Transcript of the Testimony of

Child Welfare Agency Review Board
10.28.19

Date: October 28, 2019

Case:

Bushman Court Reporting
Tiffanie Harrison
Phone: (501) 372-5115
Fax: (501) 378-0077
<www.bushmanreporting.com>
STATE OF ARKANSAS
CHILD WELFARE AGENCY
REVIEW BOARD MEETING

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

July 24, 2019
1:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Charles Flynn, Chairman
Ms. Sandy Doherty
Mr. Andy Altom
Mr. David Whatley
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

TIFFANIE N. HARRISON, CCR
BUSHMAN COURT REPORTING
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72203
(501) 372-5115
harrisonreporting@outlook.com
INDEX

CALL TO ORDER .................................................. 5
APPROVAL OF JULY 2019 MINUTES ............................... 5
AGAPE CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES P102.17. ................. 6
DCFS: P209.2 Rodney and Kathy H. ......................... 8
        P209.2 Karen H. ......................................... 9
        P209.10 Karen H. ........................................ 11
        P211.5 Tammy W. ........................................ 12
        P209.2 Jaymes and Joani P. ............................. 14
        P211.5 Sonya W. .......................................... 15
        P211.5 Robert and Amber M. ......................... 18
        P209.2 James W. .......................................... 19
        P209.2 Michael and Christine T. ..................... 21
WATCH - Candace M. ............................................. 22
DCFS: P209.10 Elizabeth H. .................................. 24
        P209.2 Rachel G. ........................................ 26
        P209.7 Jacob and Randi A. ............................. 27
        P209.2 Concertta J. .................................... 29
        P209.2 Coretta C. ....................................... 33
THE SOUTHWEST AR COUNSELING AND MENTAL HEALTH
        CENTER, INC. P311.6 ................................. 34
DCFS: P209.1 Lynn G. ......................................... 38
        P206.2 Kristin W. ....................................... 40
A CHILD’S DREAM P102.17. ................................. 42

Tiffanie N. Harrison, CCR
(501) 372-5115
DCFS: P209.2 Jeffrey and Kimberly B. ............ 43
       P209.2 Eula B. ...................... 44
       P209.2 Kenyata T. & Cordell M. ....... 45
ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN, INC. .................. 47
WOODRIDGE OF FORREST CITY ................. 48
WOODRIDGE NORTHEAST ......................... 49
UMCH - SPRINGDALE GIRL’S HOME ............. 49
UMCH - FAYETTEVILLE HOME .................... 50
SOARING WINGS RANCH .......................... 51
SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS/PERMISSIONS:
   TEEN CHALLENGE RANCH OF NW AR - Jefferson R.... 53
   OUACHITA CHILDREN’S CENTER - Stefanie R. ....... 61
   DCFS Louis T. ........................... 64
   DCFS Melissa M. ......................... 65
   DCFS Joyce S. ........................... 67
   DCFS Dionna R. .......................... 70
   DCFS Christopher S. ..................... 71
   DCFS Parker. ............................ 73
   DCFS Paul A. ............................ 74
   DCFS Manning ............................ 76
   DCFS Edward B. .......................... 78
   DCFS Marvin T. .......................... 80
   DFCS Josh S. ............................ 83
REPORT OF TEMP APPROVALS/ACTIONS FOR JULY/AUG/SEPT. 84

Tiffanie N. Harrison, CCR
(501) 372-5115
OTHER BUSINESS

Proposal for Temporary Approvals ............... 84
Transitional Living Standards Vote ............. 90
DATE OF NEXT MEETING .............................. 95
MEETING ADJOURNED ................................. 96
COURT REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE ............... 97
CHAIRMAN FLYNN: I’d like to call to order the October 28th meeting of the Child Welfare Agency Review Board. One other matter of business I’d like to begin with, is welcoming the new program manager for the unit, Ebony Russ. This is her first meeting, and my first time to meet you today too, so Ebony, if we didn’t have such a long agenda today, I’d probably ask you to tell us a little bit about you. A lot of these folks, may be down towards the bottom of the agenda.

MS. RUSS: Right.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: And so with that said, you know, our Board will do a really good job of reviewing. In fact, we already have been reviewing information that was sent to us, so we will make our decisions as quickly as we can, but we want to make the right decision, too so I’d just ask for patience, especially for those of you who are well down the list.

First thing I have on the agenda then, is to approve the minutes from the July 2019 meeting. Does anyone have any comments, corrections?
MR. ALTOM: I make a motion to approve.

MR. WHATLEY: Second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Motion and second to approve. All in favor, say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All opposed by like sign.

No one is opposed, so let’s begin with number one, Lakesha.

MS. WHITE: Lakesha White, Placement and Residential Licensing Unit. I will be presenting items one through seven. Number one is regarding a maintaining license for Agape Children and Family Services. Agape Children and Family Services Placement Agency is requesting that its placement license remain open, but placed on inactive status, effective October 28, 2019.

PRLU visited the agency on 9-23-19, and reviewed the agency’s policies and procedures and personnel records. The agency is currently in good standings with the Arkansas Minimum Licensing Standards. PRLU recommends that the placement license be granted to remain open, but on inactive status through October of 2020.

We have Ms. Linda Oxford, and Bailey Fuqua
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here, with Agape, if you have any additional
questions.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Thank you for coming today.
Is there anything you’d like to tell us about
what’s going on, and what your plans are?

MS. OXFORD: Yes. My name is Linda Oxford.
I’m the clinical director at Agape Child and
Family Services. Thank you for giving us the
opportunity to speak with us today. We’ve been
licensed by the State of Arkansas since 1998,
as a child placement agency, and it’s our
desire to simply continue to have the option
available to birth parents, and prospective
adoptive parents, that would like to do
placement in Arkansas, for them to do so
through our agency.

So while we don’t do certainly a lot of
business, but we’re just aware that there are
not many options for adoption agencies in the
eastern Arkansas area, so we do believe that we
fill a gap that makes access to those services
available, that is a benefit to the State of
Arkansas.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Well, thank you for coming
today. Does anybody have any questions?
Motions?

MR. WHATLEY: I’d like to make a motion to approve the request.

MS. FOTI: I’ll second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Motion and second. All in favor, say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All opposed by like sign.

(No audible responses given.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All right. Thank you for coming in today.

MS. OXFORD: Thank you.

MS. WHITE: Item number two is a request from DCFS for space. DCFS is requesting a special consideration for Regulation 209.2, which states each bedroom shall have at least 50 square feet of floor space per occupant. This request is to allow a one-year-old female to share a bedroom that measures 143 square feet, with her grandparents. This bedroom is seven square feet less than the 150 needed for three people.

DCFS would like to place the child in this home, to allow them to be placed with family.

This request is child specific. PRLU granted a
temporary approval on 7-2-19. A monitored visit was completed on -- at the home, was completed on 7-9-19. PRLU supports this request. Tasha Smith Cook with DCFS is here, if you have any additional questions.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Does anyone have any questions?

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

MR. WHATLEY: I’ll second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Motion and second. All in favor, say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All opposed?

(No audible responses given.)

MS. DOHERTY: Abstain.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: DCFS Abstains. Okay.

Thank you.

MS. WHITE: Item number three is also a request from DCFS for space. DCFS is requesting a special consideration for Regulation 209.2, which states each bedroom shall have at least 50 square feet of floor space per occupant. This request is to allow a two-year-old female foster child to share a
bedroom that measures 135 square feet, with her
great grandmother, and great aunt. The bedroom
is 15 square feet less than the 150 needed for
three people.

DCFS would like to place this child in this
home, because she has a bond with her great
grandmother and great aunt. This child also
frequently stayed at the home, prior to coming
into care. This request is child specific.
PRLU granted a temporary approval on 6-25-19.
A monitored visit was completed at the home on
7-12-19. PRLU supports this request. I have
Yvonne Peeler with DCFS, if you have any
additional questions.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Questions?
(No audible responses given.)
CHAIRMAN FLYNN: I’ll make a motion that we
approve this request.
MR. ALTOM: I’ll second.
CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All in favor, say “Aye.”
BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.
CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Anyone opposed?
MS. DOHERTY: Abstain.
CHAIRMAN FLYNN: DCFS Abstains.
MS. PEELER: Thank you.

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MS. WHITE: Item number four is a request from DCFS, for sleeping arrangements. DCFS is requesting a special consideration, for Regulation 209.10, which states foster children, except infants under the age of two years, shall not share a sleeping room with adults. This age would increase, through age four, for a grandparent to the child, and a teen parent in foster care with her child.

This request is to allow a two-year-old female foster child to share a room with her great aunt, and great-grandmother. The family currently resides in a two bedroom home, but the other bedroom is occupied by the foster child’s two brothers. DCFS would like to place the children in this home, because they already have a bond with the great aunt and great-grandmother.

The children also frequently stayed at the home, prior to coming into care. This request is child specific, and time-limited. PRLU granted temporary approval 6-25-19. A home visit was completed on 7-12-19. PRLU supports this request. Yvonne Peeler, with DCFS.

MR. ALTOM: It’s time-limited. Can you
 speak about that?

    MS. WHITE: Time limited until 20 --

    MR. ALTOM: So it will be reviewed in two

    years?

    MR. WHATLEY: Yeah, it says time-limited,

    but it doesn’t have a date.


    MS. FOTI: Aren’t three and four the same

    family?

    MS. WHITE: It’s the same family, yes.

    MS. PEELER: And the great aunt is in the

    process of getting custody of all three.

    MR. ALTOM: I make a motion to approve the

    request.

    MR. WHATLEY: Second.

    CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Motion and second. All in

    favor, say “Aye.”

    BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

    MS. DOHERTY: Abstain.

    CHAIRMAN FLYNN: DCFS Abstains.

