

# Transcript of the Testimony of

**Date:** April 22, 2021

**Case:** CWARB Meeting

**Bushman Court Reporting**

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STATE OF ARKANSAS  
CHILD WELFARE AGENCY REVIEW  
BOARD MEETING

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

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April 22, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

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BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Andy Altom, Chair, Foster Care Unit  
Charles Flynn, Emergency Shelters Unit  
Beverly Massey Foti, Psychiatric Residential Care Unit  
David Whatley, Residential Care Unit  
Andrew Watson  
Sandi Doherty (VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE)

ALSO PRESENT:

Joe West, DCFS Designee Attorney for the Board  
Ebony Russ, OCC/ECE Program Manager  
Rebecca Mitchell, OCC/ECE

Court Reporter:

LAURA L. CARNAHAN, Arkansas Supreme  
Court Certified Reporter No. 569

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620 West Third, Suite 302  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
501-372-5115

JOB NO. 96004

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1 PROCEEDINGS

2 (THEREUPON, the meeting began at 1:30 p.m. on  
3 April 22, 2021.)

4 MS. EBONY RUSS: Thanks so much for  
5 participating in the April 22nd, 2021, Child Welfare  
6 Agency Review Board meeting. Welcome to everyone.  
7 For those of you who are presenting, will you please  
8 come up to the podium; please remove your masks, so  
9 that the court reporter can hear you properly; and  
10 put your masks back on afterwards. When you come to  
11 the podium, I'll give you the microphone and hand  
12 sanitizer, so you can wipe the microphone. And I'll  
13 turn it over to Mr. Flynn.

14 CHAIR CHARLES FLYNN: Thank you, ma'am. Thank  
15 you, Ebony. I'd like to call to order the April 22nd  
16 meeting of the Child Welfare Agency Review Board  
17 meeting. You've put -- probably received some  
18 minutes not long ago. If you have any questions,  
19 additions or motions, now is the time.

20 BOARD MEMBER ANDY ALTOM: Make a motion to  
21 approve the minutes.

22 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Second.

23 CHAIR CHARLES FLYNN: Motion by Andy; second by  
24 David Whatley. All in favor say aye.

25 (CHORUS OF AYES)

1 CHAIR CHARLES FLYNN: And no one is opposed.

2 All right. Thank you. All right.

3 ITEM 1. CHANGE OF BOARD CHAIR STATUS:

4 CHAIR CHARLES FLYNN: First order of business.

5 Last year when Ed Abner passed away, I was available  
6 to become chairman of the board again, and I was  
7 honored to have done that several years ago, and I  
8 was honored to have done it another time. But, you  
9 know, at that time what I -- I think you may remember  
10 I said -- what I was -- would be glad to do it, but I  
11 didn't want to take it on long term. And I've  
12 enjoyed this past year, you know. In the history of  
13 this board, that began, I guess, in 1997, there --  
14 besides Ed and myself -- there's only been one other  
15 Chairman, James Malcolm. I think James began with  
16 this board and continued several years until I had  
17 the opportunity to take over. But I would like to  
18 today submit my resignation as the chairman of the  
19 board

20 ITEM 2. VOTE FOR NEW CHILD WELFARE AGENCY REVIEW BOARD

21 CHAIRMAN:

22 CHAIR CHARLES FLYNN: And, then, the number two  
23 item, here, would be to accept nominations to choose  
24 a new -- a new chairman. So, at this time, I would  
25 like to open that up for a nomination.

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1 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Mr. Chair, I would  
2 say it seems like it would be very practical, to me,  
3 to have the vice chair -- or, who we have, kinda,  
4 ourselves, put in the place as vice chair, I guess,  
5 instead of him -- and so I would be happy to nominate  
6 Mr. Andy Altom.

7 CHAIR CHARLES FLYNN: All right. That's good.  
8 Thank you for that nomination. Yeah, technically, I  
9 don't think there is --

10 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Right.

11 CHAIR CHARLES FLYNN: I think our vice chairman  
12 is kind of an informal arrangement we have, --

13 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Right.

14 CHAIR CHARLES FLYNN: -- but Andy has filled  
15 that role. And, even prior to that, I had kind of  
16 filled in with Ed in that position for taking care of  
17 some business. So thank you for that nomination.  
18 Are there other nominations?

19 UNKNOWN: I'm just doing a microphone --  
20 checking if our viewing may hear you. Is that okay?

21 CHAIR CHARLES FLYNN: Okay. I -- I just --

22 UNKNOWN: (INAUDIBLE).

23 CHAIR CHARLES FLYNN: Yes. All right. Okay.  
24 Do you have everything you need? All right. Any  
25 other nominations?

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1 (NO RESPONSE)

2 CHAIR CHARLES FLYNN: So is -- a motion to close  
3 nominations?

4 UNKNOWN: (RAISES HAND).

5 CHAIR CHARLES FLYNN: All right. Motion to  
6 close nominations. And I'll second that. And all in  
7 favor say aye.

8 (CHORUS OF AYES)

9 CHAIR CHARLES FLYNN: Nominations are closed.  
10 So now let's vote on -- I don't know if I'm doing it  
11 the right way; I'm doing it my way. So all in favor  
12 of electing Andy as our new chairman, please say aye.

13 (CHORUS OF AYES)

14 CHAIR CHARLES FLYNN: Opposed, by like sign.

15 (NO RESPONSE)

16 CHAIR CHARLES FLYNN: All right.

17 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Congratulations.

18 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Sandi is online.

19 Thank you. I meant to ask who -- who is online. Is  
20 there anyone besides Sandi joining us online?

21 (NO RESPONSE)

22 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: You know, during my  
23 recent years we've made some changes. I have been  
24 available to take calls from Sandi, whenever she had  
25 a special consideration, that needed to be considered

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1 by the board, with a background check with a  
2 provisional family. And, often times, when she  
3 couldn't reach Ed, she would call me and I told Ebony  
4 yesterday that, because of my schedule and  
5 flexibility, I -- if -- if the board would like, I  
6 would be glad to continue that. Andy, you're welcome  
7 to do that. So -- and Sandi and I worked together  
8 pretty good on that. So, if that would please you, I  
9 will be glad to continue to do that.

10 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Sure.

11 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: And --

12 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: So you are willing to act as  
13 the a -- what is it? An assistant?

14 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I guess so.

15 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Here --

16 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: And -- but Sandi  
17 can call me first and I've got her phone number. So,  
18 when I see that name pop up, I have a pretty good  
19 idea she's not calling me and asking me if I want to  
20 go get lunch, so -- all right. So, if that's okay,  
21 we can continue that. But, otherwise, let's continue  
22 the meeting and thank you -- thank you, Andy, for  
23 taking this position.

24 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Thank you, Charles, for your  
25 leadership and I look forward to you taking on that

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1 responsibility. I think you've got the -- you've got  
2 the longevity, as far as knowing what this board has  
3 done in the past and it only serves to strengthen us  
4 having you to be the person to contact on some of  
5 those issues. So I appreciate that. Next item on  
6 the agenda is the permissions to work with children.  
7 DCFS.

8 MS. EBONY RUSS: With --

9 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Kathleen McDaniel?

