

STATE OF ARKANSAS
CHILD WELFARE AGENCY REVIEW
BOARD MEETING

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

August 26, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Andy Altom, Chair, Foster Care Unit
Charles Flynn, Emergency Shelters Unit
David Whatley, Residential Care Unit
Andrew Watson
Sandi Doherty, DCFS

ALSO PRESENT:

Joe West, DCFS Designee Attorney for the Board
Michelle Bridges-Bell
Ebony Russ, PRLU Program Manager
Sharra Litzey, PRLU Program Manager
Dawn Jeffrey, PRLU Assistant Director

Court Reporter:

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

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

JOB NO. 96014

AGENDA INDEX

WELCOME - Ebony Russ, PRLU Program Manager - Meeting Facilitator.....	4
CALL TO ORDER - Mr. Andy Altom, Chairman.....	4
APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES - June 24, 2021.....	4
ITEM I. PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN.....	5
1. DCFS - Sherry E.....	5
2. DCFS - Alfred V.....	7
3. DCFS - Bradley K.....	11
4. DCFS - Casondra N.....	NLN
5. DCFS - Debbie K.....	13
6. DCFS - Donna M.....	15
7. DCFS - Earnest M.....	NLN
8. DCFS - Ida G.....	NLN
9. DCFS - Jeffrey M.....	NLN
10. DCFS - Jesse C.....	9
11. DCFS - Jessica W.....	NLN
12. DCFS - Kara H.....	9
13. DCFS - Kimberly O.....	17
14. DCFS - Lance V.....	21
15. DCFS - Miram L.....	23
16. DCFS - Myron M.....	NLN
17. DCFS - Natoshia M.....	25
18. Pedro T.....	NLN
19. DCFS - Shiann S.....	27
20. DCFS - Stevie H.....	NLN
21. DCFS - Tina S.....	NLN
22. DCFS - Trenton F.....	NLN
23. DCFS - Waymon A.....	29
24. DCFS - Matthew F.....	36
25. DCFS - Penny P.....	38
26. DCFS - Lorise H.....	40
27. LTC - Brandon B.....	42
28. PRTC - Marty S.....	44
ITEM II. Exhibit "A" - Approval of Special Considerations/Temporary Approvals "Bundle" "A".....	46
Exhibit "A", Approval of Special Considerations/Temporary Approvals "Bundle"... (MARKED)	47
ITEM III. Counseling Associate - Request for change of address.....	48
ITEM IV. Fostering Change - Request to increase capacity..	49

AGENDA INDEX (CONTINUED)

ITEM V. Northwest Arkansas Children Center - Request for 90 days extension..... 52

ITEM VI. Centers for Youth and Families/Elizabeth Mitchell Centers - Request to expand license across campus; closure of License 158..... 55

ITEM VII. Trinity Behavioral Health - Request to terminate inactive license..... 57

ITEM VIII. Lord's Ranch Behavioral Health Care Systems - Request to terminate inactive license..... 59

ITEM IX. DCFS - Alternative Compliance request to approve relative and fictive kin homes prior to the completion of CPR and First Aid..... 63

ITEM X. Report of Temporary Approvals/Action (Logs Prseneted) August 26, 2021..... 67

ITEM XI. Other Business:

- a. Licensed Facilities Update - Sharra Singleton-Litzey..... 67
- b. Ebony Russ - Introduction of new Assistant Director and Program Coordinators..... 69

ADJOURNED 73

COURT REPORTER CERTIFICATE 74

Date of Next meeting: Wednesday, October 27, 2021

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

PROCEEDINGS

(THEREUPON, the meeting began at 1:38 p.m. on August 26, 2021.)

MS. EBONY RUSS: Good afternoon, everyone. I am Ebony Russ. I am the Program Manager for the Placement and Residential Licensing Unit. Welcome to the August 26, 2021 Child Welfare Agency Review Board meeting. I did want to give you just a really brief introduction of Dawn Jeffrey. She's our new Assistant Director for Placement and Residential Licensing Unit and, towards the end of the meeting, she'll give more of a formal introduction. So, with that, we'll go ahead and get started. I will turn it over to Mr. Andy Altom.

CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay. I'll call the meeting to order. First item on the Agenda is the approval of the minute -- meeting minutes from June 24, 2021, meeting.

BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I'll make a motion we approve these as submitted.

BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: I'll second.

CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I have a motion and a second. Any discussion?

(NO RESPONSE)

CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All those in favor say,

1 "Aye."

2 (CHORUS OF AYES)

3 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

4 (NO RESPONSE)

5 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All right.

6 ITEM I: PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN:

7 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Next up is Permissions to
8 Work With Children. For DCFS we have Sherry E. with
9 Caitlin Sammons and Cyndi Rowlett.

10 (UNKNOWN): Is there a way to make sure that we
11 have that microphone more -- or is it turned on?

12 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: You need it a little closer?
13 Can you hear me?

14 COURT REPORTER: Do they have a microphone at
15 the podium?

16 MS. EBONY RUSS: We only have one.

17 COURT REPORTER: Oh, you're going to trade off?
18 Okay. If you could just step closer to the podium
19 for me? Thank you.

20 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, I-1. DCFS - Sherry E.:

21 MS. KEISHA SMITH: Hello. My name is Keisha
22 Smith, resource worker for area 7, Jefferson and
23 Grant County. And we have Ms. Sherry. We're looking
24 for you guys to approve Ms. Sherry to continue
25 provisional placement for her grandson. I've never

1 done this before, so if there's anything that I
2 missed or didn't say, please let me know. Thank you.

3 (BOARD REVIEWING DOCUMENTS)

4 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: It's your
5 granddaughter -- granddaughter, you say or grandson?

6 MS. SHERRY E.: Grandson.

7 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Grandson. I
8 haven't gotten there yet. Tell us about your
9 grandson.

10 MS. SHERRY E.: He's three years old. He's
11 recently gotten placed in a childcare pre-K program
12 since he's been with me. I've raised him half of his
13 life already (LAUGHS), back and forth. So he's very
14 heavy, and energetic, and loves to ride the school
15 bus.

16 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Thank you.

17 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I'll make a motion to approve
18 this request.

19 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: I'll second.

20 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: Second.

21 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: That'll be second, multiple.

22 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Abstain.

23 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: And DCFS abstains. Any
24 discussion, questions?

25 (NO RESPONSE)

1 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All those in favor say,
2 "Aye."

3 (CHORUS OF AYES)

4 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

5 (NO RESPONSE)

6 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Thank you.

7 MS. SHERRY E.: Thank you. Thank you.

8 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, I-2: DCFS - Alfred V.:

9 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Next up is Alfred V.

10 MS. EBONY RUSS: Mr. Altom, we did need to
11 request from the Board how should we proceed. Mr.
12 Alfred V. was unable to attend today due to an
13 illness. So is the Board recommending that we move
14 this item to October 27th or should this request
15 expire?

16 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Is this one that
17 has a temporary approval?

18 (UNKNOWN): Yes.

19 COURT REPORTER: Do you have your microphone,
20 Ms. Doherty?

21 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Oh.