    MS. WHITE: Thank you. Number five, is also

    a request from DCFS, for the number of children

    in the home. DCFS is requesting a special

    consideration for Regulation 211.5, which

    states foster home shall not have more than

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    (501) 372-5115
five foster children in care. A foster home shall not have more than eight children in care, including their own children. This includes placement or respite care.

This request is to allow a sixth foster child to be placed in Tammy’s foster home, along with Tammy’s two adopted children, making a total of eight children in the home. Tammy is currently fostering a set of -- a sibling set of males, ages five, two, and 12 years old, and two females, ages 14 and 18 years old. DCFS would like to place the 15-year-old female, who is also the sibling to the 14-year-old female in the home. Placing this child in Tammy’s home, would allow the siblings to continue their family connection, and build closer family ties.

This request is specific to the child listed, and time limited, until October 2021. A temporary approval was granted on 8-22-19. PRLU completed a monitored visit on 8-29-19. PRLU supports this request. Yvonne Peeler is here with DCFS.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Questions on this?

MR. ALTOM: Is space an issue?

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MS. PEELER: No, sir.

MR. ALTOM: It’s not?

MS. PEELER: No, sir.

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

MR. FOTI: I’ll second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Motion and second. All in favor, say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

MS. DOHERTY: Abstain.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: DCFS Abstains.

MS. PEELER: Thank you.

MS. WHITE: Number six is also a request from DCFS for space. DCFS is requesting a special consideration, for Regulation 209.2 which states each bedroom shall have at least 50 square feet of floor space per occupant. This request is to allow two females, ages 13 and seven years old, to share a bedroom, that measures 94 square feet, which is six square feet less than the 100 needed for two people. DCFS would like to place these children into this home, because they will be placed with family that they have a close relationship with. They will also continue their sibling...
bond. This request is child specific to the children listed. PRLU granted a temporary approval on 7-15-19. I monitored visit was completed on 7-22-19. PRLU supports this request. Yvonne Peeler with DCFS.

MR. WHATLEY: So we’re only five square feet short, right?

MS. PEELER: Yes, sir.

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

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Motion. We got a second?

MR. ALTOM: Second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Motion and second. All in favor, say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

MS. DOHERTY: Abstain.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: DCFS Abstains. There we go.

MS. WHITE: Thank you. Item number seven is also a request from DCFS for the number of children in the home. DCFS is requesting a special considerations for Regulation 211.5, which states foster home shall not have more than five foster children in care. A foster home shall not have more than eight children in care.

Tiffanie N. Harrison, CCR
(501) 372-5115
the home, including their own children. This
includes placement or respite care.

This request is to allow seven foster
children to be placed in Ms. W’s foster home.
Ms. W is currently fostering two sets of female
siblings. The ages of the females are two,
three, five, eight and nine. DCFS would like
to place the brothers of the eight and nine-
year-old females in the home to preserve the
sibling bond. There is enough physical space
in the home, to meet the needs of all children
placed in the home. Ms. W. also has the
support of family members living close by.

This request is child specific, to the
children listed, and time-limited, until
October of 2021. A temporary approval was
granted on 9-16-19. PRLU completed a visit to
the home, on 6-24-19. PRLU supports this
request, and I have Patricia Herring, here with
DCFS.

MR. WHATLEY: So there’s seven foster
children and was there a biological child?

MS. HERRING: No. She has no biological.

It’s a sib group of four and a sib group of
three. Initially, she had the sib group of
three, and then the four came back into care. She took the two, and then she wanted to put the sib group back together, and she just happens to have a really big house.

MR. WHATLEY: Yeah. Lots of space.

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

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Motion. Is there a second?
(No audible response given.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: I’ll second. All in favor, say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All opposed, like sign?
(No audible responses given.)

MS. DOHERTY: Abstain.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: DCFS Abstains. All right.

MS. WHITE: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Thank you. Pat did you say eight and nine?

MS. GLANTON: No. We’re going to do eight. Nine has been -- nine and 12 have been removed.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Okay. So which one are we on now?

MS. GLANTON: We’re on eight.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: We’re on eight.
MS. GLANTON: Ready?

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Yes, please.

MS. GLANTON: Patty Glanton, PRLU. We’re on item number eight. DCFS is requesting a special consideration for Regulation 211.5, foster home shall not have more than five children in care, and no more than eight children in the home. This is for the home of Robert and Amber M. The family has seven of their own, and two placement. This disagrees with the packet, due to a recent adoption just a couple of days ago.

The home meets all other standards, pertaining to sleeping and space. A temporary approval was granted by Shirley Preston, and I visited the home July the 15th. PRLU supports this replay request, in the best interest of keeping the siblings together. This request is child specific, and time-limited, to 9-30-21. We have Casey Tolbert, here with DCFS resource worker, if you have any further questions.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Do y’all have any questions specific here?

MR. ALTOM: So what’s the total amount of Tiffanie N. Harrison, CCR (501) 372-5115
children?

   MS. TOLBERT: Nine children total in the home.

   MR. WHATLEY: I understand the importance of keeping the siblings together. That’s a lot of children. Do you feel comfortable, being there, monitoring the home, that they’re able to handle that many children?

   MS. TOLBERT: Yes, sir. The family is very active. They keep the children going. They want all the siblings together, and the house is big enough for all of them to be there.

   MR. ALTOM: I’ll make a motion to approve the request, in light of the fact that this is in the interest of keeping the siblings together.

   CHAIRMAN FLYNN: There’s a motion. Second?

   MR. WHATLEY: Second.

   CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All right. All in favor, say “Aye.”

   BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

   CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Anyone opposed?

   MS. DOHERTY: Abstain.

   CHAIRMAN FLYNN: DCFS Abstains. All right.

   MS. GLANTON: Patty Glanton, PRLU. Item Tiffanie N. Harrison, CCR (501) 372-5115
number 10 on the agenda, DCFS is requesting a special consideration for Regulation 209.2. Each bedroom should have at least 50 square feet of floor space per occupant, for the home of James W. The home is a three bedroom, with the father occupying one bathroom. The female child of the parent will occupy the second bedroom. The third bedroom is occupied by the two male children of the home, and the placed male.

The room is furnished with one twin bunk, and another with only the top mattress, resulting in a loft style bed. This allows storage of the clothes, in the bottom area of the bunk. Room measures 128.25 square feet and has two single windows.

The placed child, is a sibling to the other three children in the home. A temporary approval was granted 7-9-19 by Shirley Preston, and I visited the home 7-11-19. PRLU supports this request in the interest of keeping the children with family and child specific. Carol Hart, resource worker with DCFS is here, if you have any questions.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Any questions? Motions?

Tiffanie N. Harrison, CCR
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MR. TOLLETTE: Well, I move that we accept
the recommendation of staff.

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

MS. FOTI: I’ll second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All in favor, say “Aye.”
BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All opposed?
MS. DOHERTY: Abstain.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: DCFS Abstains. All right.

Thank you.

MS. GLANTON: Patty Glanton, PRLU. Item
number 11 on the agenda, DCFS is requesting a
special consideration for Regulation 209.2,
each bedroom shall have at least 50 square feet
of floor space per occupant, for the home of
Michael and Christine T. Mr. and Ms. T. are
ICPC for their nephews placed in Arizona. The
home is three bedroom, with the first occupied
by the parents. The second is occupied by
their bio son, and one placed nephew. The
third bedroom is occupied by the other two
placed nephews, measuring 97.5 square feet. A
shortage of only 2.5.

The home was visited by myself 8-27-19. It
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also is child specific, and will in 5-31-20,
when the 18-year-old placed child graduates
from high school. PRLU supports this request
in the best interest of keeping the siblings
with family. Casey Tolbert here, resource
worker with DCFS, if you have any further
questions.

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

MR. WHATLEY: Second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All in favor, say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All opposed, likewise.

MS. DOHERTY: Abstain.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: DCFS Abstains. Skipping
item number 12, and going to 13; is that right?

MS. GLANTON: Yes. Patty Glanton, PRLU.

Item number 13 on the agenda, Western Arkansas
Therapeutic Children’s Homes, also known as
WATCH, is requesting a special consideration
for Regulation 311.6, the number of children
placed into one therapeutic foster home shall
not exceed two, except to keep a sibling group
together. WATCH is requesting the special
consideration for the home of Candace M.,
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allowing placement of sibling male and female. Currently a 17-year-old male is in the home, and has been granted trial placement in his bio mother’s home in Florida, beginning the week of 11-25-19. This will decrease the placement to two children in the home.

A temporary approval was granted by Shirley Preston, 6-28-19, and I visited the home July 22, '19. This request is child specific and time limited until 11-25-19, when the 17-year-old leaves the home for child placement. PRLU supports this request. I have, Paula Riggs here with WATCH, if you have any further questions.

MR. ALTOM: I motion to approve the request.

MS. DOHERTY: I’d like to add something, because if we’re only approving it until 11-25, that’s pretty quick, and if the trial home visit doesn’t work, I would think they’d want us to bring the child back to the same home?

MS. RIGGS: He turns 18 December the 2nd, in Florida and he plans on staying.

MS. DOHERTY: I mean, he could still come back, I mean, if he wanted to and still be in foster care. That’s just something to think
CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Okay. So we would reconsider this at a future --

MS. DOHERTY: Real quick.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: -- date? All right.

Motion. Do we have a second?

MR. TOLLETTE: Second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All right. Any other comments, thoughts?

(No audible response given.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All in favor, say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Any opposed?

(No audible response given.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All right. And you get to vote this time.

MS. DOHERTY: I got to vote this time.

MS. GLANTON: Patty Glanton, PRLU. Item number 14 on your agenda, DCFS is requesting a special consideration for Regulation 209.10, foster children, except infants under age two, shall not share a sleeping room with adult, for the home of Elizabeth H. This is a two bedroom home, with one son, and placement of a five-year-old niece, and seven-year-old nephew. One
bedroom, will be occupied by the son and 
nephew. The second, occupied by the mother and 
niece. It is furnished with a king bed, and 
twin bed. It has a single window.

