and after that they have two requests and then after that UMCH will be on board, so Sha.

MS. LITZSEY: Good afternoon. My name is Sharra Litzsey and I am a program coordinator with the placement and residential listening unit. Fostering Change is requesting the
special consideration to be able to admit children
into their transitional living program -- I'm sorry.
I need to start over. This is Sharra Litzsey with
the placement and residential licensing unit.
Western Arkansas Counseling and Guidance Center,
author of Fostering Change Reintegration Program, is
requesting to add a transitional living license with
the capacity of four to serve clients between the
ages of 18 and 21. Fostering Change has held a
residential license since 2018 and recently awarded
a supervised independent living contract with DCFS.
Based on the information received from the agency,
the licensing unit recommends that Western Arkansas
Counseling and Guidance Center, the author of
Fostering Change Reintegration Program, be granted a
provisional transitional living program, and Abby
Rundell is available via Zoom to answer any
questions.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Any questions for
Fostering Change or for licensing? Request is
clear. If no one has a question, I'll maintain a
motion to approve the request.

MR. TOLLETTE: And I second it,
Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All right. Sanford.
We have to have a -- Sanford, you're making -- I'm asking for -- you make the motion. Do we have a second?

MR. TOLLETTE: Oh, no, no, no. I'm sorry. I thought you were making the motion.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: I'm -- I'm -- I'm looking -- I'm looking for a motion and you just gave it, so --

MR. TOLLETTE: I'll make it formal.

I'd like to make a motion, Mr. Chair, that we accept the recommendation of staff.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All right. We have a motion to approve this request from Fostering Change. Is there a second?

MR. ALTOM: Second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Second by Andy. All in favor say aye.

(Ayes voiced.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Anyone opposed a like sign. All right. We have another request from Fostering Change.

MS. LITZSEY: This is Sharra Litzsey with the placement and residential licensing unit. Fostering Change is requesting a special consideration to be able to admit clients directly
into their transitional living program. All the
clients admitted will be between the ages of 18 and
21 and are still in DCFS custody. Fostering Change
has policies and procedures in place for this type
of program and they currently hold a residential
license in good standing with the placement and
residential licensing unit. Since all the clients
admitted to the -- into this program will be between
the ages of 18 and 21 and are in DCFS's custody, the
placement and residential licensing unit supports
this request.

MR. BRYANT: Josh Bryant. I make a
motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Okay. Josh Bryant
makes a motion. Is there a second?

MS. FOTI: Second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Beverly makes a
second. Any questions? All in favor say aye.

(Ayes voiced.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Anyone opposed vote
like sign? And there is none, so thank you and good
luck with your program.

MR. ARNOLD: The next item on the
agenda is No. 11, UMCH. Fatima, are you online?

MS. STEPPS: Yes, I am, Charlie.
MR. ARNOLD: Thank you.

MS. STEPPS: This is Fatima Stepps, coordinator with placement and residential licensing unit. I have Items 11 and 12 that are on your agenda for UMCH. I will be presenting items in the absence of Rachel Carlton. Your first request from UMCH is the agency is requesting to change their license type of residential to transitional living. The agency does currently hold a residential license that is in good standing since 1995. This transitional living license will serve a capacity of four children ages 18 to 21 who are in the custody of DCFS. And this license will allow the agency to provide the transitional living services to this age group. A monitored visit was conducted by specialist Rachel Carlton on 8/28/20 and no licensing concerns were noted at that visit. The placement residential licensing unit does support the agency's request for a provisional license for transitioning living, and I do have Craig Gammon on the line if you have any questions.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Any questions? If not, I'll make a motion that we approve this request. Is there a second?

MS. FOTI: I'll second.
CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Beverly seconds.
All in favor pay aye.