22 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

23 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Can you hear me
24 now? I think what the problem is, the temporary
25 approval is just good until the next board meeting.

1 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Right.

2 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: So it would expire
3 today on any of these that can't show up. And so
4 we're asking what -- does it just could extended to
5 the next board meeting if someone's sick, or a COVID
6 situation, or how are we going to handle that?

7 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Well, I definitely think if
8 they are sick, they can't be here.

9 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: I agree with you.

10 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: We can make -- need a motion
11 to extend the alternative request. Is there a motion
12 to do so?

13 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: I'll make a motion
14 to extend the request --

15 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: Second.

16 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: -- to the next
17 board meeting.

18 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: This is something
19 that Sandy and I have discussed. We felt safe enough
20 for the child to be in there to this point, you know.

21 COURT REPORTER: Charles, use your microphone,
22 please.

23 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: It's on. Yes. I
24 hear myself. You may not be able to, but I can hear
25 me.

1 (LAUGHTER)

2 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: So, anyway, we --
3 it's something we would have discussed to get it to
4 this point, so it would make sense that we would not
5 move the child, based on his illness.

6 UNKNOWN: Okay. So October 27th.

7 MS. EBONY RUSS: There may be just a couple of
8 more in the same situation as -- on the Permissions
9 to Work and we'll get to them in just a second.

10 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I was going to say
11 we need to vote.

12 MS. EBONY RUSS: Oh, sorry.

13 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Yeah. All those in favor
14 say, "Aye."

15 (CHORUS OF AYES)

16 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Ebony, could we go ahead and
17 do that now and address those that you know are sick
18 and won't be here?

19 MS. EBONY RUSS: Number 10 on Permissions to
20 Work. DCFS Jesse C. That client is not able to
21 attend due to illness. Number 12. Kara H. DCFS and
22 client is unable to attend due to illness. And I
23 believe that is it.

24 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: And then others are
25 stuck in traffic.

1 MS. EBONY RUSS: I think there's four stuck in
2 traffic.

3 (UNKNOWN): Well, number four is stuck in
4 traffic.

5 MS. EBONY RUSS: Oh, number four.

6 (UNKNOWN): Oh, no. I'm here now. We're here.
7 Yeah. She just got in.

8 MS. EBONY RUSS: Okay. She's arrived.

9 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay. So the board has
10 before it, number 10 and number 12, to also consider
11 -- is there a motion to grant another alternative
12 request to the next meeting for these individuals?

13 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: I'll make that
14 motion.

15 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: I'll second that.

16 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: We have a second. All those
17 in favor say, "Aye."

18 (CHORUS OF AYES)

19 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All right. Okay. Are we
20 ready, Ebony?

21 MS. EBONY RUSS: Yes.

22 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Alfred V.

23 MS. EBONY RUSS: You just made the vote on
24 Alfred V.

25 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: That's right. I'm sorry.

1 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, I-3: DCFS - Bradley K.:

2 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Bradley K.

3 MS. GINGER HEWETT: My name is Ginger Hewett.

4 And I'm a resource worker for area 8, counties Clay,
5 Greene, and Craighead. I'm here with Mr. Bradley to
6 ask permission to work with children, if you have any
7 questions.

8 (BOARD REVIEWING DOCUMENTS)

9 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: When did you guys
10 decide you wanted to adopt?

11 MR. BRADLEY K.: I'm sorry?

12 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Tell us about your
13 adoption process. How did you get to make that
14 decision?

15 MR. BRADLEY K.: Honestly, for --

16 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Not the personal
17 detail, I just always like to hear how it's --

18 MR. BRADLEY K.: Yeah.

19 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Often, it's the
20 wife who is excited and the husband is the second one
21 to get excited.

22 MR. BRADLEY K.: This has always been a life
23 goal of my wife's. I, honestly, for years, was never
24 interested in getting married or having kids,
25 honestly. And then I met her. She's got two kids

1 and I realized that that is what I wanted. She can
2 no longer have kids herself, so we felt this was the
3 perfect option for us. She's got a family that's
4 done this and adopted three through fostering. And
5 we just -- like I said, she -- she can't have --

6 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Have you discussed,
7 are you -- newborns, or children, or just whatever
8 comes your way?

9 MR. BRADLEY K.: Honestly, we're looking for a
10 newborn, if at all possible. We understand that's --
11 you know, newborns, there would be a waiting time on
12 that, so we're a little flexible on that. But we
13 have talked about that's kind of what we're looking
14 for.

15 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Good, but stay
16 flexible; there's a lot of children out there that
17 need homes. I'll make a motion to approve this
18 request.

19 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: We have a motion to approve.
20 Is there a second?

21 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: I'll second.

22 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any more discussion,
23 questions?

24 (NO RESPONSE)

25 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All those in favor say,

1 "Aye."

2 (CHORUS OF AYES)

3 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Opposed?

4 (NO RESPONSE)

5 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Abstain.

6 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: DCFS abstains.

7 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Congratulations. Thank you.

8 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, I-4. DCFS - Casondra N.:

9 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Casondra N.

10 MS. EBONY RUSS: Item number four, Casondra N.,
11 on the Agenda, is no longer needed. So we will move
12 to the next.

13 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay.

14 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, I-5. DCFS - Debbie K.:

15 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: To Debbie K.

16 MS. KRISTEN SWAFFORD: Hi everybody. It's been
17 a long time since I've been here, so... My name is
18 Kristen Swafford. I am with resource, out of
19 Sebastian County. I am here with Debbie requesting
20 approval for her to continue to have her three
21 grandchildren placed with her.

22 COURT REPORTER: Your name again, please?

23 MS. KRISTEN SWAFFORD: Kristen Swafford. I
24 think I might be on there as Kristen Shelton, because
25 that's what my tag says.

1 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

2 (BOARD REVIEWING DOCUMENTS)

3 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Nothing since '95.
4 I'm reading the -- the paragraph, second page.

5 MS. KRISTEN SWAFFORD: I think that there might
6 have been another waiver. So -- but that was a
7 policy waiver, so this might just pertain to this
8 one.

9 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Oh, here's --
10 here's the other (INAUDIBLE). That -- no,
11 (INAUDIBLE) ended this year. okay. That's 2009,
12 then would be the --

13 MS. KRISTEN SWAFFORD: Yeah, that would be the
14 last one.

15 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Okay.

16 (BOARD REVIEWING DOCUMENTS)

17 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Are you still -- are you a
18 nurse? Are you still a CNA?

19 MS. DEBBIE K.: I wished. No. Unfortunately,
20 because of the incident that happened, it doesn't --
21 it didn't matter if they gave me a drug follicle.
22 They didn't care or anything. My name was on the
23 house; therefore, I did receive felonies, because of
24 my spouse at that time. He even told the judge and
25 all the attorneys that, "She has nothing to do with

1 it. She's never home." Which is true. I was making
2 more money back then than I am now. (LAUGHS).

3 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Been no further
4 incidents or arrests since 2010, so...

5 MS. DEBBIE K.: Oh, no, sir. I don't like being
6 arrested. I stay away from it. (LAUGHS).

7 (BOARD REVIEWING DOCUMENTS)

8 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I'll make a motion to approve
9 the request. Is there a second?