A temporary approval was granted by Ebony 
Russ, 9-19-19, and I visited the home 10-14-19. 
PRLU supports this request, in the best 
interest of keeping the children with family. 
It’s child specific, and time-limited, to 10-
31-21. I have Molly Guidry, resource worker, 
DCFS here, if you have any further questions.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Do you have any further 
questions.

MR. WHATLEY: You did say that was time-
limited to 10 --

MS. GLANTON: 31-21.

MR. WHATLEY: -- 31-21?

MR. TOLLETTE: I make a motion that we 
accept the recommendation of staff.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Motion. Is there a second?

MR. ALTOM: Second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Any other comments? If 
not, all in favor, say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

MS. DOHERTY: Abstain.

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CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Opposed? And DCFS abstains.

MS. GUIDRY: Thank you.

MS. CARLTON: I am Rachel Carlton. I will have items 15 and 17; 16 has been removed.

DCFS is requesting a special consideration, to allow three occupants in a room that measure 109.4 square feet. The occupants are a 17-year-old foster female, who was due in August, and her 19-month-old daughter. The room has a twin bed for the 17-year-old, a crib for the 19-month-old, and has a bassinet for the infant, until the baby outgrows it.

The children of the foster teen are not in state custody. The foster parents and child feel that this is the best arrangement for their family. They are very supportive of the young mother, and hope to see her thrive.

Licensing visited this home on 7-22-19, and found it to be neat and tidy, with plenty of storage for the mother and child’s belongings.

Temporary approval was granted by Shirley Preston, on 7-15-19. PRLU supports this request, as it is child specific, and in the best interest of the child to keep siblings.

Tiffanie N. Harrison, CCR
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together, and to facilitate a bond between
mother and child. Judy Olinger with DCFS is
with me, if you have any questions.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Okay. Any questions?

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

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: I have a motion. Do I have
a second?

MR. TOLLETTE: I second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: And a second. All in
favor, say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Opposed?

MS. DOHERTY: Abstain.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: DCFS abstains. All right.

Thank you.

MS. CARLTON: I have item number 17. I am
Rachel Carlton. DCFS is requesting a special
consideration for 209.7, that says children of
the opposite sex shall not share a bedroom, if
either child is four or older, except for a
parent in foster care with their child. They
would like to allow a brother and sister to
share a room. This room would be occupied by
siblings. A five-year-old boy, and a seven-

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year-old sister. The children will change
clothes in the bathroom, to ensure privacy.

Licensing visited the home on 9-10-19, and
found the home to be clean, and the room to be
occupied by the siblings to be spacious. There
are two twin beds in the room with plenty of
storage for belongings, for both children. The
home is in good standing. This request is
child specific to these siblings, and is in the
best interest of these children to facilitate a
bond. PRLU supports this request. With me, is
Carrie Bacchus from DCFS.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Any questions on this
request?

MR. TOLLETTE: I make a motion that we
accept the recommendation of staff?

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Motion. Is there a second?
(No audible response given.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: I’ll second. All in favor,
say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Opposed by like sign.

MS. DOHERTY: Abstain.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: DCFS abstains.

MS. CARLTON: Thank you.

Tiffanie N. Harrison, CCR
(501) 372-5115
MS. ROUSE: Good afternoon. Shannon Rouse, Placement Residential Licensing. I have items 18 through 20 on the agenda. Item number 18 is for DCFS. DCFS is requesting a special consideration, for Regulation 209.2, which states each bedroom shall have at least 50 square feet of space, per occupant. Three children will share a bedroom, measuring 100 feet.

A temporary approval was granted 9-17-19. Home visit was completed on 10-8-19. This request is child specific, and based on supporting documentation, PRLU supports this request, and I have missed Judy Huff here, with DCFS, if you have any further questions.

MR. ALTOM: Is this the -- are these the only children that are in the -- in the home, are these 3 children?

MS. HUFF: No. She has three children of her own.

MR. TOLLETTE: And these two children are a sibling group?

MS. HUFF: Yes. There’s a set of three children, that are siblings.

MR. TOLLETTE: And the total altogether?
MS. HUFF: Six.

MR. ALTOM: What are the sleeping arrangements for this -- for this group?

MS. HUFF: Two of the -- the two girls share the one bedroom, and three boys share the second bedroom, and Ms. Concertta’s youngest child, shares sleeping quarters with her.

MR. ALTOM: So the room that is 50 square feet short, that’s how many -- it’s going to have three beds in it?

MS. HUFF: Three beds.

MR. ALTOM: What kind of beds?

MS. HUFF: Bunk beds and a twin.

MR. ALTOM: Boys ages?

MS. HUFF: The boys ages are eight, nine, and -- let’s see.

MR. ALTOM: Isn’t close to eight and nine?

Are they all somewhere in age?

MS. HUGG: Yes, I believe so. Eight and nine. They are close in ages. And 11, I think. Yeah, nine, seven, and eight. Nine, seven, and eight.

MR. WHATLEY: This request is child specific, but it’s not time specific.

MS. ROUSE: No, it is --
MR. WHATLEY: The reason I’m asking that --
I mean, that’s a big variance on the square
footage. I mean, we’re talking about that many
square feet, with the three children in that
room.

MS. ROUSE: We were instructed to no longer
make the space requirements time-limited.

MR. TOLLETTE: Say that again, please.

MS. ROUSE: We were instructed to no longer
make the special requirements time-limited, so
that’s why is not time-limited, but it is child
specific.

MR. TOLLETTE: Child specific. Is there a
window in the room with the three boys?

MS. ROUSE: Yes, sir.

MR. TOLLETTE: Okay. For fire, I’m just
testing safety a little bit. No other
questions, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: So that’s a good thought
there, as the boys -- in two years, as they’re
older, it may be a different situation, than it
is now, with younger children, so I guess we
could put a two-year on there, if you wanted
to. You feel better about that, David?

MR. WHATLEY: Well, the only reason I’m
making this -- you know, I understand, when we get requests, and we’re keeping sibling groups together, and we vary from the regulations, that we put a lot of time and effort into putting together, thinking that that was in the best of interest of children, you know, when they were put together. And certainly, I understand the alternative compliance, and the need for it, but sometimes when these get through, it gives me a little bit of pause when I see one, when it’s not time specific, or it’s not in the interest of keeping the sibling groups together. It’s just that we’re off that many square feet. You understand what I’m saying?

So, yes, to answer your question, I would feel better, if it was time-specific. It kind of takes care of itself, probably.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Often times it’s a provisional setting, but this is just a regular foster home?

MS. HUFF: It’s a provisional.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Oh, it is provisional?

MS. HUFF: Uh-huh.

MR. ALTOM: I’ll make a motion that we prove
this, provided that it be time sensitive, and
that we revisit it in two years.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Do I have a second to that?

MR. WHATLEY: I’ll second that.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Any discussion about that?

(No audible response given.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All in favor, say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Opposed?

MS. DOHERTY: Abstain.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: DCFS abstains.

MS. HUFF: Thank you.

MS. ROUSE: Item number 19 is for DCFS, with
a space requirement again. DCFS is requesting
a special consideration for Regulation 209.2,
which states each bedroom shall have at least
50 square feet of space per occupant. Two
children will share a bedroom, measuring 97.3
square feet.

A temporary approval was granted 9-26-19.
A home visit was conducted on 8-1-19. This
request is child specific, and based on
supporting documentation, PRLU supports this
request. And I’m sorry, I have Dana Yarbrough

here with DCFS, if you have any further

Tiffanie N. Harrison, CCR
(501) 372-5115
MR. WHATLEY: I’ll make a motion to approve the request.

MR. ALTOM: Second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Motion and second. All in favor, say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Opposed?

MS. DOHERTY: Abstain.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: DCFS Abstains.

MS. ROUSE: Item number 20 on the agenda, is was for Southwest Arkansas Counseling and Mental Health Center. Southwest Arkansas Counseling and Mental Health Center is requesting a special consideration for Regulation 311.6, to exceed capacity.

Regulation 311.6 states the number of children placed into a home -- into a foster home, shall not exceed two, except to keep a sibling group together. In that case, a maximum of up to three children, may be placed into the home. There shall be no more than five total children in the home, including the foster parents’ children. This includes respite or placement.

Southwest Arkansas is requesting to exceed
capacity by placing a male sibling group, ages 13 and 10, into a foster home that currently has two foster children. There will be four total foster children in the home. The 13-year-old, and the 10-year-old, will have their own room. The current foster children will share a bedroom.

A temporary approval was granted on 9-19-19. A home visit was completed on 4-17-19. This special consideration, is child specific, and time-limited, until 10-31-21. PRLU supports this request, and I have Jesse Bodine here, with Southwest Arkansas if you have any further questions.

MR. TOLLETTE: The total kids, again?

MS. ROUSE: Four foster children. I’m sorry, total number of five in the home. No, wait a minute.

MS. BODINE: Four.

MS. ROUSE: Is it four? Okay. Yeah, it’s four.

MR. TOLLETTE: A total of four?

MS. BODINE: Two sets of brothers, yes.

MR. ALTOM: Are all four therapeutic foster children?
MS. BODINE: Yes, sir.

MR. ALTOM: They are?

MS. BODINE: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Tell us a little bit about how you feel about the therapeutic foster parents’ ability to handle this number of children.

MS. BODINE: Yes. The dad is actually going to take off from traveling, to stay home and just kind of be there. They’ve been foster parents for 30 years, so they have a lot of experience with kids.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: So if his situation changes, does your opinion about this placement change? If he decides to start traveling again, in the next two years?

MS. BODINE: I think it would just depend on how the boys are doing. The two that have been in the home, have been there for several years, so they’re pretty stable at this point.