10 ITEM 3. PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN:

11 a. DCFS - Mr. A [REDACTED] T.:

12 MS. EBONY RUSS: Yes. With DCFS we have  
13 Cathleen McDaniel and Brittany Collins.

14 MS. CATHLEEN MCDANIEL: I'm Cathleen McDaniel  
15 with DCFS, adoption supervisor and the provisional  
16 placement supervisor for Area 3. And we have Mr.  
17 Adam T. here for permission to work children and then  
18 Brittany Collins is his resource worker.

19 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay. If you'd just give us  
20 a few minutes. This is the first time this board  
21 will have this information. So we want to read over  
22 it a little bit and we may want to ask some  
23 questions. Okay?

24 (BOARD MEMBERS READING PACKET)

25 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Mr. T., would you like to

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1 address the board in your own words as far as what  
2 you're trying to do here?

3 MR. A [REDACTED] T.: Just trying to help a --

4 COURT REPORTER: Step up to the podium. Thank  
5 you.

6 MR. A [REDACTED] T.: Just trying to help a child.

7 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Talk a little bit about your  
8 background and why you're here today.

9 MR. A [REDACTED] T.: I done a lot of things when I was  
10 younger, but I've grew up a lot since then and  
11 learned from my actions.

12 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Any incidents or  
13 arrests since 2013?

14 MR. A [REDACTED] T.: No, sir.

15 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: Can you expound a  
16 little on what you're wanting to do, as far as to  
17 help a child, a little of the details of it?

18 MR. A [REDACTED] T.: Can you repeat that please?

19 MR. ANDREW WATSON: Can you -- can you expound  
20 on what you're wanting to do, as far as helping this  
21 child, and a little bit of the details there? This  
22 is the first time that we've actually seen this, so  
23 any info would be great.

24 MR. A [REDACTED] T.: Well we're -- if it goes to it,  
25 we're planning to adopt him, if -- if we're able to.

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1 (BOARD MEMBERS READING PACKET)

2 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Chairman, I'll make  
3 a motion to approve this request.

4 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: We have a motion. Is there a  
5 second?

6 BOARD MEMBER BEVERLY MASSEY FOTI: I'll second.

7 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Second. Any discussion?

8 (NO RESPONSE)

9 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All those in favor say aye?

10 (CHORUS OF AYES)

11 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Opposed?

12 (NO RESPONSE)

13 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Thank you, sir.

14 MR. A [REDACTED] T.: Thank you.

15 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Appreciate your willingness  
16 to do that. And I'm assuming, Sandi, you abstain?

17 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Yes. Any of the  
18 DCFS requests, I abstain from voting.

19 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay.

20 ITEM 3. PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN:

21 b. DCFS - Ms. T [REDACTED] F.:

22 MS. EBONY RUSS: Our -- for letter b, of the  
23 agenda, permissions to work, we have Tarsha Smith  
24 Cook representing DCFS.

25 COURT REPORTER: Step to the podium please.

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1 MS. TARSHA SMITH COOK: Okay.

2 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

3 MS. TARSHA SMITH COOK: Good afternoon. I'm  
4 Tarsha Cook with Mississippi County DCFS, Area 8.  
5 And this is Ms. T [REDACTED] F. This is the packet that you  
6 have. She is the provisional that's standing before  
7 you today.

8 (BOARD MEMBERS READING PACKET)

9 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Would you like to go ahead  
10 and tell us a little bit about what it is you plan to  
11 do with children, as far as your permission to work  
12 with children, as well as your background, and why  
13 we're here today?

14 MS. T [REDACTED] F.: Yes. I'm trying to get my two  
15 grandchildren that's been in foster care. I want,  
16 more than life, those child -- those kids have been  
17 my life. And I want to adopt them if -- if everybody  
18 will let me. I got in trouble. I did some stupid  
19 stuff and that stupid stuff actually saved my life.  
20 I've been clean for over four -- for about -- nearly  
21 four years. I don't live that way anymore,  
22 thankfully. I mean, like I said, it's -- I'm  
23 grateful. It saved my life. I go to Jonesboro and  
24 go to recovery meetings, when I can. I live in  
25 Osceola, so it's an hour drive. And that and, you

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1 know, working, have support of my family, my friends,  
2 and the church. And I'm honored to be here. I mean,  
3 I want my grandchildren more than my life itself.

4 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Tell us about those  
5 grandchildren, please.

6 MS. T [REDACTED] F.: [REDACTED] is seven -- or, he's six.  
7 [REDACTED] is seven. They're a month and three days  
8 apart.

9 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Okay.

10 MS. T [REDACTED] F.: I have not gotten to speak with  
11 [REDACTED]. He's having some problems. He's in a -- I  
12 forget what they call it. A -- anyway, he's having  
13 to have -- to have some help.

14 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Okay.

15 MS. T [REDACTED] F.: He's really -- his mama really  
16 messed him up --

17 MS. TARSHA SMITH COOK: He's in a --

18 MS. T [REDACTED] F.: -- in the head. Treat --

19 MS. TARSHA SMITH COOK: -- treatment facility.

20 MS. T [REDACTED] F.: Yeah, in some kind of treatment  
21 facility, I think. And they said until I was  
22 approved that it would probably be in his best  
23 interest if I didn't talk to him, because it might  
24 just mess him up -- might confuse him more. And I  
25 don't want -- I did not want that, so I have not

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1 pushed it.

2 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: That makes sense.

3 MS. T [REDACTED] F.: Now, [REDACTED], I get see -- I talk  
4 to her -- for almost the past year -- every Sunday or  
5 Monday on video chat. And then I go to her ball  
6 games. They let me come to her ball games twice a  
7 week. She plays baseball. And I went and seen her  
8 cheer. The M.'s have been very, very supportive.  
9 They are wonderful foster parents. [REDACTED] already  
10 picked out her bedroom suit that she wants. (LAUGHS)  
11 Yes, she's -- she's been wanting to come live with --  
12 [REDACTED] told her, awhile back, that she may get to come  
13 live with me. And I said, you know, "Why would you  
14 do that, when I don't know yet," you know. And every  
15 day that I talk to her she says "Nanny, have you  
16 taken those classes yet?"

17 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Okay.

18 MS. T [REDACTED] F.: I say, "No, baby, I can't take  
19 them until they approve me." So, anyway, --

20 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Okay.

21 MS. T [REDACTED] F.: I want my grandchildren more than  
22 my life itself. They deserve to be happy and well  
23 taken care of.

24 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Thank you for being  
25 willing to be here today on behalf of them.

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1 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Thank you.

2 MS. T [REDACTED] F.: Sir?

3 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Thank you for being  
4 willing to be here today on their behalf.

5 MS. T [REDACTED] F.: Well thank you for letting me  
6 come and talk. I appreciate it.

7 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Chair, I make a  
8 motion to approve the request.

9 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: We have a motion to approve.  
10 Hear a second?

11 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: I'll second.

12 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Andy makes the second. Any  
13 discussion?

14 (NO RESPONSE)

15 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All in favor say aye.

16 (CHORUS OF AYES)

17 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

18 (NO RESPONSE)

19 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Thank you for coming in.