(Ayes voiced.)
CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Anyone opposed a like sign?
MR. ALTOM: I abstain.
CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Andy abstains. All right. Fatima, you have 12; is that right?
MS. STEPPS: Yes, I'm still here.
The next item is No. 12 which also comes from UMCH. This request is for a special consideration on licensing Standard 802.1b that states the resident is at least 18 years of age and is being transferred directly from the residential program into the transitional living program without a break in care given by the same agency. This applies to residents transferred after September 1, 2016. The special consideration will allow the agency to accept children directly into the transitional living program without being transferred from their residential program, and the placement and residential licensing unit does support the agency's request for the special consideration. I do have Craig Gammon on the line if you have any questions.

MR. TOLLETTE: Mr. Chair, this is
Sanford Tollette again. I think this is really a beautiful transition developing for our children that they can move forward because of the same place where they're used to and continue to grow and develop. That's my comment and I want to give the other board members an opportunity to speak, but I'll make a motion on that.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: And I think I heard what you said, Sanford, but the thing I would say is that the previous regulations have required them to be in your program to move into your transitional program, but the change in the vote of the last year about it being promulgated that that's not necessary any more, so children can be admitted into transitional living program that are in this program.

MR. TOLLETTE: Go ahead.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: So that -- that's a big change and after December that will be the regulation. We will not be having that request come before the board any more.

MR. TOLLETTE: Well, that makes me sad.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Yeah. All right. So you have a motion on that?
MR. TOLLETT: Yes. I'd like to make a motion we accept the recommendation of staff for this -- is this just one 18 year old?

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: No. This is -- this is to allow UMCH to admit any 18 year old.

MR. TOLLETT: Okay. All right.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Yes.

MR. TOLLETT: And I'll clarify.

I'll -- I'll -- I'll -- I'll make my motion based on the recommendation of staff.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Okay. We have a motion. Is there a second?

MR. BRYANT: Josh Bryant. I'll second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All right. Josh. All in favor say aye.

(Ayes voiced.)

MR. ALTM: I'll abstain.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Andy abstains. All others are in favor, so thank you, guys, thank you Craig.

MS. RUSS: Good afternoon. This is Ebony Russ. I'm the program manager for the placement and residential licensing unit. As a licensing specialist I will be presenting Items 13
and 14. This is concerning Arbor House. Item 13 Arbor House has requested to add a transitional living license to their current emergency and residential treatment license. The request is for a capacity of three DCFS clients to be housed in a duplex home located in North Little Rock. Arbor House was awarded a supervised independent living contract through DCFS. The current licenses for Arbor House are all in good standing. Based on the documentation received from Arbor House, the placement and residential licensing unit is in support of this request. I also made a home visit to the location and the home appears safe.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Very good. All right. As far as the information it sounds familiar, doesn't it? Any questions or motions?

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

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: A motion by Andy.

MS. FOTI: I second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Beverly seconds.

It's hard because the court reporter can't see mouths moving.

THE COURT REPORTER: That's right.

Thank you.
CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All right. So we have a motion to second. All in favor say aye.

(Ayes voiced.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: And all opposed a like sign. Motion approved. And there's another request. This sounds familiar.

MS. RUSS: I do want to let you know that I have Antemoore Jackson. He should be available for questioning in regard to Arbor House. Item 14 has a special consideration related to Standard 802.1.b. The resident is at least 18 years of age and is being transferred directly from the residential program into the transitional living program without a break in care given by the same agency. Arbor House is requesting a special consideration for 802.1.b These are DCFS clients ages 18 to 21 years of age to be admitted directly into their transitional living program. Arbor House has developed a -- developed and provided a handbook and policy and procedures to ensure that the program will work effectively for their clients. And this home is a duplex. It's located in North Little Rock and PRLU supports this request.

MR. ALTMAN: I make a motion we approve the request.
CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Motion by Andy.

MR. TOLLETTE: Second by Sanford.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Second by Sanford.

All in favor say aye.

(Ayes voiced.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Anyone opposed a like sign? And there is none.

MS. RUSS: Thank you.

MR. TOLLETTE: Thank you, Mr. Jackson. I was going to ask you a question, but you can take it in there, man, that I thank you. You've made it through this Zoom meeting. You're strong in your work.

MR. JACKSON: Thank you, sir.

Appreciate it.