MR. TOLLETTE: So is it safe to say, you’ve had limited incidents in this scenario?

MS. BODINE: With the boys that are there right now, it has been going really well.

MR. TOLLETTE: Okay. Do you know the
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(501) 372-5115
background of the two that are recommended to
go in?

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: They are there, right?

MS. BODINE: They are there, yes.

MR. TOLLETTE: So overall, with the
specifics of this particular care, no red
flags?

MS. BODINE: No. We feel pretty confident
in these parents.

MR. TOLLETTE: Mr. Chairman, I’d like to
make a recommendation, that we approve the
request of staff.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Recommendation. Is there a
second?

MS. DOHERTY: I’ll second.

MR. TOLLETTE: Or a motion.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Okay. I have a second.

Anymore discussion? Probably, it’s just hard
to find enough foster parents and you have
children that need homes.

MS. BODINE: It is, yes.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: I know that’s difficult.
If there’s no more discussion, all in favor,
say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.
Tiffanie N. Harrison, CCR
(501) 372-5115
CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Any opposed?

(No audible response given.)

MS. ROUSE: Thank you.

MS. THOMPSON: I’m Darla Thompson with Placement and Residential Licensing Unit and I’ve got items number 23 and number 24 on the agenda. 23 is a DCFS request for special consideration, to Regulation 209.1, each household occupant shall have a room that provides privacy. The foster home is relative placement. The foster children, ages six and one-year-old.

DCFS is requesting a special consideration, to allow the foster parent to keep the children together in a relative placement home. The request is for the foster parent to be allowed to sleep in the living room, so that the children can be placed in the bedroom. The bedroom consists of required square footage for minimum licensing, and there were two occupants in that bedroom, which would be the six-year-old, and the one-year-old. The six-year-old has a full-size bed. The one-year-old has a crib.

This would be a children specific, and

Tiffanie N. Harrison, CCR
(501) 372-5115
time-limited to 10-31-2021. A temporary approval was granted on 8-21-2019, by the licensing unit. PRLU completed a visit to the foster home, on 9-2-19, and there is an operational window to the outside, and licensing insured that the smoke alarm was in working order on that visit, and PRLU supports the request. I have Nicole Parchman with DCFS present, if you have any questions.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Got that? Questions?

MR. TOLLETTE: They’re going to sleep in the living room, the parents, I understand that?

MS. PARCHMAN: The parent, yeah, she’s going to sleep in the living room.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Single-parent?

MS. PARCHMAN: Uh-huh.


MS. PARCHMAN: Single.

MR. TOLLETTE: Okay. Is that just a sofa, or is it a sleeper sofa?

MS. PARCHMAN: It’s a sofa until she can get -- she’s working with the Housing Authority, on getting a larger apartment.

MR. TOLLETTE: Larger apartment?

MS. PARCHMAN: Uh-huh.
MR. TOLLETTE: So this is time limited also, right?

MS. PARCHMAN: Uh-huh.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Good information. Any other questions?

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

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Motion. Is there a second?

MR. WHATLEY: Second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All in favor, say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Opposed?

MS. DOHERTY: Abstain.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: DCFS Abstains.

MS. PARCHMAN: Thank you.

MS. THOMPSON: Hi. I’ve got number 24 on the item, and this is a DCFS special request for consideration for 206.2, a foster family parent, shall be at least 21 years of age. The request is for the foster mother, who is currently 18 years old be — she’ll be 21 in November 2021. The foster parent is a relative placement for the child. The request is to allow the child, age 7 months old, to remain with relatives. The request is for the uncle Tiffanie N. Harrison, CCR (501) 372-5115.
and his girlfriend, to be the foster parents. This will be child specific, and time-limited to 10-31-2021.

A temporary approval was granted on 9-11-2019, by the licensing unit. PRLU completed a visit of the foster home, on 9-19-19. The children -- or child’s bedroom consists of a crib, dresser, rocking chairs, and other baby related items. The bedroom has an operational window, that opens to the outside of the home. Licensing ensured that the smoke alarm was in working order, during the visit. PRLU supports the request.

I’d like to amend this. I found out information today, that they were married recently, the uncle and the foster parent that’s being requested today.

MR. TOLLETTE: Married the girlfriend?

MS. THOMPSON: Yes. And she also obtained a drivers’ license, which that information, was in there, too. And Melissa Woodward is with DCFS, if you have any questions.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Any questions?

MR. TOLLETTE: I make a motion that we accept the recommendation of staff.

Tiffanie N. Harrison, CCR
(501) 372-5115
CHAIRMAN Motion. Do we have a second?
MR. ALTOM: Second.
CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Second. Any other questions? Let’s vote. All in favor, say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.
CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Anyone opposed, like sign.
MS. DOHERTY: Abstain.
CHAIRMAN FLYNN: DCFS Abstains. Sandy, I think they keep sneaking these in here, just to see if --
MS. DOHERTY: If I’m awake or not. So I’m going to make sure and listen.

MS. WESLEY: Ute Wesley, with the Placement in Residential Licensing Unit. I have number 25. A Child’s Dream Adoption Agency has requested to continue their license, on inactive status, for one year. The agency is based out of Washington State, and has been unable to higher a qualified representative for their Arkansas office. The agency has not been involved in many Arkansas adoption actions, within the past year, and has no complaints against it. The licensing unit supports this request.

Tiffanie N. Harrison, CCR
(501) 372-5115
MR. WHATLEY: I make a motion to approve the request.

MR. TOLLETTE: I’ll second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Got a second. All in favor, say I “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: No one’s opposed. Thank you.

MS. WESLEY: Number 26, Ute Wesley, with the Placement and Residential Licensing Unit, special consideration is requested by DCFS for Regulation 209.2, which states that each bedroom shall have at least 50 square feet of floor space per occupant. DCFS is requesting that three sisters, ages 13, 14, and 16 be allowed to share a 126 square foot bedroom. If approved, this would allow for the siblings to be placed together in the same home.

This request is child specific, and is in the best interest of the children. Temporary approval was granted on 8-19-2019. The licensing unit supports this request. I have with me the resource worker, Erin Smith, for any questions.

MR. ALTOM: Type and number of beds in the

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(501) 372-5115
room?

    MS. SMITH: You have a set of bunk beds along the wall, a dresser, a twin bed, window, closet, closet.

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

    MR. WHATLEY: Second.

    CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Motion and second. All in favor, say “Aye.”

    BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

    CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Anyone opposed? DCFS --

    MS. DOHERTY: Abstain.

    CHAIRMAN FLYNN: -- abstains.

    MR. ARNOLD: I’m Charles Arnold with the Placement and Residential Licensing Unit, and I have item number 27. DCFS is requesting a special consideration, to Standard 209.2, to allow each bedroom to have 50 square feet per occupant. This would allow DCFS to place three children that share a bedroom that is 115 square feet. In this room, they have a bunk bed, that has a third mattress as a trundle underneath the bottom bunk.

    This will allow siblings to be kept together, and placed with their grandmother.
The licensing specialist visited the home on July 18th of this year. This request is child specific to the children noted in this request and temporary approval was given to this request on 7-17-19, and the licensing unit does support this request. I have Melissa Dennise with DCFS if you have any other questions.

MR. ALTOM: How many total kids?

MS. DENNISE: Four total.

MR. ALTOM: Four total?

MS. DENNISE: Yes.

MR. ALTOM: So three would be in this room. I am familiar with that type of bed, by the way. I have to be with three boys. I’ll make a motion to approve the request.

MR. TOLLETTE: I second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Motion and second. All in favor, say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All opposed? DCFS --

MS. DOHERTY: Abstain.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: -- abstains.

MR. ARNOLD: Thank you very much.

MS. GALUSHA: Charlotte Galusha with Placement and Residential Licensing Unit, and

Tiffanie N. Harrison, CCR
(501) 372-5115
items 28 and 29, were previously withdrawn, so for item 30, DCFS has requested a special consideration for Regulation 209.2, that each bedroom shall have at least 50 square feet of floor space per occupant. DCFS has placed a set of twin boys, ages 13 months, into the home, that Ms. T. and Mr. M. The twins will be sharing a bedroom with Ms. T. and with Mr. M. The bedroom is approximately 179 square feet, which is less than the required 50 square feet per occupant. Ms. T., is the aunt to the children. There are two other children, ages four and six, living in the home, and they share a separate bedroom.

DCFS feels that it is in the best interest of the foster children to be placed in the relative home. A temporary special consideration was granted on 9-18-19. I visited the home myself, recently, on 10-16-19, and there was ample space in the home, and the licensing unit supports this request. Ms. O’Shaneia Nelson is here from DCFS, if you have any questions.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Any questions?

MR. TOLLETTE: 13 months?

Tiffany N. Harrison, CCR
(501) 372-5115
MS. NELSON: Yes. Two twin boys.

MR. TOLLETTE: Babies?

MS. NELSON: Yes.

MR. TOLLETTE: They’re going to stay in the room with you?

MS. NELSON: No. I’m the resource worker.

No, I don’t have any kids.

MR. TOLLETTE: Oh, you don’t?

MS. NELSON: No.

MR. TOLLETTE: That’s a nice reaction, when you say that way. I’ll make a motion that we accept the recommendation of staff.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All right. Motion. Is there a second?

MR. ALTOM: Second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Second. All in favor, say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Opposed?

MS. DOHERTY: Abstain.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: DCFS abstains. Thanks.

MS. GALUSHA: Charlotte Galusha, with Placement and Residential Licensing. Alliance for Children Incorporated has requested a change of address for their Arkansas license.

Tiffanie N. Harrison, CCR
(501) 372-5115
It would change to 67 Commentry Drive, here in Little Rock, and the licensing unit supports this change of address.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: I move to approve this request. Is there a second?

MS. FOTI: Second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Second. All in favor, say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Thank you.

MS. GALUSHA: Thank you.