20 Good luck.

21 MS. T [REDACTED] F.: Thank you, so much.

22 CHAIRMAN ANDY ALTOM: We appreciate you.

23 MS. T [REDACTED] F.: Thank you, so much.

24 ITEM 3. PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN:

25 c. Millcreek - Ms. E.:

1 MS. EBONY RUSS: Okay. Next on the agenda we  
2 have Millcreek. Ms. Christie Aaron as representative  
3 and Ezell Breedlove from the licensing unit.

4 MR. EZELL BREEDLOVE: Okay. Again, my name is  
5 Ezell Breedlove. I'm the licensing specialist for  
6 Millcreek and today I'll introduce Ms. Christie  
7 Aaron. She's here on behalf of two employees who are  
8 requesting permission to work with children.

9 MS. CHRISTIE AARON: Good afternoon. I have two  
10 employees, as Mr. Breedlove has said. I have Ms.  
11 Pamela E. and also --

12 MR. EZELL BREEDLOVE: They can't hear.

13 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I can't -- I can't hear you.  
14 You need to hold the microphone closer.

15 MS. CHRISTIE AARON: Okay. I have two  
16 employees, Ms. P [REDACTED] E. and Ms. R.

17 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Are your employees here?

18 MS. CHRISTIE AARON: Yes. Ladies?

19 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Come on up. Yeah. Stand  
20 with her -- come --

21 MR. EZELL BREEDLOVE: There's two -- two  
22 different --

23 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: We've got two different ones.  
24 We'll just do one at a time.

25 MS. CHRISTIE AARON: I have Ms. E. first. And

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1 she has been employed with us for a little bit better  
2 than a year. And we have come to appreciate her as  
3 an employee. She actively engages with our children.  
4 She started out as merely just a part-time employee  
5 that wasn't sure if this was something she wanted to  
6 do full-time. She has, since, come running to us  
7 full-time and she's a valuable asset to our team.

8 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: So this is the first time we  
9 are seeing this, so please give us a moment to read  
10 over it, but if you want her -- if you want her to  
11 talk about what's in here, as far as tell us your  
12 background, you can go ahead and do that. That would  
13 be good, enlighten us, as we go through this.

14 MS. P. [REDACTED] E.: Okay. Back in '94 or '95, I got  
15 into some trouble over in Hot Springs. And I served  
16 my time, did my community work. And I've -- love  
17 working with children. And I feel like that I can  
18 help children. And I have been helping children.  
19 I've been working in my community, of my city, of  
20 Fordyce, Arkansas. And I've did my work; I do work  
21 in my church, and at the school, head start, or  
22 wherever I'm needed. And I love my job at Millcreek  
23 of Arkansas.

24 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: What do you do at Millcreek?  
25 What's your job?

1 MS. P [REDACTED] E.: Behavior. I sit with the kids,  
2 take them to school, talk to them, when they have a  
3 problem. Help them with whatever they come in for.  
4 You know, they -- with they therapy.

5 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay.

6 MS. P [REDACTED] E.: And just show love for the kids.  
7 And some of them don't have love where they come  
8 from.

9 (BOARD MEMBERS READING PACKET)

10 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I can't find what  
11 she did.

12 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Say again?

13 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: This is somebody  
14 named R. This is the second one.

15 BOARD MEMBER BEVERLY MASSEY FOTI: I think we  
16 have the wrong packet.

17 MR. EZELL BREEDLOVE: Is this your second  
18 second person? (INAUDIBLE).

19 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: We have the G [REDACTED] R.  
20 packet.

21 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Is that correct?

22 (PACKETS REGARDING MS. P [REDACTED] E. PASSED OUT TO  
23 BOARD MEMBERS)

24 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Thank you.

25 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Yes, thank you,

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1           Ebony. So you mentioned one experience in 1995. Is  
2           that the only -- is that why you're here today; has  
3           there been --

4           MS. P [REDACTED] E.: Yes, sir.

5           BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: -- anything since  
6           then?

7           MS. P [REDACTED] E.: Yes, sir.

8           BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: So there's been  
9           nothing since that time?

10          MS. P [REDACTED] E.: Nothing since then. I walked a  
11          straight path and I've learned from my mistakes that  
12          I had made.

13          BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I make a motion to  
14          approve this request.

15          CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: We have a motion to approve  
16          the request. Is there a second?

17          BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Second.

18          CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: There's a second. Any  
19          discussion?

20          (NO RESPONSE)

21          CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All those in favor say aye.

22          (CHORUS OF AYES)

23          CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

24          MS. SANDI DOHERTY: Aye.

25          COURT REPORTER: Was that an opposed?

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1 MR. DAVID WHATLEY: No.

2 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: No. She's for it.

3 MS. EBONY RUSS: Sandi --

4 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: She's -- this is  
5 the one for Sandi to vote on. This one she gets to  
6 vote, because it's not DCFS.

7 COURT REPORTER: Okay.

8 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay. Now we'll go onto the  
9 next one.

10 ITEM 3. PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN:

11 d. Millcreek - Ms. R.:

12 MS. CHRISTIE AARON: Our next employee is Ms. R.  
13 Ms. R. has been with us since August of 2020. She  
14 too works with our children. She's on the girl's  
15 unit. And one of the things that we really  
16 appreciate about Ms. R. is that she's all about  
17 teaching our girls self love. And I'll just let her  
18 tell you a little bit about what she does.

19 MS. G [REDACTED] R.: Working with the girls on  
20 Eagle Hall --

21 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: You have to speak up. We can  
22 barely hear you.

23 MS. G [REDACTED] R.: Working with the girls on my  
24 hall, they tend to come from places where they don't  
25 understand love or -- you know they have peers to

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1 tell them that they are worthless, they're ugly, that  
2 they can't, you know, be all that they can be. They  
3 look for somebody to push them. My momma was a youth  
4 director at our church. So we did little projects  
5 where, you know, you get poster boards, you tell what  
6 you love about yourself, but you have to also have a  
7 goal that you want to reach. So, a couple of weeks  
8 ago, I told the girls let's, you know, do a self love  
9 project. Which we did. I went and got the things  
10 that we needed. And I really found out a lot about  
11 my girls. They actually showed me a lot that I  
12 didn't know about myself. They made me a poster and  
13 told me things that I love -- that they loved about  
14 me. And they ended up having me, you know, put my  
15 goal down that I chose. And my goal was to help them  
16 all get a discharge date the right way -- meaning  
17 we're not going to look at the negative, we're gonna  
18 go positive. We're not gonna look back on what our  
19 past has done to us, we're gonna look towards the  
20 future and make it brighter. I've told -- I've had  
21 two girls, since I've been at Millcreek, discharge.  
22 And I've told them -- I said, "Look, when you get  
23 your discharge date I don't want to see you back  
24 here, because here is not where you can make positive  
25 things, where you can help people out in the world."

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1           Because they all said they wanted to be teachers;  
2           they wanted to have a job, like somewhere at  
3           Millcreek, so they can help kids like they were. And  
4           so I looked at that, and I think about it, and I say  
5           hey, this may be my purpose. I love working at  
6           Millcreek. Sometimes it does get frustrating. But,  
7           you know, taking ten seconds to think about  
8           everything, you know, you'll get it all together.