MR. TOLLETTE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I'm quiet.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: We're moving on, Sanford.

MR. TOLLETTE: Yes, sir.

MR. ARNOLD: The next item is No. 15 and 16. Mrs. Litzsey, I believe, has this request for Vera Lloyd.

MS. LITZSEY: Hi. This is Sharra Litzsey, placement and residential coordinator for
placement and residential licensing unit. Vera Lloyd Presbyterian home in Monticello, Arkansas, is requesting to add a transitional living license to their current emergency and residential treatment license. The request -- this request is requesting a capacity to serve four clients ages 18 to 21. Vera Lloyd has held a residential license in good standing with placement and residential licensing unit. It was recently awarded a supervised independent living contract through DCFS. Based on information received from the agency, the licensing unit recommends Vera Lloyd be granted a transitional -- a provisional transitional living license.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All right. We're -- here we go again. Any questions yet?

MR. ALTOM: I make a motion we approve the request.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: A motion from Andy. A second by Andrew and all in favor say aye.

(Ayes voiced.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Anyone opposed? And there is no one opposed.

MS. LITZSEY: This is Sharra Litzsey again and I forgot to mention that Donna Mahurin is
available via Zoom for any questions that the board
may have for Vera Lloyd. The second request is the
special consideration for Regulation 802.1.b. Vera
Lloyd is requesting a special consideration to be
able to admit clients directly into their
transitional living program. All the clients
admitted would be between the ages of 18 and 21 and
are in DCFS's custody. Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home
has policies and procedures in place for this type
of program and currently holds a residential license
in good standing with the placement -- with the
placement and residential licensing unit. The
placement and residential licensing unit supports
this request.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: I'll make a motion
to approve. Do I have a second?

MR. ALTOM: Second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Second by Andy. All
in favor say aye.

(Ayes voiced.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Opposed? Thank you
for joining us today, Donna. I hope you're doing
well.

MS. MAHURIN: Thank you. Appreciate
you guys.
MR. ARNOLD: Then Item No. 17, Immerse Arkansas.

MS. LITZSEY: This is Sharra Litzsey presenting for Immerse and present for Immerse will be Leah Williams to answer any questions that the board may have. Immerse is seeking a transitional living license. The current minimum licensing standards Regulation 801.1 states that the agency shall have a residential license in good standing. The licensing standards are being rewritten to change this requirement. Immerse is requesting to be exempt from obtaining a residential license due to the projected change in the licensing standards. PRLU supports this request.

MR. ARNOLD: Have we -- point of order. Mrs. Litzsey, have we asked for a new license on this one yet?

MS. LITZSEY: I apologize. I'm reading these from a screen.

MR. ARNOLD: Okay. So what we're asking is --

MS. LITZSEY: Immerse is requesting to obtain a transitional living license and they claim to operate in the full compliance with the licensing standards. We are recommending that this
license be approved because Immerse already has a
current license and they're just willing to --
they're just requesting to add another license type.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Does Immerse have a
placement license or a residential license?

MS. LITZSEY: They have a placement
license.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Either way we're
going to approve it, so whatever the technology is.
It a technical term. All right. So I have a
request for a new license. Is there a motion to
approve this?

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

MR. TOLLETTE: I second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All right. I saw
Andrew's hand waving. He got ahead of you, Sanford,
so --

MR. TOLLETTE: I couldn't see you.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Yeah. All right.
We have a motion and a second. All in favor say
aye.

(Ayes voiced.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All opposed? No
one's opposed. All right. Next item.
MS. LITZSEY: Immerse is seeking a transitional living license. The current minimum licensing standard 802.1.b states that all residents between ages -- that are ages 18 should be transferred directly from a residential program. Seeing as though Immerse does not have a current residential program, they are requesting that they be granted a special consideration to admit children into their transitional living program. PRLU supports this request.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All right. Looks like Andrew is saying that he makes that motion. Anyone have a second?

MR. ALTON: Second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Andy seconds. All in favor say aye.

(Ayes voiced.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Anyone opposed? One more request from Immerse. All right. Motion is approved, so let's go on to their third request.