MS. STEPPS: Good afternoon. Fatima Stepps with the Placement and Residential Licensing Unit. I have items number 32, and 33, on your agenda. The first item on -- item number 32, is from Woodridge of Forrest City. Woodridge of Forrest city, has obtained a doing business as, for the facility located at 603 Kittle Road in Forrest City, Arkansas. This location will now be referred to as Perimeter Behavioral of Forrest City.

The agency has been operating in substantial compliance with minimum licensing standards, and the Placement and Residential Licensing Unit supports the agency’s request.

Tiffanie N. Harrison, CCR
(501) 372-5115
for this change.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Motion to approve this request.

MS. DOHERTY: Second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All in favor, say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: No one opposed. All right.

Fatima?

MS. STEPPS: Item number 33 is from Woodridge Northeast. Woodridge Northeast, has obtained a doing business as, for the facility located at 600 North 7th Street, in West Memphis, Arkansas. This location, will now be referred to as Perimeter Behavioral of West Memphis.

The agency has been operating in substantial compliance, with minimum licensing standards, and the placement in residential licensing unit, does support the agency’s request for this change.

MR. WHATLEY: Motion to approve the request.

MR. ALTOM: Second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All in favor, say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Motion carries. Thanks.
MS. FANCHER: Good afternoon. I’m Susan Fancher with the Placement and Residential Licensing Unit, and I will have items 34 through 36 on the agenda. Item number 34 is a request from the United Methodist Children’s Home, for their Springdale girls home. The Springdale girls home has not been active for a year. The agency is requesting that their residential license remain open.

PRL Unit supports this request, and here with me today, is Craig Gammon with the United Methodist Children’s Home, to answer any questions that you might have.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Any questions?

(No audible response given.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Then, I’ll make a motion that we approve this request.

MR. TOLLETTE: I second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Second. All in favor, say "Aye."

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

MR. ALTOM: Abstain.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: And Andy abstains.

MS. FANCHER: Item number 35 is also a request from the United Methodist Children’s Home.
This agency is requesting a change in ages, that would be served in their residential family style care license at their Fayetteville home. The request is for a change in ages from 12 to 18, to ages 5 to 18.

A temporary approval was granted on July 19, 2019, by Shirley Preston, and the Placement and Residential Licensing unit is in support of this request. Again, I have Mr. Gammon here to answer any questions that you might have.

MR. WHATLEY: Motion to approve the request.

MR. TOLLETTE: Second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Motion and second. All in favor say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

MR. ALTOM: Abstain.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Ed Abstains.

MS. FANCHER: For item number 36, you should have a request before you for Soaring Wings Ranch. Soaring Wings Ranch is requesting a change in status, for a voluntary reduction, incapacity, 36 children, to 24 children, and a change in license type, from the emergency and residential license type, to the emergency and...
residential family style care license type.

This license type would be specific for their Love, Atkinson, and Writeout homes. PRLU Unit is in support of this request, for a voluntary reduction in capacity, and changes to the license type. And here with me today, from Soaring Wings Ranch, is Andrew Watson and Jason Bollinger to answer any questions that you might have.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Any questions?

MR. TOLLETTE: Yeah, just the rationale in the change. I’d just like to -- anybody to articulate briefly.

MR. WATSON: We’re opening up -- the home that we’re going to be closing, we’re opening up as a foster home, on our campus.

MR. TOLLETTE: And drop it down to 20?

MR. WATSON: Yes, on the family style side, 24.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: I got a motion?

MR. ALTOM: Motion to approve.

MR. WHATLEY: Second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Second. All in favor, say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.
CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Opposed? All right.
Thanks.

MR. ARNOLD: These next items, the Board has not seen any of the packet. Beforehand, they’ve been able to review those packets. So as your item is called, just be patient with them, as they review the packet, and the information that’s being given to them.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All right. Susan, while you’re passing those out, we’re going take a brief break here, about five minutes, to get a chance to stand up, and slip out of the room. Thank you.

Just so everyone will know, the Board is going to carefully review these. We’re going to ask the questions that we need to ask, to protect your privacy, but we’ll do a thorough examination of reviewing the documents that we’re given. So we’ll get started on this, as soon as we re-adjourn in five minutes.

(OFF THE RECORD)

(ON THE RECORD)

MS. FANCHER: Susan Fancher with the Placement in Residential Licensing Unit. You should have before you, a request from Teen Tiffanie N. Harrison, CCR

(501) 372-5115
Challenge Ranch, for a special consideration, for permission to work, for Mr. R. And here with me today, is Justin Smith, and staff, Mr. R., to answer any questions you might have.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Tell us a little bit about the position that we’re considering. The position.

MR. SMITH: We’re looking at, what we call direct care, hall pastor position, is what we title it. It’s a direct care position, over a hall of students. Eight students live in that hall, or reside in that hall. Overseeing the evening and weekend activities.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: When was this? I think I just saw it. When did this occur?

MR. SMITH: We hired Jefferson, in early June of this year. We received great references, great application process. We were confident that he had the potential to be a great fit for our ministry, for our program, and then we received word over the summer, that there was a -- you know, I knew about his background, but that we needed to come before y’all.

So he graciously was moved into a kitchen
position, a non direct care position, until we
could come to this meeting. He’s served
incredibly faithfully during that time.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: And when was the incident?

MR. R: Over three years ago. Well, over
three years.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: So why don’t you tell us
what has happened in your life since the
incident.

MR. R: So much. Since the incident, I have
been forming a closer relationship with God,
really. It was really kind of that incident
there, that brought me further into my
salvation, if you will. I’ve been, you know --
of course, I’ve been completely clean and
sober, since that day. I don’t know how to put
it exactly, but feeling God move into my life,
like he did that night, and like he has since
that day, has -- like I said, it has really
opened me up more to form a closer and better
relationship with God to sort of work on
myself, to express the love of Christ more, and
to...

MR. DOHERTY: What kind of classes have you
had? Did you say you’ve taken some kind of
Tiffany N. Harrison, CCR
(501) 372-5115
classes since then?

MR. R: Since then? Classes?

MS. DOHERTY: For domestic battery?

MR. R.: No, there was no classes. I’m a leader in the Celebrate Recovery Program. You know, I’m currently working on my facilitators license, for the Lifeline Program. This has kind of like spurred me on to -- I’m in classes, at SAGU NWA, for addictions counseling, you know. This is kind of really like spurred me on to pursue those things in, you know, my life, to kind of go out and help other people, you know, kind of be that overflowing vessel.

MR. TOLLETTE: You know, I read this briefly, so I don’t want details of that, you know. We all make mistakes, and sometimes, since we are talking spiritually God provides that impotence, and for the people you work with, to step up to the plate, and go to bat for you. I know the Chairman said, we would review, and ask questions, differently than how we do it, but I feel a sense of honesty from you, remorse, and then in a funny kind of way, from what I read, unjustly in my opinion, put
in this situation. By what I’ve read, the
comments of both parties. I wasn’t there, you
know, but it just seems that way by my reading.
And so if that injustice, made justice happen,
and what you just said to us, then you know, we
would call that a miracle, if you hold true to
what you just said.

MR. R: Well, I truly look at it as a
miracle, in a sense. I mean, necessarily, I
was saved month before that incident, but I
didn’t really actually get to experience the
powerful -- moving powers of God, until that
night, and you know, God became even more real
to me, if you will. And I have learned to --
I’ve learned repentance of course, but
forgiveness as well.

You know, I’m kind of grateful for this
situation right here, because, you know, my
wife and I, we left town, pretty much -- well,
we have plans on leaving town, you know, for
jobs. And a couple of days later, you know, we
ended up moving out of town, and stuff, and I
tried to kind of bury this incident, in a way,
but, you know, now that I’m back, and I’m, you
know, working with Teen Challenge, I’m actually
very grateful for that opportunity, and then
the situation coming back up.

You know, I was kind of talking to my wife
about it, and kind of having to relive it, and
go through it again, and everything like that,
and she asked me -- she was like, “Well, have
you forgiven?” And it may me kind of stop, and
it may me kind of, you know, seriously consider
it, and think about it, and pray over it and
stuff like that. I guess I really hadn’t, but
since then I have. You know, I’ve put myself
in that position for, you know, forgiving
myself, and forgiving other people involved,
you know, and letting go of that kind of
bitterness, or resentment, or just kind of bury
it, and forget about it, you know, and try to
move on with my life. So I’m grateful for this
opportunity.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Any other questions?

MR. TOLLETTE: Other than this incident,
there’s been nothing else?

MR. R: No.

MR. WHATLEY: Do you feel like the life
experiences that you’ve had, has kind of lead
you towards being a part of Teen Challenge?
Did I understand you to say that, or allude to that?

MR. R.: Yes, absolutely. I don’t know if I can explain how, you know, exactly without maybe sounding, just kind of generic, but yeah, by all means my life experiences, you know, has brought me back around, and has brought me back down to Arkansas, and different circumstances in my life. I had some family get sick, basically, and I was living up in Missouri, and I came back to help in that scenario. Before I came back, I put in some applications. Teen Challenge came up.

I knew I’ve always kind of wanted to work in this sort of ministry, especially with the drug and rehab sort of side of things, you know, because I know how God has worked in my life, and has moved through me, put me you know, where I’m at today. And if I can just kind of help usher somebody else along, in those respects, then you know, that means -- and so, when Teen Challenge, you know, called me for the interview, you know, I jumped on it. And when they offered me the job, I definitely accepted. And like I said, I’m in college now,
for -- to finish my degree in drug and alcohol
addictions counseling. By all means, I’m kind
of one of those, where like if God opens doors,
I walk through them. You know, I don’t really
ask too much from God, other than to just open
doors and guide me along my path.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All right. It’s helpful to
have your wife’s account here to, so any other
comments, questions, or a motion?