9           BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: So is there --  
10          reading through these -- is there one charge?

11          MS. G [REDACTED] R.: Uh-huh.

12          BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: And that was 2016?

13          MS. G [REDACTED] R.: Yes, sir.

14          BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: What was the  
15          charge?

16          MS. G [REDACTED] R.: It was shoplifting at Wal-  
17          Mart.

18          BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Was that a  
19          misdemeanor, or --

20          MS. G [REDACTED] R.: Yes, sir.

21          BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: What is it, five  
22          years on a misdemeanor?

23          BOARD MEMBER BEVERLY MASSEY FOTI: They said it  
24          would roll off --

25          BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Yeah, okay. I was

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1 -- I missed that.

2 BOARD MEMBER BEVERLY MASSEY FOTI: As far as  
3 (INAUDIBLE) --

4 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Okay. She's real  
5 close. Yeah.

6 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I'll make a motion to approve  
7 this request. Is there a second?

8 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Second.

9 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Second from Charles. Any  
10 more discussion?

11 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Sounds like you're  
12 doing a great job.

13 MS. G [REDACTED] R.: I'm trying.

14 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All those in favor say aye.  
15 (CHORUS OF AYES)

16 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Opposed?

17 (NO RESPONSE)

18 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All right. Congratulations.  
19 Thank you.

20 MS. G [REDACTED] R.: Thank you.

21 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: One of the  
22 questions that I've got with situations like this is  
23 how do they get employed, and they're working with  
24 kids, and then they come to us asking for permission  
25 to work with kids? That does not -- that -- that's

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1 not --

2 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Well was she  
3 working with kids or was she working in a job where  
4 she was not working with kids?

5 MS. EBONY RUSS: I believe there was a  
6 (INAUDIBLE) in place, from my understanding.

7 MS. CHRISTIE AARON: Ms. Aaron.

8 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Well I know -- I know, in the  
9 past, we've had folks that didn't come up on the  
10 first check, but on the -- when they reapply they  
11 check and take a look again.

12 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Yeah the check --  
13 as far as they could. Sometimes it comes later.

14 MS. EBONY RUSS: I think there was a question  
15 about her --

16 COURT REPORTER: Step to the podium.

17 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: Yes, ma'am. I just  
18 had a -- I just had a question about --

19 MS. CHRISTIE AARON: Okay.

20 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: -- the two that we  
21 just approved. Sounds like they're doing great --

22 MS. CHRISTIE AARON: Uh-huh.

23 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: -- and certainly we  
24 want to -- you know, we want them to continue. We  
25 want them to continue to impact kids.

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1 MS. CHRISTIE AARON: Uh-huh.

2 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: Very proud of, you  
3 know, the success that they're having. But my  
4 question is, is how did they get employed, working  
5 with children, in the first place?

6 MS. CHRISTIE AARON: Okay.

7 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: Before we actually  
8 had this discussion. Because, to me, we need to be  
9 having these kind of discussions on the front-end of  
10 the hire.

11 MS. CHRISTIE AARON: Uh-huh.

12 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: You know, that,  
13 hey, they have a track record of -- that they haven't  
14 committed any more crimes, or that they haven't  
15 messed up, you know, and that they're wanting to work  
16 with children, versus, you know, coming in -- and I  
17 don't think -- I don't even know how long that  
18 they've been working with children. But, to me, that  
19 -- that just seems really backwards and it -- and it  
20 does concern me that we're bringing in -- you know,  
21 that -- that --

22 MS. CHRISTIE AARON: Uh-huh.

23 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: -- people are  
24 allowed to work with children when they have, you  
25 know, backgrounds like that. Because all people may

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1 not be doing as well as the ones that you've brought  
2 before us today.

3 MS. CHRISTIE AARON: Okay. Ms. E. had the  
4 charge on her record more than 20 years ago. And, in  
5 reading our minimum licensing requirements, it did  
6 stipulate the -- that -- the felonies. We did reach  
7 out to our licensing agent, who asked us to put a  
8 plan in place, so that she'd be able to work, because  
9 it was more than 20 years old. And that's what we've  
10 done. There has been some changes in the way  
11 background checks are being done. And, with that  
12 being the case, we did then receive a letter that  
13 said that she was ineligible to work. And, of  
14 course, I made reference again to the plan that we  
15 had in place and had been -- had had in place for  
16 awhile. She works third shift and will work over, if  
17 she needs to do a double shift, on first. And  
18 sometimes we'll have to call her in, just so that we  
19 can maintain those staffing ratios. And that's what  
20 we've been doing. And, like I said, we would not  
21 have known until the whole background check process  
22 changed and we were generated a letter. And that's  
23 the same thing with Ms. R. We did her background  
24 checks the old way, where you just do the paper  
25 forms, you mail everything in. Now, so much has gone

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1 electronic, and it's spitting things out. So we're  
2 picking up -- I picked up a couple of other people  
3 this week that I've had to send home, pending  
4 administrative leave, just because now we're  
5 receiving communications that we have not received in  
6 the past.

7 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Is that not  
8 assuming -- so you're saying you have some now that  
9 are -- that you have background --

10 MS. CHRISTIE AARON: Right. We --

11 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Sandi -- Sandi --

12 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Let's go to Sandi's  
13 question.

14 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Sandi's got a question.

15 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Well we have --  
16 just because it's a felony, doesn't mean it has to  
17 have the board approval. We had the Attorney  
18 General's attorney -- what was her name -- that was  
19 on here. And she clarified that it's -- it's not  
20 whether it's a misdemeanor or a felony. And, if, for  
21 the past five years prior to the -- this application,  
22 they've had no offenses, then that one wouldn't have  
23 had to come before the board.

24 MS. CHRISTIE AARON: We received communication  
25 that asked that she appear before the board and I

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1 complied with what the recommendations were.

2 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Right.

3 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: I mean, I  
4 understand. I just -- I just know what -- how it was  
5 clarified to the board on those.

6 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: Well I know -- I  
7 know we've -- we've actually, at Soaring Wings, we've  
8 -- we've turned people away when we found out that,  
9 you know, they had something, literally, 20 years  
10 ago. I mean that's just how we've -- that's how  
11 we've done it. We -- we've -- we haven't heard  
12 anything about if they haven't offended --

13 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: So now it's only five years?

14 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: -- you know, within  
15 the last five years. Oh. I'm sorry. We haven't  
16 heard anything -- (INAUDIBLE) -- if they haven't did  
17 it within the last five years, you know, that we can  
18 run them. We've actually had people that we've found  
19 out that had a prior, and, literally, like 20 years  
20 prior, that we didn't -- we didn't hire. We didn't  
21 -- we didn't allow them to work with our children,  
22 because it was our understanding that if they had  
23 that on their record, unless it was expunged or  
24 something like that, that we couldn't bring them in.  
25 So --

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1 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: And, actually, even  
2 if it's expunged, they still come before this board.

3 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Right.

4 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: There you go.

5 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: But -- but the --  
6 but the way -- the way we've done it is that we had  
7 the option to come, like we've done, and receive  
8 permission from the board that this person -- that  
9 the board does not feel like this person is a danger  
10 to children --

11 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: Right.