10 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Second.

11 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: (ABSTAINS).

12 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any discussion?

13 (NO RESPONSE)

14 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All those in favor say,
15 "Aye."

16 (CHORUS OF AYES)

17 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

18 (NO RESPONSE)

19 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Congratulations.

20 MS. DEBBIE K.: Thank you, sir.

21 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, I-6. DCFS - Donna M.:

22 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Donna M. And DCFS abstained.

23 MS. KASEY TOLBERT: Good afternoon, everyone.

24 My name is Kasey Tolbert. I work in Franklin County,
25 but cover Crawford County resource. I'm here today

1 with Ms. Donna M. asking that her granddaughters
2 remain in her home as a relative placement. And
3 she's here to answer any questions you may have.

4 (BOARD REVIEWING DOCUMENTS)

5 COURT REPORTER: Is that Kasey with a "C" or a
6 "K"?

7 MS. KASEY TOLBERT: A "K".

8 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

9 (BOARD REVIEWING DOCUMENTS)

10 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: You've not had any incidents
11 since 1991?

12 MS. DONNA M.: No, sir.

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

15 MS. DONNA M.: Pardon?

16 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I'll second.

17 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I'm making a motion
18 to approve the request.

19 MS. DONNA M.: Oh. Thank you.

20 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Do you want to
21 second it?

22 MS. DONNA M.: Yeah. Yeah.

23 MS. KASEY TOLBERT: She will if you let her.

24 MS. DONNA M.: Yeah, if you let me talk, I will.

25 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I'll second it. Is there any

1 discussion?

2 (NO RESPONSE)

3 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: (ABSTAINS).

4 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All those in favor say,
5 "Aye."

6 (CHORUS OF AYES)

7 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

8 (NO RESPONSE)

9 MS. DONNA M.: Thank you.

10 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Congratulations.

11 MS. DONNA M.: Thank you.

12 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, I-13. DCFS - Kimberly O.:

13 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Kimberly O.

14 COURT REPORTER: I don't have that on mine.

15 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: 13?

16 COURT REPORTER: Oh, I'm sorry. Did we skip
17 seven?

18 MS. EBONY RUSS: Number 7 is no longer needed.

19 That was DCFS, Ernest M.

20 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Yeah.

21 MS. EBONY RUSS: Number 8, Ida G. -- is no
22 longer --

23 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Let me interrupt.
24 The Kimberly O. is the one -- one of the ones stuck
25 in traffic.

1 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay.

2 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: I got an email.

3 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I'm assuming that NLN means
4 no longer needed?

5 MS. EBONY RUSS: Correct.

6 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: So I went ahead and skipped
7 all these on this first page and moved to 13. And
8 now I understand 13 is delayed, correct?

9 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Kimberly O. is
10 delayed.

11 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Kimberly O. is delayed.

12 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Except I just got a
13 little (INAUDIBLE) ago that said exited on Main
14 Street. So I'm surprised. So -- but she's not here
15 yet, right?

16 MS. ALLISON KOILE: No. Ms. O. is here.

17 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Oh. She is here.

18 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay.

19 MS. EBONY RUSS: Okay. We're ready to proceed.

20 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Yeah, we're ready.

21 MS. ALLISON KOILE: I believe it's her case
22 worker that's not present yet. Let me speak to
23 Kimberly.

24 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Are there two?

25 COURT REPORTER: What's your name?

1 MS. ALLISON KOILE: Sorry. Allison Koile. I'm
2 Ms. O's private counsel.

3 COURT REPORTER: Spell your last name.

4 MS. ALLISON KOILE: K-O-I-L-E.

5 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Are there two?

6 MS. EBONY RUSS: So only one. We have DCFS
7 Gwendolyn Maxwell or Charles Hurley to present with
8 her.

9 MS. DANIELLE SIMS: Danielle Sims, I'm standing
10 in while they're (INAUDIBLE).

11 MS. EBONY RUSS: Okay. Danielle Sims. Okay.
12 We're ready to proceed, if you guys will come on up.

13 MS. DANIELLE SIMS: Good afternoon. I'm
14 Danielle Sims. I'm the resource and adoption
15 supervisor for area 5. I'm here today with Kimberly
16 O. who wants you guys to grant permission for her to
17 (INAUDIBLE) --

18 COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry.

19 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Sorry. You have to speak up.

20 COURT REPORTER: Sorry. One, slow down. Two,
21 can you move those papers off of the microphone on
22 the podium.

23 MS. DANIELLE SIMS: Sorry.

24 COURT REPORTER: Start over.

25 MS. DANIELLE SIMS: Danielle Sims. I'm the

1 resource and adoption supervisor for area 5. I am
2 here with Kimberly O. who wishes to have her
3 grandchildren.

4 (BOARD REVIEWING DOCUMENTS)

5 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I'm sure it's here.
6 I could find it. How old are these children?

7 MS. KIMBERLY O.: Four and five. They're going
8 to be five and six, October, November.

9 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Mr. Chair, I'd like
10 to make a motion to approve the request.

11 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I have a motion to approve
12 the request. Is there a second?

13 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: I'll second.

14 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: (ABSTAINS).

15 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: And we have a second. Any
16 discussions or questions?

17 (NO RESPONSE)

18 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All those in favor say,
19 "Aye."

20 (CHORUS OF AYES)

21 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

22 (NO RESPONSE)

23 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Congratulations.

24 MS. KIMBERLY O.: Thank you so much.

25 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: You bet. And DCFS abstains.

1 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, I-14. DCFS - Lance V.:

2 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Lance V.

3 MS. EBONY RUSS: Judy Houff -- I think she may
4 be waiting in --

5 MS. JUDY HOUFF: I was looking for Mr. V. and
6 he's not here yet. He checked in at 1:00, but
7 (INAUDIBLE) -- oh. There you go.

8 (LAUGHTER)

9 MS. JUDY HOUFF: There he is. Oh, I thought you
10 just -- anyway. My name is Judy Houff.

11 MS. EBONY RUSS: I need your papers. Switch
12 with this. And if you could, speak into the
13 microphone.

14 MS. JUDY HOUFF: Okay. I'm Judy Houff and I'm
15 with Miller County. I'm the resource worker for
16 Miller County. I'm with Mr. V. and he's seeking
17 permission to work with children. He's the maternal
18 cousin and he's here to answer any questions you may
19 have.

20 (BOARD REVIEWING DOCUMENTS)

21 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: Do you mind just
22 sharing a little bit about the careless driving
23 incidents that were back in 2020?

24 MR. LANCE V.: The careless driving 2020? It
25 was basically speeding way over the limit. I was in

1 a hurry to get to work before I got in trouble,
2 basically, and I got in more trouble than I would be
3 getting late to work.

4 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: Yeah, I noticed
5 that happened a couple of times on your record. So
6 you know, that's something to keep in mind when
7 you're transporting precious cargo.

8 MR. LANCE V.: Yes, sir. Yeah -- they've never
9 been with me whenever I'm speeding or anything. And
10 the earlier ones I was bad about speeding and I've
11 since slowed down a lot.