MR. TOLLETTE: I make a motion that we
accept the recommendation of staff.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All right. This is
actually not a staff recommendation, on this
one I think.

MR. TOLLETTE: Then I stand corrected.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: They did not say this, but
this is -- you’re free to make this motion on
your behalf, to approve the request from Teen
Challenge.

MR. TOLLETTE: Okay. I’d like to make the
motion on behalf of Teen Quest Challenge -- I
mean Teen Quest request. Is that okay?

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: We got it. There’s a
motion. Is there a second?

MR. TOLLETTE: I make a motion that we
approve. I’ll keep it simple.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Is there a second?

MR. ALTOM: Second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: There’s a second. Any other discussion?

(No audible response given.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All in favor, say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Is anyone oppose?

(No audible response given.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All right. Thanks for coming in.

MR. R: Thank you.

MS. STEPPE: Would you like me to give you a few moments to review the packet?

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Yeah, let’s take a minute.

(Brief pause in proceedings.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Okay. Let’s get started.

MS. STEPPE: Fatima Stepp, with the Placement and Residential Licensing Unit. This request is for Ouachita Children’s Center. Ouachita Children’s Center is requesting a special consideration on licensing standard 103.11, which states no person guilty of an excluded criminal offense, pursuant to ACA 9-
28-409, shall be permitted to have direct and
unsupervised contact with children, except as
provided in the statute. This request would
grant staff, Ms. S., the permission to work
with children.

The agency has shown a history of
operational and substantial compliance with
minimum licensing standards, and the Placement
and Residential Licensing Unit supports the
agency’s request. I have Amy Higgins with
Ouachita Children’s Center present, and Ms. S.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Tell us a little bit about
the care you’re providing, and what the
position is, and the responsibility of the
position.

MS. HIGGINS: Okay. The position that she
holds is a client engagement specialist, and
what that is, is that is our case manager for
the children that reside in the shelter. So
she does case plans, schedules visits, passes,
works with them to correct their behaviors,
works with them to make sure their mental
health needs are being met, works very closely
with the juvenile probation office, and the
court system, as well as with all DCFS workers,
which the kids -- that are in foster care. She
provides weekly contact with them.

MR. TOLLETTE: So what’s kind of done in the
dark, it comes to the light, and then wow,
things happen. Is that safe to say?

MS. S.: Yes, sir.

MR. TOLLETTE: And it just hits you, and
it’s like, oh gosh. It’s horrible, and then it
was help in another kind of way.

MS. S: Yes, sir.

MR. TOLLETTE: So based on this, this is
like 2007? ‘11?

MS. S: 2008 AND 2009, where the original.
My records were sealed in 2013.

MR. TOLLETTE: And I don’t want to get into
detail, and relive it, because I’m talking like
in third person, because we all can read, and I
want you to keep your dignity. And I would
rather do it in a metaphoric kind of approach,
that way, I feel like I’m connecting, and
hopefully, you feel the honor and respect, for
you standing here, which is pretty powerful.
We all make mistakes.

MS. S: Thank you.

MR. TOLLETTE: You’re doing some pretty
amazing things. And I look at the references
that you’ve got, and you’ve got a lot of people
in your corner.

MS. S: I do.

MR. TOLLETTE: I know Ms. Fatima, and she
doesn’t come up here unless the I’s are dotted
and the T’s are crossed, because she monitors
my organization, too. I’m scared of her. But
that’s all I have to say.

MR. WHATLEY: I would also like to say
congratulations on your recovery.

MS. R.: Thank you.

MR. TOLLETTE: Yes. That’s all I’m saying.
I’ll leave it to my colleagues, if anybody else
has a comment.

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

MR. WHATLEY: Second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All in favor, say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: And no one opposed.

MS. S: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Just give us about a minute
to skim it.

(Brief pause in proceedings.)

Tiffany N. Harrison, CCR
(501) 372-5115
MS. PARCHMAN: I’m Nicole Parchman, resource worker, and I’m here with the providers. We are asking for special permission, and consideration to work with children, due to background check results. I have Mr. Louis here, if you have any questions.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Is it a grandchild?

MR. T.: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Who is this grandchild?

How old is she?

MR. T.: Six.

MR. WHATLEY: No other incidents since 1989?

MR. T.: No, sir.

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

MR. WHATLEY: Second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: I have a motion and a second. All in favor, say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

MS. DOHERTY: Abstain.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: DCFS will abstain.

MS. PARCHMAN: Thank you.

(Brief pause in proceedings.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Why don’t you go ahead and tell us a little bit.
MS. PEELER: I’m social worker, Yvonne Peeler, and I’m here for special consideration, for Ms. Melissa M., to be able to work with children. I have Ms. Melissa here, if you have any questions.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: I’m always interested in the ones, when I see fit of kin, because that always impresses me, that someone would want to step up, especially in a situation like this. So I learned a little bit about this while I was on vacation, because Sandy couldn’t reach anybody, so it was 3 o’clock in the morning in Malaysia, where I was, and we were having a phone call, because I had to get up. I had a message. So tell me a little bit about why you chose to be a fit of kin for this child.

MS. M.: Well, nobody else really would step up. His mom wouldn’t. And he’s special. He wasn’t vocal at the time. He needed somebody that could understand him. No one else could. I was worried no one else could. My heart was broken, whenever they first got taken.

MS. PEELER: And just to be clear, the applicant -- this is the applicant’s daughter.

MS. M.: Yeah, it was my mother.

Tiffanie Harrison, CCR
(501) 372-5115
MS. PEELER: And they live in the same home.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Okay. I may be thinking of a different one, then.

MS. DOHERTY: No, this is the one.

MR. TOLLETTE: Nothing else since 2010?

MS. M.: No, Sir.

MR. TOLLETTE: I make a motion we approve.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: I have a motion.

MR. ALTOM: Second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Second. All in favor, say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All opposed?

MS. DOHERTY: Abstain.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: DCFS abstains.

MS. M: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Patricia for Joyce.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Give us just a minute.

(Brief pause in proceedings.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Okay. Let’s get a little introduction here.

MS. HERRING: My name is Patricia Herring.

I’m the resource worker in Craighead County, and we are here today, requesting that Mrs. Joyce, be allowed to care for her young three

Tiffanie N. Harrison, CCR  
(501) 372-5115
relatives.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Who are the relatives?

MS. S.: My two nieces, and nephew.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Okay. What are their ages?

MS. S.: Three -- he just turned three.

She’s a year. She’ll be two in January. And my baby is just four months old. She’ll be one in June.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Thank you for coming in today, so we can review all of this. Does anyone have any questions?

MR. TOLLETTE: Do they kind of stay around you now?

MS. S.: I’ve practically raised them. They’ve been with me all their lives. Yes.

MR. TOLLETTE: And this stuff popped up and ‘97, ‘98?

MS. S.: That’s okay. We’re not going to go into it, but it just stuck?

MS. S.: Yes.

MR. TOLLETTE: It hurt doesn’t it?

MS. S.: Yes.

MR. TOLLETTE: You know what? There’s a power greater than all of us.

MR. S.: Yes it is.

Tiffanie N. Harrison, CCR
(501) 372-5115
MR. TOLLETTE: Now, do they make -- do good
in school? Do they talk back to you, these
kids?

MS. S.: They’re just three and four.

MR. TOLLETTE: Just three and four. Okay.

They don’t talk back to you?

MS. S.: No. Except for my one. She thinks
she’s the boss.

MR. TOLLETTE: She does?

MS. S.: Yes.

MR. ALTOM: Is she?

MS. S.: Huh?

MR. ALTOM: Is she?

MS. S.: Yes.

MR. TOLLETTE: Does she get there from that
from anywhere in the family?

MS. S.: Yes.

MR. TOLLETTE: Mr. Chairman, I have finished
all of my questions.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Any other questions?

MR. TOLLETTE: I make a motion that we
accept, or approve.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: I have a motion to
approved.

MR. ALTOM: Second.
CHAIRMAN FLYNN: And a second. All in favor, say "Aye."

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: No one is opposed. DCFS abstains. Okay thank you for coming in.

MS. S.: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Have fun with those kids.

MS. S.: Thank you.

(Brief pause in proceedings.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Tell us a little bit?

MS. OLINGER: I’m Judy Olinger, Area One Resource Unit. I have Dionna here. She would like to open her home for special consideration of her grandchildren.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Tell us a little bit about the children.

MS. R.: My grandchildren?

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Yes.

MS. R.: One just turned four two weeks ago, and the other one is five months.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: It takes a minute to go through all this.

MR. ALTOM: Haven’t had any problems, since ‘09?

MS. R.: No, Sir.
MR. ALTOM: I make a motion to approve the request.

MR. TOLLETTE: I second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Motion and a second. All in favor say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Motion passes. DCFS abstains. Thank you for coming in.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Ms. Nelson, for Christopher.

(Brief pause in proceedings.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Okay. Go ahead.

MS. NELSON: I’m O’Shaneia Nelson, resource worker, in Area Three. Here, I have Mr. C., and we’re requesting a special consideration for him to work with children, and also for him and his wife, to consider -- to finish the foster and adoption process. Mr. C is here, if you have any questions for him, and this is his wife, Mrs. C.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: So what do you plan to do with a masters in clinical mental health?

MR. C.: Well, after I get back, it will be 2022. I’m going to continue to get a PhD, and I’m looking at clinical psychology. In the
meantime, I will acquire an LPC, and maybe open
a private practice, you know, just kind of go
wherever the road takes me, I guess, but I
really want a PhD.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Okay. You’d like to be a
counselor?

MR. C.: Sir?

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: You said you like to be an
LPC to do counseling?

MR. C.: Yes. I’ve been in the counseling
field for about 12 years now, so it’s kind of
something that I’ve enjoyed to do.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: So who’s idea was it to
foster?