12 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: -- because of how  
13 long it's been since their charge; how often that  
14 happened; and was it a charge that was a danger to  
15 children?

16 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: Right.

17 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: And so we would  
18 consider those things, and they always request. I  
19 think today the difference is -- is that you should  
20 have seen us before she started working with children  
21 -- before she actually went on the job, even though  
22 it's a misdemeanor, because it's happened in the last  
23 five years. So, Sandi, it is -- this misdemeanor has  
24 been less than five years and so that's why this one  
25 would be heard.

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1 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Oh, okay. I didn't  
2 see -- I didn't see that --

3 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: You don't have the  
4 --

5 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: -- it was within  
6 past five years, because I did not see it in the  
7 pocket.

8 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: You don't have  
9 that. This misdemeanor will not be five years until  
10 --

11 MS. CHRISTIE AARON: September.

12 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: -- in the future.  
13 So -- so this one -- this one we needed here before  
14 she worked with children first, say.

15 BOARD MEMBER BEVERLY MASSEY FOTI: Yes.

16 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: And it's the same  
17 with -- you know, with a felony, it doesn't matter.  
18 There is no time restraint. We've had -- we have  
19 seen felonies from the 50's that's not been writeable  
20 (sic).

21 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Right. Yeah. Makes sense,  
22 yeah.

23 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: Did y'all have --  
24 but y'all had to approve the --

25 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: They did have to

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1           come before this board to get that approved --

2           BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON:   Gotcha.

3           BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN:   -- before that  
4           person could work with children the first day.

5           BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON:   So if I'm  
6           understanding correctly, that you'll have a couple  
7           more that will need to come maybe the next meeting  
8           that we have?

9           MS. CHRISTIE AARON:   Quite possibly.  One, we  
10          have placed on administrative leave, and one, we have  
11          rescinded our offer of employment to.

12          BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON:   Okay.

13          BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN:   You might want to  
14          talk to your licensing specialist about those people  
15          before you get -- have a major issue.

16          MS. CHRISTIE AARON:   And -- and that's typically  
17          what we do, is we -- we reach out to our licensing --

18          BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN:   Sure.

19          MS. CHRISTIE AARON:   -- because, you know, we  
20          can read the information, in the minimum licensing  
21          requirement, but we still sometimes have questions,  
22          which was the case such as it is now.  We have the  
23          questions and, again, we didn't get a communication  
24          on either one of them until here recently.  And, of  
25          course, we needed to take some action, because they

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1           were already employed with us. And, by then, we knew  
2           how valuable they were and we didn't want to lose  
3           them.

4                     BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: So if I'm  
5           understanding correctly, the -- the new system has  
6           helped y'all to deal with that?

7                     MS. CHRISTIE AARON: Uh-huh. Right.

8                     BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: And on it quickly  
9           and it's just the hires that you made previously,  
10          with the computer system, that's what -- that's  
11          what's gotten y'all --

12                    MS. CHRISTIE AARON: Yes.

13                    BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: -- here today.  
14          Okay.

15                    MS. CHRISTIE AARON: Absolutely.

16                    BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: But, in the future,  
17          if you have someone, they can work for you, I  
18          believe, in a position where they are not in contact  
19          with children, until you come (INAUDIBLE). You have  
20          a good hire that's worth hiring, maybe you can find  
21          something else for them to do until you come here and  
22          then they can work with children.

23                    MS. CHRISTIE AARON: Right. That's what we're  
24          doing with the other gentleman. We're placing him in  
25          maintenance, so that he doesn't have the direct or

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1                   unsupervised contact with the children.

2                   CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay. Is that it? All  
3                   right. The next on the agenda is Compact Family  
4                   Services.

5    ITEM 3. PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN:

6            e. Compact Family Services:

7                   MS. CHARLOTTE GALUSHA: Good afternoon. I'm  
8                   Charlotte Galusha with Placement and Residential  
9                   Licensing. I'm the licensing specialist assigned to  
10                  Compact Family Services. And today we have Lance  
11                  Nelson as a representative from Compact, as well as  
12                  Mr. F., who is requesting a permission to work with  
13                  children. And they can answer any questions you may  
14                  have.

15                 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Great. Lance, if you want to  
16                 go ahead and step up to the microphone and tell us a  
17                 little bit about this gentleman, and --

18                 MR. LANCE NELSON: Sure.

19                 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: -- what -- what it is you  
20                 hope to do today?

21                 MR. LANCE NELSON: Mr. F. is with us today  
22                 requesting permission to work with children, so that  
23                 he and his wife can open their home for foster care.  
24                 You'll see -- as a private agency home. You'll see  
25                 in the packet there's an incident that stemmed from

1           when he was a teenager, some 38 years ago, sealed in  
2           the record. And I'm sure he'll be happy to answer  
3           any questions you have there.

4                     CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay.

5                     (BOARD MEMBERS READING PACKET)

6                     CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Not had any issues since this  
7           one incident?

8                     MR. F.: In that -- in that amount of time maybe  
9           a speeding ticket, but nothing in the last, you know  
10          -- nothing of -- of that nature. No, sir.

11                    CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Right. So you want to be a  
12          foster parent?

13                    MR. F.: Yes, sir. My wife and I, we've been  
14          empty nesters here for a number of years. We  
15          relocated to Hot Springs about three and a half years  
16          ago for my work and, you know, it -- we've been  
17          talking about it for -- for awhile, but, with the  
18          nature of my work, I moved, you know. I used to  
19          travel a lot and we moved some. So -- so, now that  
20          we're -- I run a factory in Hot Springs and, now that  
21          we're tied to the community, we -- we decided that it  
22          would be a good time to -- to open our home, and see  
23          if we couldn't help -- help some children out.

24                    MR. LANCE NELSON: Great.

25                    BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Well thank you for

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1           being willing to come down here today, and bring  
2           something up in your past, to show your dedication to  
3           being willing to set up --

4           MR. F.: It was a -- it was a heck of a  
5           surprise. I can tell you that. Because when I got  
6           that letter it was like (LAUGHS) --

7           BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: And we read on  
8           there, with your packet, so we feel the most  
9           compassion for a person that has to come forward.

10          MR. F.: Sure.

11          BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: So we appreciate  
12          that.

13          MR. F.: Well I appreciate that, because, you  
14          know, I gotta -- I gotta be honest, when I was asked  
15          to do the -- to do the statement I had to sit for a  
16          couple of days, because I just hadn't thought about  
17          it in 20 something years. You know --

18          BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Right.

19          MR. F.: -- it just -- but, you know, if you  
20          have any questions, happy to answer. You know, just  
21          looking forward to -- to you know moving on in this.

22          BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Mr. Chairman, I'm  
23          going to make a motion to approve this request.

24          CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I have a motion to approve  
25          request?

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1 BOARD MEMBER BEVERLY MASSEY FOTI: I'll second.

2 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: Second.

3 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Oh.

4 MR. F.: Thank you, very much.

5 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: There was a second from  
6 Andrew. All those in favor say aye.

7 (CHORUS OF AYES)

8 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

9 (NO RESPONSE)

10 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Thank you, sir.

11 MR. F.: Hey, I appreciate your time.

12 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Thank you.