12 (BOARD REVIEWING DOCUMENTS)

13 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Is there a motion to approve
14 the request?

15 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Let me go ahead and
16 make that motion.

17 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I have a motion to approve.
18 Is there a second?

19 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: (ABSTAINS).

20 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I'll second it. Any
21 discussions?

22 (NO RESPONSE)

23 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All those in favor say,
24 "Aye."

25 (CHORUS OF AYES)

1 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

2 (NO RESPONSE)

3 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Congratulations. Take care
4 of those cousins.

5 MR. LANCE V.: Yes, sir. Thank you.

6 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: DCFS abstains.

7 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: I've mouthed it two
8 or three times.

9 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, I-15. DCFS - Miram L.:

10 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Miram L.

11 MS. TARSHA COOK: I'm Tarsha Cook. I'm a
12 resource worker with area 8, out of Mississippi
13 County. And I'm here with Miram L. and he would like
14 to discuss why he should keep his grand-kids; he has
15 two boys in his home.

16 MR. MIRAM L.: I love my grandchildren with all
17 my heart. They've been with us a month. They go to
18 Fox Meadow School. We got a great report from the
19 school yesterday on how well both of them have
20 adjusted and how well they behave in school. My
21 fiancé picks them up from school. I take them every
22 morning to school and they pick me up from work.
23 They love picking me up from work. They love going
24 swimming. They love hiking. And my past was real
25 shady, but I've grown up a lot. I was young. And

1 I'd do anything in the world for my grandchildren. I
2 love them; I'm here for them.

3 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay. It takes us a minute
4 to read through this packet, but we might have some
5 questions for you in a minute.

6 MR. MIRAM L.: Yes, sir.

7 (BOARD REVIEWING DOCUMENTS)

8 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: You say have a
9 shady past. Did something happen that you --

10 MR. MIRAM L.: I was -- I was -- I was raised by
11 a stepfather who was an alcoholic. In my younger
12 days, I was looking for a way to get out of the
13 house. So I broke the law, got in trouble. Went --
14 got sent to the penitentiary for three years. And
15 just trying to escape the abuse I went through. And
16 I run a -- hung out with the wrong people. Just
17 being real rebellious.

18 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: What happened that
19 changed; that you decided to live life different?

20 MR. MIRAM L.: I grew up. I got so -- this is
21 -- this -- I don't want to live my life like this.
22 Plus I had my children. You know, I said "Well, they
23 see me doing these things; what are they going to
24 do?" I had to try to set an example for my children.
25 I have two. I have another boy, besides my daughter.

1 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Am I correct that you haven't
2 had anything since 2005?

3 MR. MIRAM L.: No, sir. I haven't had a thing.

4 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay. I make a motion to
5 approve the request.

6 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: Second.

7 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: (ABSTAINS).

8 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: We have a second. Any
9 discussion?

10 (NO RESPONSE)

11 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All those in favor say,
12 "Aye."

13 (CHORUS OF AYES)

14 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

15 (NO RESPONSE)

16 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Congratulations.

17 MR. MIRAM L.: Thank y'all.

18 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: You BET. DCFS abstains.

19 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Let me slide the A
20 in there.

21 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I'm a little bit slow.

22 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: We got you covered.

23 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, I-17. DCFS - Natoshia M.:

24 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Natoshia M.

25 MS. TIESHA RONE: Hello. My name is Tiesha

1 Rone. I'm a resource worker in Pulaski County and I
2 have with me Ms. Natoshia M. She is here to remain a
3 provisional placement for her cousins.

4 (BOARD REVIEWING DOCUMENTS)

5 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: A teenager. Does
6 that say a 13-year-old young man?

7 MS. NATOSHIA M.: Yes. He'll be 14. 14 and 4.

8 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Yeah. That's quite
9 an age, isn't it?

10 MS. NATOSHIA M.: Yes, sir.

11 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: So you went 12
12 years without realizing that a warrant -- is that --

13 MS. NATOSHIA M.: I really -- I knew. I just
14 didn't want to face it at the time. I really
15 couldn't do anything about it.

16 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: I'm sorry. Say
17 that again.

18 MS. NATOSHIA M.: I knew -- you say I went 12
19 years?

20 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Yes. That's what I
21 thought it said in here, since 2009, right?

22 MS. NATOSHIA M.: Yes, sir.

23 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: So it wasn't until
24 the FBI check was performed that you realized that
25 the warrant was there?

1 MS. NATOSHIA M.: Yes, sir. And I got it took
2 care of right away.

3 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Mr. Chair, I'd like
4 to make a motion to approve the request.

5 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: We've got a motion to
6 approve. Is there a second?

7 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: (ABSTAINS).

8 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I'll second it. Any
9 discussion?

10 (NO RESPONSE)

11 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All those in favor say,
12 "Aye."

13 (CHORUS OF AYES)

14 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

15 (NO RESPONSE)

16 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Congratulations.

17 MS. NATOSHIA M.: Thank you.

18 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: DCFS abstains.

19 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, I-19. DCFS - Shiann S.:

20 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Shiann S.

21 MS. GINGER HEWETT: Good afternoon. Ginger
22 Hewett here, again, for Clay County, resource worker
23 for area 8. I'm here with Ms. Shiann to ask for
24 permission to work with children. She has her nieces
25 and nephews in her home. She's here if you have any

1 questions.

2 (BOARD REVIEWING DOCUMENTS)

3 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Had to go back and
4 look at that again. Six, is that what --

5 MS. SHIANN S.: Yes, sir.

6 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Oh.

7 MS. SHIANN S.: It is.

8 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: And you've moved
9 back -- back from Michigan or --

10 MS. SHIANN S.: I lived in Michigan my whole
11 life. I moved down here just to get my nieces and
12 nephews.

13 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Okay. It doesn't
14 have anything to do with my decision, but are you
15 going to stay in Arkansas or --

16 MS. SHIANN S.: Yes, sir. I am.

17 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Okay.

18 (BOARD REVIEWING DOCUMENTS)

19 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Do y'all have any
20 other family here or is it --

21 MS. SHIANN S.: Yes. I do.

22 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Got plenty of help
23 for six kids?

24 MS. SHIANN S.: Yes.

25 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Is there a motion to approve

1 the request?

2 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Yes, sir. I'll
3 make that motion.

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

6 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: I'll second.

7 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: (ABSTAINS).

8 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any discussions, questions?

9 (NO RESPONSE)

10 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All those in favor say,
11 "Aye."

12 (CHORUS OF AYES)

13 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

14 (NO RESPONSE)

15 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: DCFS abstains.

16 MS. SHIANN S.: Thank you.

17 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: We'll get that in
18 for (INAUDIBLE) out of habit.

19 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: After that. I'm just slow.
20 You're so quiet, Sandy. Now I know why.

21 (LAUGHTER)

22 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, I-23. DCFS - Waymon A.:

23 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Waymon A.