MS. LITZSEY: And their third request is that the agency have -- shall have a residential licensing in good standing and they're requesting to be exempt from obtaining a residential license due to the projected change in our licensing standards.
PRLU supports this request. This is Regulation 801.1.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Andrew makes a motion and second by who? Andy. All right. All in favor say aye.

(Ayes voiced.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: And no one's opposed, so motion request is approved. Thank y'all.

MR. ARNOLD: The next item on the agenda is the approval of the special consideration/temporary approvals and I have presented the court reporter with Exhibit A of all of these packets and we are asking those -- that those be admitted into the record and we would need the board to vote on these as a whole.

(Exhibit A was admitted into the record.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Charlie, you did such a good job of reading these a couple of days ago. I ask that you do that again.

MR. ARNOLD: I enjoy that and I got through it and I have to thank you for this. Got to be a better way.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: This is a better way, so is there a motion to approve these items
that we have all seen in the last week and already
placed a motion on, but a motion to approve these?

MR. BRYANT: This is Josh Bryant.
I'll move that we admit the exhibit into the record
and approve all en masse.

MR. TOLLETTE: I second that, Mr. Chair.

THE COURT: All right. Andrew's
already seconded it, so we'll go with Andrew here
and all in favor say aye.

(Ayes voiced.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Anyone opposed? I
think we've all spoken, so no one is opposed. All
right. Charlie.

MR. ARNOLD: Item No. 21 is no longer
needed, so we will go to Item No. 22. In front of
you you should have a log of the current temporary
approvals that we have approved, and those have all
been either taken care of today or they are set for
the December agenda, so that was just our temporary
report to the board. Do y'all have any questions
about this log?

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Do not, Mr. Arnold.

MR. ARNOLD: And I think we are ready
for our other business. And we're waiting for --
MR. WEST: I've been asked to follow
up on the youth home vote. I reached out to my
colleague who represents the health services --

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: You can take your
mask off.

THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

MR. WEST: No objection to that. So
I reached out to my colleague who represents health
service permitting agency and it's for -- he
concurred with me that the POA in question was under
that board's jurisdiction. The board did the right
thing. I looked back at the board's transcript for
that meeting. I think, Mr. Altom, you articulated
everything quite well, quite accurately, so the
board did the right thing back in May. Youth home
will need to reach out to health services permitting
agency to see what, if any, steps they need to take.
They are aware -- at least their legal counsel is
aware at this point that that will be coming down
the road. I hope that -- is there any other
questions about that or comment? Thank you. And
just going back to what we discussed earlier about
voting on the special considerations, I think I kind
of need to put that on the record. I'm going to
repeat that and especially since I believe we're
going to be having members participate by Zoom for
at least a little while longer. There's all -- all
of y'all are members of this board. You're
qualified by your membership to vote on any motion
that comes before the board. There's not any kind
of test out there for board members that have a
encyclopedic knowledge of each request that comes
before the board. There's not -- I think things
like that would probably be very arbitrary and
technical to know what's on, you know, page five or
paragraph three or two. If y'all think you have
enough information to vote on something, go ahead
and vote on it, so like today Mr. Tollette didn't
have the paperwork in front of him, but what he
heard on presentation was good enough for him and if
it's good enough for him, should be good enough for
the rest of the board.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Absolutely. Thank
you, Joe.

MR. WEST: Thank y'all.

MS. RUSS: This is Ebony Russ with
the placement and residential licensing unit. We do
have three new staff I want to introduce to you all
before we end our meeting today. And hopefully
their cameras are working, so we have Ezell
Breedlove. He's located in Central Arkansas, Little Rock area, so he will make contact with some of you who are local. Mr. Ezell, you can turn your camera on and kind of say hello.

MR. BREEDLOVE: I think somebody else has control of my camera, so I can't turn it on. Yes, I think the host has control of my camera. Hello.

MR. ARNOLD: She's checking on it. Just a second.

MR. TOLLETTE: Mr. Chairman, while we're waiting, can I respond to Counsel?