13 MR. F.: Thank you, very much.

14 COURT REPORTER: Did she abstain on that one?

15 CHAIRMAN ANDY ALTOM: She said -- no, she  
16 couldn't vote on that one. Yes.

17 ITEM 4. Exhibit "A" - Approval of Special

18 Considerations/Temporary Approvals "Bundle" "A":

19 MS. EBONY RUSS: Number four on the agenda is  
20 Exhibit A.

21 (THEREUPON, Exhibit "A", Approval of Special  
22 Considerations/Temporary Approvals "Bundle", was  
23 marked for identification and attached hereto.)

24 MS. EBONY RUSS: I do need to bring note to  
25 letter Y on the Exhibit. I was informed standards --

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1 I was informed on letter Y, standards 211.5 and 211.6  
2 are no longer needed. So 209.2 is the only one  
3 needed for letter Y, DCFS.

4 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Are you needing a motion to  
5 approve this?

6 MS. EBONY RUSS: Yes, sir.

7 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: So moved.

8 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any second?

9 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Second.

10 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any more discussion?

11 (NO RESPONSE)

12 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All in favor say aye?

13 (CHORUS OF AYES)

14 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

15 (NO RESPONSE)

16 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay. Next up is Arkansas  
17 Baptist Children's Home request for adoption license.

18 ITEM 8. ARKANSAS BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME:

19 MS. SHARRA LITZSEY: Good afternoon. This is  
20 Sharra Litzsey with the Placement and Residential  
21 Licensing Unit.

22 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Go ahead.

23 MS. SHARRA LITZSEY: Arkansas Baptist -- go  
24 ahead?

25 CHAIRMAN ANDY ALTOM: Yes.

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1 MS. SHARRA LITZSEY: Arkansas Baptist Children's  
2 Home and Family Ministries is requesting to add an  
3 adoption services to their current license. ABCH has  
4 a model time history of compliance with licensing.  
5 ABCH currently holds a placement and a residential  
6 license, in good standings. ABCH previously held an  
7 adoptions license -- an adoption license and it  
8 closed, in good standings. ABCH understands the  
9 needs of the children in Arkansas and has served as a  
10 vital part of the community. PRLU supports this  
11 request.

12 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay. Derek, would you mind  
13 taking a -- talk to us a little bit about how you  
14 guys are getting back into this business and the  
15 history on that?

16 MR. DEREK BROWN: My name is Derek Brown,  
17 Executive Director of Arkansas Baptist Children's  
18 Homes and Family Ministries. Thank you, Andy, for  
19 the question. You know, we try to serve vulnerable  
20 children and families in every way we possibly can.  
21 We began to recognize a need to -- to help expectant  
22 mothers to find the appropriate placement for her  
23 children, and to provide a -- an ethical child-  
24 centered adoption service in the State of Arkansas.  
25 And so we began conversation on how could we utilize

1 our resources to be able to meet that need.

2 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay. I'll make a motion  
3 that we approve this request, proudly.

4 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: I'll second.

5 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Is there any discussion?

6 (NO RESPONSE)

7 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All those in favor say aye.

8 (CHORUS OF AYES)

9 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I abstain.

10 MR. DEREK BROWN: Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN ANDY ALTOM: Charles abstains. Motion  
12 passes. Next up is Youth Home. Sharra?

13 ITEM 9. YOUTH HOME:

14 MS. SHARRA LITZSEY: This is Sharra Litzsey,  
15 with the Placement and Residential Licensing Unit.  
16 For the increase on capacity, for Youth Home, we have  
17 Susan Reed, the Director of Community Services with  
18 Youth Home, available to answer any questions. Youth  
19 Home is requesting a change in their residential  
20 childcare beds in the Hickory House. The request is  
21 for two additional beds for this program, which is a  
22 qualified residential treatment program. The Hickory  
23 House already has bedrooms to accommodate these two  
24 patients. Additional staff will be hired to cover  
25 the necessary ratios in safety regulations. This

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1 request will increase the capacity from six to eight,  
2 in the Hickory Home, and change the overall  
3 residential capacity to 24.

4 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay. Does the board have  
5 any questions?

6 (NO RESPONSE)

7 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Is there a motion to approve  
8 this?

9 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: I'll make a motion  
10 to approve the request.

11 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I'll second.

12 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All right. Any more  
13 discussion or any discussion?

14 (NO RESPONSE)

15 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All those in favor say aye.

16 (CHORUS OF AYES)

17 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

18 (NO RESPONSE)

19 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: None opposed. Carries.

20 BOARD MEMBER BEVERLY MASSEY FOTI: I will  
21 abstain. Please note that.

22 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Beverly abstains. Next up is  
23 Millcreek request for -- to add the Sunshine House to  
24 license. Ezell Breedlove?

25 ITEM 10. MILLCREEK:

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1 MS. SHARRA LITZSEY: Well Sharra Litzsey again.  
2 I will be presenting. And Brady Serafin is  
3 available, with Millcreek, to answer any questions.  
4 Millcreek of Arkansas is a licensed psychiatric and  
5 residential facility located in Fordyce. The agency  
6 is currently licensed to provide care, for up to 61  
7 children, in their residential program. The facility  
8 has recently obtained a lease for the Sunshine House,  
9 located at 1829 Industrial Drive, in Fordyce, across  
10 the street from Millcreek's administration and  
11 psychiatric and residential program. Millcreek is  
12 requesting to utilize the four bedroom home for eight  
13 regular residential clients. The home meets minimum  
14 licensing standards. PRLU supports this request.

15 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay. Will this be the only  
16 residential license that they have as far as  
17 residential program, for Millcreek?

18 (NO RESPONSE)

19 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Did you say someone  
20 was on hand for Millcreek, to answer questions?

21 MS. SHARRA LITZSEY: Yes. Brady Serafin is  
22 available to answer questions.

23 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Is Brady here?

24 MR. BRADY SERAFIN: Yes. Good afternoon. Brady  
25 Serafin here. I'm the CEO of Millcreek. Thank you

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1 all for considering our -- our proposal, here, this  
2 afternoon and I'm happy to answer any questions that  
3 you might have.

4 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Yeah. I have a question. I  
5 know that you have PRTF's and then you also have the  
6 ICF/MR program. Will this be the first residential  
7 -- just purely residential beds that you guys will  
8 have?

9 MR. BRADY SERAFIN: No. So we have -- we have  
10 ITC beds, which -- currently on our license. So we  
11 have the PRTF -- or, the ICF actually fall into the  
12 RTC category as well. So those -- those are kind of  
13 classified in that particular realm. We're going to  
14 take the lease, last year, in 2020, on the Sunshine  
15 House, really as a response to the COVID crisis,  
16 coming as an emergency provisional, allows us to use  
17 that, should we have a particular COVID outbreak or a  
18 need to quarantine youth. So we maintain that  
19 license at this present time. And our goal is to put  
20 that use -- to put that house in use to better serve  
21 the youth of Arkansas, really. There's -- there's  
22 some things going on relative to our fees and we're  
23 in the process of responding to an RFP to better  
24 serve some of the kids in Arkansas that are in need  
25 of residential treatment, but not in need of

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1 psychiatric residential treatment facility beds.