24 MS. ANGELA HILL: Hello. My name is Angela Hill
25 from area 4. I'm a resource worker. I'm here with

1 Mr. Waymon. He wants -- he's trying to get custody
2 of his granddaughter. She's four years old.

3 (BOARD REVIEWING DOCUMENTS)

4 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: So the last time --
5 2007 -- so you said you no longer have a problem
6 drinking, so did you --

7 MR. WAYMON A.: No. I had quit. I had caught
8 COVID and you know.

9 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: So you quit during
10 -- since COVID? Is that what you're saying or --

11 MR. WAYMON A.: No, before COVID.

12 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Before COVID. How
13 did you quit? Did you go cold turkey or did you have
14 a program?

15 MR. WAYMON A.: No. A good friend of mine -- he
16 used to -- he went to, you know, AA and he used to
17 talk to me.

18 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Okay.

19 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: Can you expound on
20 the suspended -- the current suspended license?

21 MR. WAYMON A.: Excuse me?

22 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: Can you expound on
23 what's going on with the current license being
24 suspended?

25 MR. WAYMON A.: Probably them tickets I got in

1 Dallas.

2 COURT REPORTER: Can you take your mask down for
3 a minute while you're talking?

4 MR. WAYMON A.: Well I --

5 COURT REPORTER: Do you have COVID?

6 MR. WAYMON A.: No. I had it, but I ain't got
7 the vaccination, so you know. I done had it.

8 COURT REPORTER: Speak up then, please.

9 MR. WAYMON A.: All right. And what did you say
10 now, sir?

11 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: I was just asking
12 about the suspended driver's license -- the current
13 suspended license.

14 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Well is your
15 license currently suspended?

16 MR. WAYMON A.: Yes. They've been suspended. I
17 just doesn't drive. I had -- my wife had to take me
18 to the doctor and I got --

19 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: So you don't intend
20 to get it back then? Or you don't --

21 MR. WAYMON A.: Yes. I intend to get 'em back.

22 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: How long will they be
23 suspended?

24 MR. WAYMON A.: Until I pay the -- it's just a
25 fine. I had a fine.

1 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Oh.

2 MR. WAYMON A.: It was supposed to been -- I
3 went through a court and they were saying that I
4 needed proof, but it was going (INAUDIBLE) from
5 Arkansas Well -- or, mental health place. I had to
6 go to AA, but this is like in -- I can't remember
7 really. You know, since I had that, my mind been
8 messed up.

9 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: So who would be
10 transporting?

11 MR. WAYMON A.: My wife.

12 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: Okay.

13 MR. WAYMON A.: And my daughter.

14 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: And just to
15 clarify, you were talking about -- was it multiple
16 tickets that got the license suspended?

17 MR. WAYMON A.: I think it was just the last
18 one. But I had a DWI and got it suspended in ninety
19 -- or, 2005.

20 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: Okay. So the last
21 DWI was in '07? Wait. Or '08? Is that right?

22 MR. WAYMON A.: '08?

23 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Driving on a
24 suspended.

25 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: Driving -- yeah.

1 That's right.

2 MR. WAYMON A.: That's the ticket.

3 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: Yeah. The last DWI
4 was '07.

5 MR. WAYMON A.: No. That -- wasn't no -- '07?
6 I don't remember that one.

7 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: That's what it's
8 showing here.

9 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Have you went --
10 how long has your license been suspended, since 2008?

11 MR. WAYMON A.: Yeah.

12 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: And you said --
13 let's back up. Friend -- you did AA with a friend.
14 How long before COVID -- how long have you been not
15 drinking?

16 MR. WAYMON A.: Since -- well -- you know, like
17 have a beer every once in a while, but when I got --
18 the last time I drunk was like May and it was a beer.
19 And that's when I had caught COVID. And I ain't
20 drunk since.

21 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: So last October --
22 are we -- are -- just -- are you aware -- we under --
23 that we -- to meaning that you haven't had a --

24 MR. WAYMON A.: (INAUDIBLE). Now what did you
25 say.

1 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: So the last time
2 you got drunk was last October -- last October?

3 MR. WAYMON A.: Of last year.

4 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Of 2020 -- or '20?

5 MR. WAYMON A.: '20. What I'm saying is like,
6 occasionally, I'll drink a beer.

7 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I'm not worried
8 about that. We're talking about the behavior that
9 resulted in you losing your license so --

10 MR. WAYMON A.: Oh. No, no, no.

11 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: The last time you
12 got --

13 MR. WAYMON A.: In trouble? No. I've slowed
14 down, period. And I just quit in October before I
15 caught COVID.

16 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Okay.

17 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Just for the
18 Board's information. When they have a suspended
19 license, or issues, they sign a statement that they
20 cannot drive our children. And we always assess who
21 will be providing -- who will be providing that
22 transportation.

23 MR. WAYMON A.: Yes. My wife.

24 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Right.

25 MR. WAYMON A.: Again, I already explained --

1 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: That's part of --
2 part of this, how recently --

3 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Yes.

4 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: -- they -- the
5 alcohol was involved at such a level that could
6 affect your behavior, more than driving, it's just
7 being responsible for children. So that's why --
8 that's why it's important for us to understand how
9 long --

10 MR. WAYMON A.: Yeah.

11 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: -- and, you know,
12 having an occasional drink, that's one thing, but to
13 lose control --

14 MR. WAYMON A.: Yeah. Yeah. I -- that's --
15 yeah, I really -- yeah.

16 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Is there a motion to approve
17 request?

18 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I will make that
19 motion.

20 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I'll second it.

21 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: (ABSTAINS)

22 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any discussions or questions?

23 (NO RESPONSE)

24 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All those in favor say,
25 "Aye."

1 (CHORUS OF AYES)

2 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

3 (NO RESPONSE)

4 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Congratulations.

5 MR. WAYMON A.: Thank you, sir.

6 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Keep working that
7 program.

8 MR. WAYMON A.: Yes. I do it every day.

9 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I know it's not
10 easy, so I thank you --

11 MR. WAYMON A.: Yeah.

12 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: -- for doing what
13 you need to do for these children.

14 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: DCFS abstains.

15 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: A little slow.

16 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, I-24. DCFS - Matthew F.:

17 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Matthew F.

18 MS. JUDY HOUFF: My name is Judy Houff and I'm a
19 Miller County resource worker. And I'm here with
20 Matthew -- Mr. Matthew -- and he is the maternal
21 grandfather of the minor kids in care. And he's here
22 to answer any questions you may have.

23 (BOARD REVIEWING DOCUMENTS)

24 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Where did you do your 30-day
25 inpatient?

1 MR. MATTHEW F.: Serenity Park. Can y'all hear
2 me okay?

3 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Yes.

4 (BOARD REVIEWING DOCUMENTS)

5 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Pretty impressive turnaround.

6 MR. MATTHEW F.: It is. Yes, sir.

7 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I'll make a motion to approve
8 this request.

9 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: I'll second.

10 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: (ABSTAINS).

11 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: And just say it
12 sounds like a pretty amazing story. I was just
13 curious, if you had any involvement in helping other
14 people, younger people, that have been addicted to
15 drugs? Is that something that you --

16 MR. MATTHEW F.: Absolutely. Absolutely.
17 Sponsorship and service work. Yeah, I like to do
18 that. It helps -- helps me.

19 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Congratulations.
20 Just curious.