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Yes, Sanford. Go ahead.

MR. TOLLETTE: I want to thank Counsel today for your clarification and your professionalism in this process and I want to remind Charles, I think these special considerations sometimes, Counselor, as we've not seen ourselves as necessarily a court of law, but some of that is confidential in terms of our response to those clients because some of those circumstances are so, for lack of a better word, embarrassing and so for me one of the things I've always thought about -- and Charles can verify -- even though I may not read
it, if I hear something, but there may be situations
that no one wants to put, for lack of a better word,
dirty laundry into the public domain, so, you know,
I kind of struggle with that, Counselor, but I'm
glad to know that legally I have a right based on
the information shared, but also there may be other
information that if I was there virtually, like you
said on page so and so and page so and so.
Sometimes those pages make a difference, too, and so
I just wanted to make a comment how I have just been
impressed with your clarification and thank you so
much for that. You've given me a lot to think about
as a member of this commission.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: With that going
forward you guys who are not in the room will have
to speak up if you need information, so feel free to
do that in the future. All right. Thank you,
Sanford. I believe we have the camera operating, so
Ebony, if you --

MS. RUSS: Yes, we do. We have Ezell
Breedlove and, again, he's in our central office and
working locally, so you may see him at your facility
if you're local. Next we have Crystal Gaddy. She's
located in Jefferson County, so she'll be helping us
out in Southeastern Arkansas. Crystal, can you say
hello?

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: She might be muted.

MS. RUSS: So she is -- well, she was recently a resource worker. She transferred over, so we have her as well, and we should also have Chelsea Vardell if she's still --

MS. VARDELL: Hello.

MS. RUSS: Chelsea Vardell. She's located in Northeast Arkansas or North Central, Fulton County, and we're so happy to have her up there. We needed somebody in that area, so what I wanted to do is just give y'all some visual who's in your facilities.

MR. TOLLETTE: Chelsea, this is Sanford Tollette. Are you close to any place like Osceola or Wilson?

MS. VARDELL: The names ring familiar, but I'm not exactly sure how far I am. I'm actually from Missouri, so Arkansas, I live right here on the border, but -- in Newman, so Batesville, Jonesboro, those are right around me.

MR. TOLLETTE: Yeah. I'm kind of the old guy on the board, you know, and so sometimes I go off on tangents, but I just -- in Northeast, so I used to live in Wilson a long time ago.
CHAIRMAN FLYNN: What are the responsibilities just, Ebony, in foster care or residential or what?

MS. RUSS: For now so everyone has a blended caseload. They will work with placement and residential facilities.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Is that -- is that everyone statewide?

MS. RUSS: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Thank you for that good information.

MS. RUSS: Thank you all for participating.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All right. Our next meeting is Tuesday, December 8, 2020. Probably received notice that that will not have a traditional meal because of our current situation, so maybe, you know, Sanford, you can just eat something at home that day for us.

MR. TOLLETTE: Okay. I'll do that and I tell you I miss all of you and I'm going to say God bless all of you that you are covered by the spirit of protection during this pandemic, and I just got to put out my heart, my faith, my spirit out there for everybody that's out there, you know.
Some people get into doing that, but I'm just real.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: I understand. Thank you, sir.

MR. TOLLETTE: That's who I am. I just wish all of you love and protection. It's an honor, sir.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Thank y'all for being here today. We are adjourned.

(End of meeting.)
CERTIFICATE

I, Pat Jester, certified court reporter for the State of Arkansas, certify that I recorded the proceedings by shorthand machine recording in the Child Welfare Agency Review Board meeting held on September 23, 2020, at 1:30 p.m at Donaghey Plaza South, 7th and Main Street, Conference Room A & B, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72201; that said recording has been reduced to a transcription by me, and the foregoing pages and exhibit constitute a true and correct transcript of the proceedings held to the best of my ability.

WITNESS MY HAND as such Court Reporter on this 5th day of October, 2020.

Pat Jester

___________________________________________
Pat Jester, Supreme Court
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