2 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay. All right.

3 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I'll make a motion  
4 to approve this request (INAUDIBLE).

5 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: We have a motion from Charles  
6 to approve the request. Is there a second?

7 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Second.

8 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Second from David. All those  
9 in favor say aye.

10 (CHORUS OF AYES)

11 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

12 (NO RESPONSE)

13 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Congratulations.

14 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Hey, please --  
15 please tell Gail Wynne (sic) we said hello. I'm sure  
16 she's happy to see children at the Sunshine House  
17 again.

18 MR. BRADY SERAFIN: Certainly will do. Thanks  
19 so much for the consideration and the approval.

20 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: You bet. Bethany Christian  
21 Services of Arkansas is next on the agenda.

22 ITEM 11. BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES OF ARKANSAS:

23 MS. FATIMA STEPPS: Good afternoon. Fatima  
24 Stepps, Program Coordinator with the Placement and  
25 Residential Licensing Unit. You should have, before

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1           you, a request for Bethany Christian Services of  
2           Arkansas. Bethany Christian Services of Arkansas is  
3           requesting to change the address of their current  
4           office location, in Little Rock, to 1100 North  
5           University, Suite 136. That will also be in Little  
6           Rock. The Agency is having to change some of their  
7           programming services and will be moving from that  
8           location. I do believe I have LaTanya Bennett on  
9           call, in case you have any questions. However, due  
10          to the type of request it is a representative is not  
11          needed. The Placement and Residential Licensing Unit  
12          does support the agency's request.

13                   CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay. Thank you, Fatima.

14                   BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I move to approve  
15          this request for address change.

16                   CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: We have a motion from Charles  
17          to approve. Is there a second?

18                   BOARD MEMBER BEVERLY MASSEY FOTI: Second.

19                   CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Beverly is the second. All  
20          in favor say aye.

21                   (CHORUS OF AYES)

22                   CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

23                   (NO RESPONSE)

24                   CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All right. And then we have  
25          the report of temporary approvals. Ebony, do you

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1                   have any update on that?

2   ITEM 12. REPORT OF TEMPORARY APPROVALS/ACTIONS (LOGS  
3   PRESENTED) DECEMBER 2020 & JANUARY 2021:

4                   MS. EBONY RUSS: No, sir. No, sir. No, sir.

5                   CHAIRMAN ANDY ALTOM: Okay. Other business. We  
6                   have licensed facilities update.

7   ITEM 13. OTHER BUSINESS:

8       a. Licenced Facilities Update:

9                   MS. EBONY RUSS: Yes. As part of our previous  
10                   discussions with the board, it was decided that the  
11                   PRLU will provide the board with licensing updates on  
12                   particular facilities or any concerns that we have  
13                   come into contact with. So I'll be very general with  
14                   these updates, but I did want to make you aware of  
15                   the information that we have.

16                   BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Okay. Can we --  
17                   when you say "general", you mean you'll not disclose  
18                   the name of the agency?

19                   MS. EBONY RUSS: I am not. So I was just being  
20                   current --

21                   BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Thank you. I -- I  
22                   would rather not hear the agency's name here. If we  
23                   need to know that, can we -- we can just ask you for  
24                   that. Would that be good?

25                   MS. EBONY RUSS: Very good. Okay. So we do

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1           have a license placement agency that had a foster  
2           parents to receive criminal charges. The current  
3           foster placement home has been closed. PRLU has  
4           identified a current trend of increased self-harm  
5           attempts at a licensed agency. This agency is on  
6           increased monitoring with PRLU and we will be -- we  
7           are scheduling to meet with the agency to further  
8           discuss and see what's going on. Also, at the last  
9           meeting, it was identified that we do discuss Piney  
10          Ridge Treatment Center, because of the letter of  
11          reprimand that was issued on the February 25th  
12          meeting. And so, since our last Child Welfare Agency  
13          Review Board meeting, on February 25th, there have  
14          been five unannounced visits to the facility. Two of  
15          those visits resulted in the agency being cited for  
16          being out of ratio. Lack of ratio was one of the  
17          concerns I did find in the letter of reprimand issued  
18          by the Board. And I'm not sure if anyone from Piney  
19          Ridge is available. Ralissa --

20                 MR. JUSTIN HOOVER: Yeah. This is Justin  
21          Hoover. I'm the Interim CEO over here at Piney Ridge  
22          and I'm willing to answer any questions or any  
23          concerns. Or I can just speak in general to -- to  
24          what's been brought up.

25                 MS. EBONY RUSS: Mr. Hoover, I'm sorry. Could

1           you repeat your name for the court reporter.

2           MR. JUSTIN HOOVER: Justin Hoover, Interim CEO  
3           at Piney Ridge Treatment Center.

4           CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Could you speak to the -- the  
5           issue about being cited again for being out of ratio?

6           MR. JUSTIN HOOVER: Yeah. Yeah. We have had  
7           staffing challenges here at the facility. We've had  
8           some challenges in hiring. But, in regard to those  
9           -- those specific issues, at least the last one, we  
10          did have enough staff in the building. We just did  
11          not have the staff in -- or, appropriately assigned  
12          to where they would have been. So let's talk about  
13          one issue directly. We had an admission going on at  
14          that time, where we had a staff who came up to us to  
15          assist with that after hours. It was an after hours  
16          admission, so we had staff come up to help with that.  
17          And we have went ahead and changed how we will  
18          proceed with after hour admissions.

19          CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Could you tell us how your --  
20          how you -- what was changed?

21          MR. JUSTIN HOOVER: Sure. So, generally, we  
22          don't do after hours admissions. This was an  
23          admission that we got a call on a Friday night about  
24          6:30. Asked to go and take this child, because they  
25          were having a challenge placing this child from --

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1 from DHS. So we -- so we went ahead and said that we  
2 would place this child. But, moving forward, when  
3 that does happen, we will -- we will go ahead and  
4 conduct the admission on the unit, if we cannot have  
5 extra staff come in to facilitate that admission.

6 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: So just out of clarification,  
7 on the unit versus, like, an office that's off the  
8 unit --

9 MR. JUSTIN HOOVER: Correct.

10 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: -- is still under the same  
11 roof?

12 MR. JUSTIN HOOVER: Correct. An admissions  
13 office in the administrative wing.

14 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Do you have a paging system?

15 MR. JUSTIN HOOVER: We use radios.

16 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay. Does the board have  
17 any other questions?

18 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I don't.

19 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay.

20 MS. EBONY RUSS: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Hoover.  
21 There appears to be no additional questions for Piney  
22 Ridge at this time.