21 MR. MATTHEW F.: Thank you.

22 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All those in favor say,
23 "Aye."

24 (CHORUS OF AYES)

25 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

1 (NO RESPONSE)

2 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Congratulations.

3 MR. MATTHEW F.: Thank you, sirs.

4 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: DCFS abstains.

5 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: It's a good thing I
6 had something to toss to you, again.

7 (LAUGHTER)

8 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, I-25. DCFS - Penny P.:

9 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Penny P.

10 MS. DEA GARRISON: I'm Ms. Garrison with the
11 Garland County DHS, resource worker, here with Ms.
12 P., asking for permission to work with children.
13 She's the paternal grandmother.

14 COURT REPORTER: Tell me your name again.

15 MS. DEA GARRISON: Dea Garrison. D-E-A.

16 COURT REPORTER: Garrison?

17 MS. DEA GARRISON: Uh-huh.

18 (BOARD REVIEWING DOCUMENTS)

19 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: So your
20 granddaughter is 10 years old?

21 MS. PENNY P.: Yes. Yes, sir. She's going to
22 be 11 in November.

23 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Is she a handful?

24 MS. PENNY P.: We have our ups and downs. And
25 right now we had an issue over ripped jeans; that I'm

1 old school. So I had to have her in counseling and
2 we just put another set of clothes in her backpack
3 every day. And if they don't like what she wears,
4 they don't have to call me. We -- we're doing very
5 well.

6 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Very good.

7 MS. PENNY P.: She says sometimes, "Granny,
8 you're strict." And I say, "No, I'm not strict. I
9 just want you to do right." And, to be honest, if my
10 son was alive, I wouldn't be here. She was born in
11 November and he died in March. I am her voice and I
12 know he would want me to do what I'm doing. The
13 step-dad and mom -- this is second time she's been in
14 DHS custody. My daughter had her before. And I just
15 want to give her a good life.

16 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Thank you for
17 sharing that. Mr. Chair, I'll make a recommendation
18 to approve the request.

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

21 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: Second.

22 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: (ABSTAINS).

23 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Second. All those in favor
24 say, "Aye."

25 (CHORUS OF AYES)

1 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

2 (NO RESPONSE)

3 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: DCFS abstains.

4 MS. PENNY P.: Thank you, so much.

5 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Thank you.

6 MS. PENNY P.: She's learning it's not all fun
7 and games when granny picks her up no more, because
8 she's gotta live with her and she has rules. But it's
9 going to be good. Thank you, so much, and God bless
10 you all.

11 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: God bless you.

12 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, I-26. DCFS - Lorise H.:

13 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Lorise H.

14 (BOARD REVIEWING DOCUMENTS)

15 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: It says provisional
16 foster care since 11/10/21?

17 MS. REGINIA HAWKINS: '20.

18 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: '20.

19 MS. REGINIA HAWKINS: It should be '20.

20 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: That's what I
21 figured. Just verifying that it was last year.

22 MS. REGINIA HAWKINS: Uh-huh.

23 COURT REPORTER: And what's your name?

24 MS. REGINIA HAWKINS: My name is Reginia

25 Hawkins. I'm the resource worker for area 10 in Drew

1 County. And I'm here with Ms. Lorise requesting
2 permission to work with children. Ms. Lorise H.

3 (BOARD REVIEWING DOCUMENTS)

4 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Do those
5 grandchildren like to go fishing with you?

6 MS. LORISE H.: Love to. Yes.

7 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Do you still live
8 in Hamburg?

9 MS. LORISE H.: No. I stay in Crossett.

10 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: In Crossett?

11 MS. LORISE H.: Crossett, yes.

12 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Is it hot down
13 there right now?

14 MS. LORISE H.: Yes, ma'am.

15 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: I've lived there 15
16 years. It's hot down there.

17 MS. LORISE H.: Yes.

18 (BOARD REVIEWING DOCUMENTS)

19 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: You got ice cream
20 in your freezer, I think.

21 (LAUGHTER)

22 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I don't know what's
23 (INAUDIBLE).

24 MS. REGINA HAWKINS: She keeps stuff in there.

25 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Is there a motion to --

1 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: My grandson likes
2 ice cream.

3 MS. LORISE H.: Mine does too.

4 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Is there a motion to accept
5 the request?

6 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I'll make that
7 motion.

8 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Is there a second?

9 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Second.

10 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: (ABSTAINS).

11 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any discussions, questions?

12 (NO RESPONSE)

13 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All those in favor say,
14 "Aye."

15 (CHORUS OF AYES)

16 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Congratulations. DCFS
17 abstains.

18 MS. LORISE H.: Thank you all.

19 MS. REGINA HAWKINS: Thank you.

20 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, I-27. LTC - Brandon B.:

21 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Louisville Treatment Center.

22 MS. DEIDRA HAYMAN: Good afternoon. I am Deidra
23 Hayman and I am the Program Director at Louisville
24 Facility. And I'm here asking permission for Mr.
25 Brandon B. to continue to work with our young men.

1 We hired him back in January and, since that time, he
2 has demonstrated a lot of responsibility and
3 reliability to the point where we have actually
4 promoted him, to Senior Night Coach/Counselor, in the
5 recent weeks. With your permission, we would like to
6 ask that he continue to work with our boys.

7 (BOARD REVIEWING DOCUMENTS)

8 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: How long have you been in
9 Arkansas?

10 MR. BRANDON B.: June 2020. My wife and two of
11 my kids, we moved down here and we relocated.
12 Definitely a culture shock, but the peace and quiet
13 is nice.

14 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: (LAUGHS).

15 MR. BRANDON B.: Peace and quiet is really nice.

16 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I'm sure -- I'm sure
17 Baltimore would be a culture shock for us, too.

18 MR. BRANDON B.: Little bit. Little bit. Some
19 of you might be good there and some of you might --

20 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: So, now that you're
21 in Arkansas, are you in Louisville or where are you?

22 MR. BRANDON B.: Sir, I'm in Stamps. It's right
23 next to Louisville.

24 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I know where Stamps
25 is. Yeah.

1 MR. BRANDON B.: Yeah. Nice and easy.

2 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Quite a change.

3 MR. BRANDON B.: Yeah. Yeah. Definitely.

4 Definitely.

5 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I make a motion to approve
6 this request.

7 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: I'll second.

8 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Got a second.

9 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: I'll second.

10 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any discussions or questions?

11 (NO RESPONSE)

12 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All those in favor say,
13 "Aye."

14 (CHORUS OF AYES)

15 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

16 (NO RESPONSE)

17 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Congratulations.

18 MR. BRANDON B.: Thank you. I appreciate it.

19 MS. DEIDRA HAYMAN: Thank you, very much.

20 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, I-28. PRTC - Marty S.):

21 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Piney Ridge.

22 MS. EBONY RUSS: We do have, for Piney Ridge,
23 Ms. Trish Marshal. She was unable to drive in due to
24 an emergency, last minute. So she is available by
25 Zoom. And we should also have Chelsea Vardell, as

1 well. Also, --

2 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay.