MR. C.: Well, it’s -- it’s not really a
funny story, but my wife and I have what’s
called --

MS. C.: We were a respite family.

MR. C.: Unexplained infertility, so we were
trying to conceive. It’s been going on three
years now. And you know, we were working with
a kid with special needs, during a respite
period type thing, for five years. We would
have him on the weekends. We just fell in love
with him. And so, when we found out this time
last year, that we weren’t able to have kids, for some unexplained reason, you know, my wife was adopted, so we thought, maybe we can look into adoption or fostering. So that’s kind of what started the process.

MR. WHATLEY: Thank you for what you’re doing. I make a motion to approve the request.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: I have a motion. Do I have a second?

MR. TOLLETTE: Second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Motion and a second. All in favor, say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

MS. DOHERTY: Abstain.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: No one is opposed, but DCFS abstains.

MS. S.: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Melissa, for Parker.

(Brief pause in proceedings.)

MR. ALTOM: Have you had any problems, since 1968?

MS. WOODARD: No, sir. He was 39 years old, when this happened.

MR. ALTOM: I make a motion we approve this request.
MR. WHATLEY: Second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Motion and second. All in favor, say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Anyone opposed?

MS. DOHERTY: (Unintelligible.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Ginger for Paul.

(Brief pause in proceedings.)

MS. HEWETT: Good evening. My name is Ginger Hewett. I’m a resource worker from Area Eight, Grant County, and we’re here requesting special permission for Mr. Paul to work with his niece. He’s here with his wife, if you have any questions.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Anyone have any questions.

MR. TOLLETTE: I’ve been talking a lot so -- I didn’t see anything -- did it say how long you been married?

MS. A.: We’ve been married eight. We’ve been together almost 20.

MR. A.: We’ve been together since I was 16; she was 13.

MR. TOLLETTE: Don’t mess that up. You’ll be in a lot of trouble. So you want to work with kids; is that --
MR. A.: We’ve got four of our own. We just raised my younger sister. She just went to college in April, and now we’re trying to foster my niece.

MR. TOLLETTE: Was this 19 years ago? This situation.

MR. A.: No. It was 13 years ago.

MR. TOLLETTE: Okay. I was trying to read.

MR. A.: My handwriting is bad.

MR. TOLLETTE: It was a that was a long time ago.

MS. A.: ‘06, yes, Sir.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Any questions from anybody?

MR. TOLLETTE: I’ll make a motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Motion to approve this request. Is there a second?

MS. FOTI: I’ll second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Motion and a second. All in favor, say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Any opposed? DCFS abstains. Thank you guys for coming in.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Stacey for Manning.

(Brief pause in proceedings.)

Tiffanie N. Harrison, CCR (501) 372-5115
CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Why don’t you give us a little introduction here.

MS. JONES: I’m Stacey Jones. I’m from Area Eight. I do resource and adoptions. I’m here with Ashley and John Manning, asking for special consideration for John to work with children.

MR. TOLLETTE: I’m trying to read this fast, so --

MR. M.: That’s fine.

MR. TOLLETTE: ‘13 was the end of everything?

MR. M.: Yes, sir.

MR. TOLLETTE: Nothing else since ‘13?

MR. M.: No, sir.

MR. TOLLETTE: Just paid the consequences, the prices, misery and the pain?

MR. M.: Misery and pain and everything --

MR. TOLLETTE: Humiliation?

MR. M.: Yes, sir.

MR. TOLLETTE: Sorry?

MR. M.: Sorry.

MR. TOLLETTE: Did you go to Jesus?

MR. M.: Yes, sir.

MR. TOLLETTE: I’m sorry. I’m not going to
do this again. I understand. You know, for me, and I know for this Board, everything is really serious. You know, I’m just the lagarius one sometimes, because I just imagine, if I took a different path, and I was on the other side, and standing here in front of a group of people that hold the fate of your dreams and wishes in their hands. So I just try to do my part to make it as pleasurable as possible, but I’m also serious about it.

MR. M.: Yes, sir.

MR. TOLLETTE: Because I think about every motion I make, even though I can’t get them right sometimes, but my name goes on that piece of paper, that I’m stepping up to the plate, on behalf of the Governor, and the State, saying “Give these people these opportunities.” So, you know I’m just trying to break it down. I don’t know if any of my colleagues have -- I talk too much sometimes, but I just -- I’m impressed.

MR. M.: Thank you, sir.

MR. TOLLETTE: Mr. Chairman, I’ll pass it back to you.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All right. Any other
MR. WHATLEY: I make a motion to approve the request.

MR. ALTOM: Second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Motion and a second. All in favor, say "Aye."

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

MS. DOHERTY: Abstain.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Thank you guys.

(Brief pause in proceedings.)

MS. OLINGER: Area One Resource Unit. I’m here with Mr. Edward and his wife who would like to open their home for their grandchildren. They’ve been fostering their grandchildren, provisionally placed in relative foster, for a while. They’ve completed all of their foster/adopt PRIDE training, their CPR, and the adoption has been set for November, if approved.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Grandchildren?

MR. B.: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Where are they now?

MR. B.: They’re with us.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: They’re with you, but have you been a part of their lives?
MR. B.: Yes, sir. Ever since they’ve been born, yes, sir.

MR. TOLLETTE: They’ve got a great bowling alley in Rogers.

MR. B.: Yes, sir.

MR. TOLLETTE: You’ve been there?

MR. B.: Yeah, Fast Lanes. We were just there, for the first day.

MR. TOLLETTE: Are you pretty good?

MR. B.: No, I’m not, no, sir. My granddaughters probably do better than I do.

MR. TOLLETTE: You take them bowling?

MR. B.: Pardon?

MR. TOLLETTE: You take your granddaughters bowling?

MR. B.: Yeah. It was one of the youngest ones third birthday. They’re both three at the moment. The other one turns four next month.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Thanks for the good explanation and description of your life in recent years. Does anyone have any -- else have any other questions?

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

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Is there a second?
MR. WHATLEY: Second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All in favor, say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: No one opposed. DCFS abstains.

MS. DOHERTY: Abstain.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Thanks for coming in.

Congratulations.

MR. B.: Thank you.

(Brief pause in proceedings.)

MR. TOLLETTE: Is this is 1999?

MS. SHARP: Yes, sir.

MR. TOLLETTE: Nothing else?

MR. T: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Let’s get a little introduction, and we’ll get to this pretty quick.

MR. TOLLETTE: Oh, I’m sorry.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: We’ll find out -- make sure we didn’t miss anything. Go ahead.

MS. SHARP: I’m Debra Sharp. I’m resource specialist for Area Eight. I’m sorry, I apologize for my voice. I lost it this weekend. I’m out of Craighead County, asking special permission, for Marvin -- he goes by Tiffanie N. Harrison, CCR (501) 372-5115
Frank -- Trustee, to work with his significant other’s grandson. He’s in care, in Connecticut, through ICDC.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Connecticut, huh?

MR. T: Yeah. Long way off. I’ve never been there.

CHAIRMAN Any other questions for anyone?

MR. TOLLETTE: So nothing since 1999?

MR. T: No, sir.

MR. TOLLETTE: Now I’m in order.

MR. T: No, nothing since then.

MR. TOLLETTE: Yeah, I was up in Connecticut a couple of months ago. My daughter is up in that area, and went on up to Maine. It’s a pretty country. And, you know, I guess I’m the verbal one. I’m kind of like a diesel. I start slow and then they can’t cut me off.

MR. T.: That’s fine.

MR. TOLLETTE: But, you know -- what made you decide this is what you want to do?

MR. T.: What made me decide to do that?

MR. TOLLETTE: No, not that. We don’t have to talk about that. That’s done.

MR. T.: Yeah, that was done. I tell you what, that put me on the straight path. Not
like I was real far off of it. It put me on a
straight path, and I chose to live life right,
and not go back there again.

MR. TOLLETTE: And you got babies involved.

MR. T.: It was a bad decision.

MR. TOLLETTE: Got babies involved.

MR. T.: Yeah, uh-huh.

MR. TOLLETTE: You got a soft heart.

MR. T.: Yes, I do.

MR. TOLLETTE: And who is that in the blue
over there?

MR. T.: That’s my fiancé.

MR. TOLLETTE: I make a motion that we
approve.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Motion. Is there a second?

MR. WHATLEY: Second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Ready to vote? All right.

All in favor, say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Anyone opposed?

MS. DOHERTY: Abstain.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: DCFS abstains. Thank you
guys.

MR. T.: Thank y’all. Thank everybody.

(Brief pause in proceedings.)

Tiffanie N. Harrison, CCR
(501) 372-5115
CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All right. Tell us what’s going on.

MS. SWAFFORD: Hi my name is Kristen Swafford, Area Two resource worker, Sebastian County. I am here with Josh S., and his wife, April, requesting special consideration for Josh to be able to work with children, specifically his niece, and great nephews.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Niece and three nephews?

MR. S.: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Are y’all ready for those three boys? Part of your life already, I guess?

MR. S.: They was, until situations changed.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Thanks for stepping up for them now, being willing to come down and do this.

MR. S.: Yes, sir.

MR. TOLLETTE: Nothing since 2001?

MR. S.: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: I’m getting to that part of your story now, so -- difficult time. These children need a good home and good --

MR. S.: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: -- security right now.
MR. ALTOM: I make a motion to approve the request.

MR. WHATLEY: I’ll second.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Motion and a second. All in favor, say “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.

MR. S.: No on opposed?

MS. DOHERTY: Abstain.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: DCFS abstains. Thank y’all.

MR. ARNOLD: I think we’re at that point for the temporary approvals. All of those were sent to you in your packets, and everything that was on there was resolved today.

MR. GRIFFIN: You guys have had a full agenda, so I’ll be pretty brief. I’m actually amazed that you managed to work through things as quickly as you did. I thought we’d be here until 6 o’clock tonight. So my hats off to you on that.