23 MR. JUSTIN HOOVER: Thank you.

24 MS. EBONY RUSS: Okay. And I just wanted to  
25 briefly just make you aware of some bills that were



1 signed through legislation. Act 673. It is  
2 concerning corporal punishment. So you may want to  
3 look that act up. And also Act 772. This is  
4 concerning regulation of psychiatric residential  
5 treatment facilities and it will also give the board  
6 authority to close a license that has not been  
7 operating for a consecutive 12 month period. So Act  
8 673 and Act 772. And, I believe, Mr. West, there  
9 legislation -- legislation is still going on, or --  
10 COURT REPORTER: It's stuck on there.  
11 MR. JOE WEST: Oh, it's stuck up --  
12 COURT REPORTER: That's -- yeah. That's mine.  
13 MR. JOE WEST: Is it -- does that -- can you  
14 hear me? Thank you. So, yes, the legislature is  
15 still in session. As a matter of fact, I believe the  
16 House and Senate are meeting, as we speak, on the  
17 floor. I believe the target date for them to adjourn  
18 is next Tuesday. They can go as long as Friday. But  
19 both Houses have indicated they want to adjourn by  
20 Tuesday. So, between now and then, there could be  
21 more bills passed. I don't know if any will relate  
22 to y'all. By the next board meeting, my office will  
23 review all bills that relate to boards and agencies  
24 in general. We generally issue a report. I will  
25 have -- I will provide that to y'all at the

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1 appropriate time, as well as, I'll get with Ebony and  
2 we can discuss any bills that deal specifically with  
3 your board and your industry.

4 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I've got a  
5 question.

6 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Yeah.

7 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Okay. So two  
8 bills. The one I'm familiar with is the one I  
9 contacted you and Ashelyn about, and that was on the  
10 corporal punishment, and that was long overdue. And  
11 the other one is to keep -- the board now has -- does  
12 not have to automatically approve requests to keep a  
13 license inactive. Is that -- is that what I'm  
14 reading or is it about -- I wasn't clear on the  
15 second one.

16 MS. EBONY RUSS: That is my understanding of it.  
17 So I think before, we have an issue where licenses  
18 were remaining open and there was a --

19 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: So the only change  
20 --

21 MS. EBONY RUSS: -- no activity --

22 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: And, really, the  
23 way the law was written, and I believe, is that the  
24 board did not have the authority to deny that.

25 MR. JOE WEST: Correct.

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1 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: The only difference  
2 is we now have the authority to deny it, but we don't  
3 have to deny it.

4 MR. JOE WEST: Well you -- you will once that  
5 Act goes into effect.

6 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: We'll what -- we'll  
7 have to deny it?

8 MR. JOE WEST: Well, no, no.

9 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Oh, okay.

10 MR. JOE WEST: I mean you will have -- you will  
11 have discretion for those.

12 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: We'll have  
13 discretion.

14 MR. JOE WEST: Yes.

15 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Yeah.

16 MR. JOE WEST: But, when the act goes into  
17 effect. It's an issue --

18 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: When it's in --  
19 sure.

20 MR. JOE WEST: Yes. It doesn't --

21 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I understand.  
22 That's fine.

23 MR. JOE WEST: It doesn't have an emergency  
24 clause, so we have to wait til -- until some time in  
25 July or August and -- yeah, at the --

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1 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Right. And I  
2 understand that.

3 MR. JOE WEST: Yes.

4 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: But I was  
5 clarifying how it will be then.

6 MR. JOE WEST: Yes.

7 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Because we have  
8 several of us that have inactive licenses. And we  
9 appear once a year. And we have some that have had  
10 them for a very long time. And so, you know, one of  
11 the things that I'm seeing, dealing with option, and  
12 dealing with a license that Bethany has, is that I've  
13 learned a little bit about -- reading recently about  
14 that -- is that those -- for an adoption agency to  
15 close their license, that someone has to take those  
16 records. And so, if -- we would have to consider  
17 that if an adoption agency license was not active.  
18 For us, we have our residential license that's  
19 inactive. So we -- we would continue to come and  
20 then renew that each year. You know, the only -- my  
21 only request is, though, that I think, as a board,  
22 I'd like to have found out about it from you instead  
23 of just having to come across it. Especially bills  
24 that have to do with the Child Welfare Act. So and  
25 -- and, you know, maybe, as a board, we may have some

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1 input too. But the corporal punishment is one that  
2 I've definitely -- like I said, in my email, I would  
3 have done that a long time ago. It just kind of -- I  
4 forget that it's there.

5 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Can you -- can you  
6 -- what -- what -- a little clarification on corporal  
7 punishment? Can we get anything on that? What is  
8 that -- what is the Act to address?

9 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: The -- that Act --  
10 the original Act allows for corporal punishment. The  
11 original. And the regs allow for corporal  
12 punishment. As soon as this is enacted -- and it has  
13 passed -- I guess -- has it passed the House -- is it  
14 an Act yet?

15 MS. EBONY RUSS: It usually is.

16 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I saw it in the --  
17 I saw the committee. But, anyway, it will no --  
18 corporal punishment will not be allowed.

19 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Okay.

20 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: And --

21 MS. EBONY RUSS: That is correct.

22 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: -- may need a  
23 definition of corporal punishment. It's not just a  
24 paddle on the bottom, so --

25 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: And Mr. West will

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1 give us the information on when that is?

2 MR. JOE WEST: Yes. I'll -- I'll review that;  
3 both of the bills Ebony's mentioned, as well as,  
4 anything else that specifically relates to this board  
5 or your -- your industry.

6 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: But, the other  
7 thing is, especially on these things that we agree  
8 on, that when you have some controversy we can also  
9 help to support that bill too.

10 MS. EBONY RUSS: Okay. That is all from PRLU.

11 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Ebony, I do have one question  
12 about the organization where you said on the self-  
13 harm. Is it one -- is it one patient or is it a  
14 bunch of children in a facility, there?

15 MS. EBONY RUSS: No. They were separate  
16 incidents. Some happened back to back, day after  
17 day.

18 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay.

19 MS. EBONY RUSS: It's very concerning.

20 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay.

21 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: Does there appear  
22 to be a link between the --

23 MS. EBONY RUSS: Honestly, I'm not sure. But,  
24 just reviewing the information, you would think maybe  
25 suicide pact. But we're not sure. We're still

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1 following up.

2 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: A suicide pact?

3 MS. EBONY RUSS: Uh-huh.

4 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: Okay.

5 MS. EBONY RUSS: So that's something that we  
6 really do want to address.

7 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: So a safety plan  
8 could do it.

9 MS. EBONY RUSS: Correct.

10 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay. All right. Is there  
11 any other business?

12 (NO RESPONSE)

13 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Is there a motion to adjourn?

14 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: I'll make a motion  
15 to adjourn.

16 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: I'll second.

17 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: We've got a motion and a  
18 second. All right. All in favor say aye.

19 (CHORUS OF AYES)

20 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Vote with your feet. Thank  
21 you guys.

22 (THEREUPON, the meeting was adjourned at 2:32  
23 p.m. on April 22, 2021.)

24

25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 2021

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE  
BEFORE THE STATE OF ARKANSAS  
CHILD WELFARE AGENCY REVIEW  
BOARD  
Thursday, April 22, 2021

I, Laura L. Carnahan, a Certified Court Reporter in and for the aforesaid state, certify that I reported the proceedings in the aforementioned case; that said recording has been reduced to a transcription by me, or under my direct supervision, and the foregoing pages numbered 1-54 constitute a true and correct transcript of the proceedings held, to the best of my ability.

WITNESS my hand and seal as such Court Reporter  
10th day of May, 2021.

*Laura L. Carnahan*



LAURA L. CARNAHAN

BCR#96004

Supreme Court Certified Reporter No. 569