3 MS. EBONY RUSS: Our applicant is present. She
4 sent these with you?

5 MR. MARTY S.: Yes.

6 MS. EBONY RUSS: Oh.

7 MR. MARTY S.: Those are the copies.

8 (UNKNOWN): Hey, Trish, you're on mute.

9 MS. TRISH MARSHAL (VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE): Good
10 afternoon. My name is Trish Marshal and I'm the
11 Director of Education at the Piney Ridge Treatment
12 Center. I would like to ask for permission for Marty
13 to work as a teacher at Piney Ridge Treatment Center.

14 (BOARD REVIEWING DOCUMENTS)

15 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Am I correct in thinking that
16 you're still very active in AA?

17 MR. MARTY S.: Yes.

18 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay.

19 (BOARD REVIEWING DOCUMENTS)

20 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Is there a motion to approve
21 the request?

22 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: I'll make a motion
23 to approve the request.

24 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: We have a motion. I'll
25 second it. Is there any discussion, questions?

1 (NO RESPONSE)

2 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All those in favor say,
3 "Aye."

4 (CHORUS OF AYES)

5 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

6 (NO RESPONSE)

7 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Congratulations.

8 MR. MARTY S.: Thank you. I used to work for
9 you --

10 MS. TRISH MARSHAL: Thank you.

11 MR. MARTY S.: -- 24 years ago, if you remember
12 me. Craig was my boss.

13 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Yes.

14 MR. MARTY S.: Yeah. Nice to see you again.

15 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Good to see you again, too.

16 MS. EBONY RUSS: He's going to get the rest of
17 your files.

18 MR. MARTY S.: Okay. Thank you.

19 ITEM II. Exhibit "A" - Approval of Special

20 Considerations/Temporary Approvals "Bundles" "A":

21 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Next up is the Exhibit A for
22 approval of special considerations/temporary approval
23 "Bundles" "A". Ebony are you -- do you have anything
24 on that?

25 MS. EBONY RUSS: There was one clarification, I

1 think Mr. Flynn needed, on item number 22 and it was
2 concerning DCFS. The question involved that
3 applicants are both under the age of 21. One was 20.
4 One was 18. I think the question was is the 18-year-
5 old considered -- does he want to be considered a
6 foster parent or was he a boarder?

7 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: He was an
8 applicant, not a boarder.

9 MS. EBONY RUSS: He was an applicant. Okay. I
10 do not having anything additional on it. Were you
11 asking me something else?

12 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Do we need a motion to
13 approve these?

14 MS. EBONY RUSS: Yes, sir.

15 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay. Is there a motion to
16 approve them?

17 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I'll make the
18 motion to approve Exhibit A.

19 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I'll second it. All those in
20 favor say, "Aye."

21 (CHORUS OF AYES)

22 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

23 (NO RESPONSE)

24 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Motion carries.

25 (THEREUPON, Exhibit "A", Approval of Special

1 Consideration/Temporary approvals "Bundle" "A" was
2 marked for identification and attached hereto.)

3 ITEM III. Counseling Associate - Request for change of
4 address:

5 MS. CHARLOTTE GALUSHA: I'm Charlotte Galusha
6 with Placement and Residential Licensing. And I am
7 here to -- Counseling Associates, Incorporated --

8 COURT REPORTER: Sorry. You're very mumbled.
9 It's too tight.

10 MS. CHARLOTTE GALUSHA: Okay. I'm Charlotte
11 Galusha with Placement and Residential Licensing.
12 And I am here to make a request for -- Counseling
13 Associates, Incorporated is requesting to move their
14 license. They have moved -- actually their
15 therapeutic foster care program -- over to 1404 East
16 16th Street in Russellville, Arkansas. And they're
17 just requesting for this change of address to reflect
18 on their license. They have used this address in the
19 past and the licensing unit does approve this
20 request.

21 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay.

22 (BOARD REVIEWING DOCUMENTS)

23 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I make a motion to
24 approve this request.

25 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: We have a motion. Is there a

1 second?

2 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Second.

3 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Got a second. Any
4 discussion?

5 (NO RESPONSE)

6 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All those in favor say,
7 "Aye."

8 (CHORUS OF AYES)

9 MS. CHARLOTTE GALUSHA: Thank you.

10 COURT REPORTER: Who made the second?

11 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: I seconded.

12 ITEM IV. Fostering Change - Request to increase capacity:

13 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Fostering Change request to
14 increase capacity.

15 MS. SHARRA LITZEY: Hello. My name is Sharra
16 Litzey and I am a Program Manager with the Placement
17 and Residential Licensing Unit. We should have Ms.
18 Abby Rundell available by Zoom to answer any
19 questions for Fostering Change.

20 MS. ABBY RUNDELL (VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE): I am
21 here.

22 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Go ahead.

23 MS. SHARRA LITZEY: Fostering Change is
24 requesting to increase their capacity from 12 to 20.
25 Fostering Change wants to accomplish this by --

1 accomplish this increase by adding a building at the
2 address of 411 South 18th Street in Fort Smith to
3 their current residential license and increasing the
4 -- increasing the capacity, at their address of 418
5 South 17th Street, by four. 411 South -- I'm sorry.
6 411 South 17th Street will accommodate six children
7 in a three bedroom home located directly across from
8 the main building at 418 South 17th Street. The
9 increasing capacity will allow Fostering Change to
10 provide care for additional children in Arkansas.
11 Fostering Change currently has a program with PRLU
12 and they have had substantial compliance with
13 licensing. PRLU supports this request.

14 (BOARD REVIEWING DOCUMENTS)

15 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: So the building is 411 South
16 18th Street?

17 MS. SHARRA LITZEY: Yes, sir.

18 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: They're adding the building.
19 Okay.

20 MS. SHARRA LITZEY: Yes. They relocated their
21 entire program to the 418 address last year. And
22 they have additional space for additional clients
23 there. That's where the four will come in.

24 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay. Is there a motion to
25 approve this request?

1 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: I'll make a motion
2 to approve this request.

3 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I have a motion from David.

4 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: I'll second.

5 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: A second from Andrew. All
6 those in favor say, "Aye."

7 (CHORUS OF AYES)

8 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

9 (NO RESPONSE)

10 MS. SHARRA LITZEY: Fostering Change also has a
11 second request for Regulation 410.5. In the 411
12 South 18th Street address, they have one full
13 bathroom there and they would like to be able to
14 serve male and female clients there.

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

17 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: I'll second.

18 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any discussions, questions?

19 (NO RESPONSE)

20 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All those in favor say,
21 "Aye."

22 (CHORUS OF AYES)

23 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

24 (NO RESPONSE)

25 MS. SHARRA LITZEY: Thank you.

1 ITEM V. Northwest Arkansas Children Center - Request for
2 90 days extension:

3 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Northwest Arkansas Children's
4 Center.

5 MR. JEREMY MYERS: Good afternoon. Jeremy
6 Myers, licensing specialist. I'm putting a request
7 for Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter for a
8 special consideration for extensions for (INAUDIBLE)
9 days for a client that's 15 years old.