You should have something in your packet that looks like this. It’s titled “Proposal for Consideration, Regarding Temporary Approvals”. This could be a way, if the Board is comfortable with it, to shorten somewhat. 

Tiffanie N. Harrison, CCR
(501) 372-5115
some future meetings. I think the most
important thing to understand, this applies to
alternative compliance and special
consideration requests, and only those items
that we’ve given temporary approval for, before
they come to the Board. And if you’ll look at
the bottom, that’s listed. It also says, “All
requests for (indiscernible) offenses would
continue to have full Board approval, agency
requests for all status changes to a license,
would also have full Board approval.

So again, this is just something for your
consideration. I asked Charles earlier, if
this would take a vote. He thinks it can be
done just by the Board’s consensus, but I will
leave that to -- to your discretion, and any
discussion or changes that you might want to
recommend, or how you feel on this.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: I have any questions about
this, and how this would work. So we would
still have the ability to notify you, that --
as an individual board member, not necessarily
--

MR. GRIFFIN: So here’s how I envision this
working. April and some of the other staff can
Tiffanie N. Harrison, CCR
(501) 372-5115
help me on this, if I miss anything. In the packet that comes to you, would be a group of these, that would basically say, "These are the things that we’ve given temporary approval for, at your guidance, and we would ask you to give block approval, rather than looking at these individually." If there is any that give us any heartburn, we’re going to pull those out individually.

If you as a board get that, and it comes time for the board meeting, or if you have some concerns before the board meeting, and say, "No, we think this person may need to come," then you let us know, and we would have been there. Or if you didn’t catch it until the board meeting, then we could have them there the following board meeting, to address whatever the concerns were. It’s just a way of shortening those, in that particular group, if that’s what the Board is comfortable with.

MS. DOHERTY: Now, the Board will still get the packets, like through the email, so --

MR. GRIFFIN: Yes.

MS. DOHERTY: -- like, you could block, approve, 12 of the 15, and say, "But we want a
-- I want a discussion on A, B, and C”?

MR. GRIFFIN: Yes.

MS. DOHERTY: So you’ll still get them all. You know, we’d each get them all, but I’m saying y’all, because most are DCFS, that we -- you know, with it. But any of them, then, like if you had questions about the sleeping arrangements, you know, whatever it is, those would be not --

MR. GRIFFIN: And another option --

MS. DOHERTY: -- block voted.

MR. GRIFFIN: -- would be for you guys to try it for a board meeting or two, to see if it works, if you’re comfortable with it, if you need to tweak the process, or if you want to go back to the way we’ve been doing it. That might be another option for you to consider.

MR. WHATLEY: I think it’s a good idea and would expedite things, so I’d be in favor it.

MR. ALTOM: Yeah, I’m in favor of it.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: In practice, have we ever -- have we overturned anything that had been requested?

MS. DOHERTY: I think there’s been a few questions, especially like today, if the space...
is a lot off, or the sleeping, if it’s a boy
and a girl, and some of those. So I could
certainly see not voting on -- you know, say
we’d like more discussion on these three, or
these two, and then block approve all the rest,
but 6, 17, and 20.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: But any board member who
has a concern, could request --

MR. GRIFFIN: Yes.

MR. ALTOM: Some of the things that I look
at, is while you’ll see a request for -- you
know, to be able to put three kids in a room.
Well, I’d like to know how many other kids are
in that home. And sometimes that’s not -- so
that’s one of those that I want to ask that
question, because I feel like I like to get all
the information, then we can move on it rather
quickly.

When it feels like it’s very scarce, you
know -- and we wanted to disregard a total of
50 square feet, and we didn’t think we needed
to have a time on it. You know, it’s like -- I
think those type things are kind of worrisome,
but I think we can comb through those and find
those.
You know, some of the staff give an incredible amount of good information, working windows, fire, you know, tested the fire alarms, those type of things. That’s great. And then some are -- you know, we need a little more information, and so that would be the only reason I would say we’d probably want to question, is what are you thinking here, when -- you know.

MR. GRIFFIN: Well, I agree, and I think maybe this process will help us sort things out, and learn more about what you really need in those reports. Ebony is getting very engaged, and I think she has been listening, and hopefully taking some mental notes with this, as is April, and I think we’ll use those comments, Andy, to maybe train staff on what needs to come in.

And as you look at those, and we see the ones that you want to look at individually, that’s also going to give us some guidance on where we need to give you more information.

MR. ALTOM: Yeah, I think it’s a great idea. I really do.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: So are we okay by
consensus? I don’t know that --

MR. WHATLEY: I think it’s fine, personally.

MR. TOLLETTE: Let’s try it out.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All right. Sounds good.

MR. GRIFFIN: So you give us your guidance as we go through, are we doing a good job, is it okay, or do we need to tweak it, and we’ll try it out.

The other thing I wanted to talk with you briefly about, is transitional living, some proposed changes there, that I think you guys had been given at a previous board meeting to review. This is one of the things that -- Shirley stepped out a little sooner than I thought she was going to retire, so this is one of the things that we didn’t get wrapped up, before she stepped out. So I wanted to bring that back to you today.

And I also wanted to tell you -- and Charles had asked about this earlier. I want to give you an update on where we are with the placement licensing revisions. We are doing some final cleanup work. Ebony and her crew have been working on those. The process now, is that we have to have a clean copy of
everything, with those embedded. The markup
copy and quite a bit of paperwork that goes
upstairs to our internal review, and then it
go to the Governor’s Office for their staff
to review, and then they’ll give it back to us,
to go through the public hearing comment
period. If we got anything out of that
significant, we bring it back to you. If not,
then will go forward with promulgation and meet
with the legislative committees.

So we’re at the point now, of pushing that
forward. So if there’s anything like this,
that you guys are comfortable with, that we
want to go ahead and add to that packet, this
would be a good time to do that. I will just
say I’m open to comments. We’re open to
comments on this piece.

It’s really just reformatting some word
changing on transitional living, and I would
defer to you. You guys are probably more
familiar with this than I am. This is what
Shirley had developed, I think, and had handed
back out to you guys a while back, to look at.
So any guidance for us, on proceeding with
this, at this point, or not, or do we need to
look at additional changes?

MS. DOHERTY: I might could answer some questions for y’all. I think the premise of this, and what’s behind this, is of course our kids are older now. They can stay in care until they’re 21. And, the way it’s written, if they could benefit from a transitional living program, they have to have already been with that particular provider, when they turn 18 and go into that program. They can’t be 19, and then go into the transitional. They have to transition from the same program up through.

This way, as long as they’re coming from a child licensed placement, which is us, they have to be in our custody, to do this. Then, they could be placed in a transitional living program, without having been -- prior to 18, be in some form of that agency’s program, and go on up through there.

MR. GRIFFIN: It does open that up, because instead of saying “the agency,” it says, “a licensed or exempt program”. And, you know, I think the concern is, Sandy correct me if I’m wrong, some programs may not offer the services, so we would -- but we would hate to...
deprive someone turning 18 of those transition services, just because the particular program they’re in, didn’t offer that, if we’ve got other options.

MS. DOHERTY: Correct.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: And I think a lot of the programs that do have that, prefer to work with children who they’ve had for a year or two, and not admit someone that had no --

MS. DOHERTY: Well, certainly --

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: -- no history.

MS. DOHERTY: -- they could, but this also gives the option of older children, who like you said, didn’t have the advantage of being in that kind of program, when they turned 18, and now they could use that kind of program, but we can’t place them in that kind of program.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: And as part of Families First, there would be a need in the future for more of this, and there’s --

MS. DOHERTY: Absolutely.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: This would make it possible for people just do this kind of work.

MR. GRIFFIN: So if the Board is comfortable, we will add these -- it’s just...
subtle changes to the language there, but we’ll
add that to the packet we’re currently getting
ready to promulgate.

MR. ALTOM: Do you need a motion for that?
MR. GRIFFIN: We do need a motion and a
vote.

MR. ALTOM: I make a motion that this be
included in the packet.

MR. WHATLEY: And I’ll second that.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Any other questions about
these changes?

(No audible response given.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: All right. All in favor,
say, “Aye.”

BOARD MEMBERS (Collectively): Aye.
CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Anyone opposed?

(No audible response given.)

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Thank you for getting that
rolling.

MR. GRIFFIN: Okay. You’re welcome, and
Sandy, appreciate the clarification. The only
other thing I wanted to do, because I don’t
think we’ve done it formally, is recognize your
new attorney, Joe West.

Joe, is this a -- we hope a permanent
assignment for you?

MR. WEST: As far as I know, it is.

MR. GRIFFIN: We appreciate having you here, and look forward to working with you.

MR. WEST: Look forward to working with y’all as well.

MR. TOLLETTE: Has Ed approved him?

MR. GRIFFIN: Pardon?

MR. TOLLETTE: Has Ed Appler approved him?

MR. GRIFFIN: You know, I don’t know that.

We’ll have to find that out.

MR. TOLLETTE: Has Ed met him?

MR. GRIFFIN: So you’ve got one more hurdle to clear, before you’re official.

MR. WEST: All right.

MR. GRIFFIN: Thank you. Did we announce the next meeting date to you guys?

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: It’s on the agenda here.

MR. GRIFFIN: Good deal.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: December 10th. And I will --

MR. GRIFFIN: We’ll be getting more information out to you. That’s the meeting that we will do some appreciation things for the Board, so we’ll let you know the schedule
and all of that as we get closer.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: Well, thanks to AETN. I’ll be home recovering from a knee replacement. I can watch y’all next time.

MR. ALTOM: If we have a quorum.

CHAIRMAN FLYNN: If we have a quorum. We are adjourned.

(WHEREUPON, the proceedings were concluded in this matter at 3:38 p.m.)
CERTIFICATE

STATE OF ARKANSAS )
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 14th day of November, 2019.

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