10 COURT REPORTER: Did you say Jeremy Myers?

11 MR. JEREMY MYERS: Yes. Jeremy Myers. Yes,
12 ma'am.

13 (BOARD REVIEWING DOCUMENTS)

14 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: So what are the
15 dates of --

16 MR. JEREMY MYERS: The -- the date started since
17 September 28th, 2021 (sic) and the 90th day placement
18 was on June 30th of 2021 and it was until July 9th,
19 2021.

20 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: So when did the 90
21 days end?

22 MR. JEREMY MYERS: I believe the 90 days end on
23 June 3rd, 2021.

24 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: June 30, 2021 was the 90th
25 day.

1 MR. JEREMY MYERS: Yes.

2 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: So we're already --

3 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Past it.

4 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: -- little ways past
5 that.

6 MR. JEREMY MYERS: Yes.

7 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Can you tell us a little bit
8 about the specialized placement that's needed?

9 MR. JEREMY MYERS: At the time being we're --
10 well, the facility is trying to look for a placement
11 for the child to stay. They have found, apparently,
12 her, if not mistaken, her uncle or a family member, I
13 think. I -- for sure I know that the uncle that is
14 trying to find somewhere to say -- for her to stay.
15 But I know the rules and special requirements and
16 regulations states that she can't stay there no
17 longer than that. Hence, the special consideration.
18 But the facility is working, in-progress, to find
19 placement for her, so it won't go past any other more
20 days.

21 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: This is a question for DCFS.
22 How is this working with the new emergency shelter
23 rules for DCFS kids?

24 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: I think it's good.
25 I think it's soothes and relieves --

1 CO8RT REPORTER: Please use your microphone.

2 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: DCFS sees it as
3 positive. We don't want children in emergency care
4 any longer than they have to be. And so it does
5 pressure us and to really get on it in the beginning.
6 There are exceptions sometimes.

7 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Sure.

8 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: And rather than
9 bounce a child from placement to placement, because
10 their time is up, we don't want to do that.

11 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Right.

12 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: To cause that kind
13 of trauma either. But we're finding it's not that
14 many that we can't actually work and find their
15 placement.

16 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: That's probably a better way
17 for me to ask my question, was, I was wondering how
18 many of those -- because I know --

19 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Very few.

20 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I know your funding is tied
21 to that 90 day, as far as federal funds versus state
22 general revenue funds. Is there a motion to approve
23 the request?

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

1 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Have a motion. Is there a
2 second?

3 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I'll second it. Any
4 questions, comments, discussion?

5 (NO RESPONSE)

6 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All those in favor say,
7 "Aye."

8 (CHORUS OF AYES)

9 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

10 (NO RESPONSE)

11 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: There you go.

12 MR. JEREMY MYERS: Thank you.

13 ITEM VI. Centers for Youth and Families/Elizabeth Mitchell
14 Centers - Request to expand license across campus; closure
15 of License 158:

16 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Centers for Youth and
17 Families.

18 MS. SHARRA LITZEY: Hello. I'm Sharra Litzey.
19 I'm a program coordinator -- a Program Manager with
20 the Placement and Residential Licensing Unit, here to
21 present a request for Centers for Youth and Families.
22 And we have Ms. Melissa Dawson here to answer any
23 questions.

24 Elizabeth Mitchell Centers is requesting to
25 merge their existing residential license number 157

1 and their psychiatric residential license number 158
2 to form a campus address. The campus address would
3 include the following: 6501 West 12th, 6425 West
4 12th, and 6601 West 12th. The single license would
5 be considered a campus-wide for purposes of all
6 programs provided at the 12th Street campus. The
7 campus would consist of 40 -- I'm sorry. The campus
8 would consist of 49 PRTF beds, 33 residential beds,
9 on license number 157. The number of beds is a
10 combination of the 49 PRTF beds and the 13 beds --
11 residential beds, that are currently on license 157,
12 and the 20 residential beds from license 158. By
13 creating a campus license -- license number 158 would
14 be closed. PRLU supports this request.

15 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay. So does everybody
16 understand what they're trying to do here?

17 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Yes.

18 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Just simplifying
19 it, basically.

20 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Right.

21 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Yeah.

22 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Is there a motion to approve?

23 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Yes. I'll make
24 that motion.

25 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: We have a motion. Is there a

1 second?

2 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Second.

3 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: And the second. Any
4 discussion?

5 (NO RESPONSE)

6 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All those in favor say,
7 "Aye."

8 (CHORUS OF AYES)

9 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

10 (NO RESPONSE)

11 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay.

12 MS. SHARRA LITZEY: Thank you.

13 ITEM VII. Trinity Behavioral Health - Request to terminate
14 inactive license:

15 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Next up is Trinity Behavioral
16 Health.

17 MS. EBONY RUSS: Good afternoon. I'm Ebony
18 Russ, the Program Manager for the Placement and
19 Residential Licensing Unit. If you could please bear
20 with me, I lost my readers somewhere. This is
21 concerning Trinity Behavioral Health. The reason for
22 our recommendation, Legislative Act 772, S Bill 466,
23 was passed and became effective on July 28, 2021.
24 This Act requires the Child Welfare Agency review
25 board to close, terminate, a license that has not

1 been operational for the past 12 months. DHS may
2 recommend to the board the revocation, suspension or
3 termination of a license for any basis provided by
4 law or rule, including without limitation, the
5 failure to be in operation or in substantial
6 compliance for a consecutive six month period.
7 Trinity Behavioral Health has remained in inactive
8 status since 2017. The licensing unit is making the
9 recommendation to terminate this license in
10 accordance to Act 72 -- 722. And I have Michelle
11 Bridges-Bell who can take any additional questions if
12 you have any.

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

15 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Have a motion to approve. Is
16 there a second?

17 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: I second.

18 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Got a second.

19 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Second.

20 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any discussion?

21 (NO RESPONSE)

22 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All those in favor say,
23 "Aye."

24 (CHORUS OF AYES)

25 MS. EBONY RUSS: Thank you.

1 ITEM VIII. Lord's Ranch Behavioral Health Care Systems -
2 Request to terminate inactive license:

3 MS. EBONY RUSS: And I'm Ebony Russ, Program
4 Manager for the Placement and Residential Licensing
5 Unit. Next, I have the Lord's Ranch Behavioral
6 Health Care Systems. Legislative Act 772, S Bill
7 466, was passed and became effective on July 28th,
8 2021. This Act requires the Child Welfare Agency
9 Review Board to close, terminate, a license that has
10 not been in operation for the past 12 months. DHS
11 may recommend to the board the revocation, suspension
12 or termination of a license for any basis provided by
13 law or rule, including, without limitation, the
14 failure to be in operation or in substantial
15 compliance for a consecutive six month period. The
16 Lord's Ranch Behavioral Health Care Systems has
17 remained in inactive status since 2017. Trinity
18 Behavioral Health is listed as the agency's owner.
19 There is also a recommendation to terminate the
20 license for Trinity Behavioral Health, that has also
21 been inactive since 2017. The licensing unit is
22 making the recommendation to terminate this license
23 in accordance to Act 722 -- I'm sorry. Please let me
24 correct that. The Act is actually 772 and it is
25 attached to your packet. The Act.

1 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I'll move to
2 approve this request also.

3 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Have a motion to approve the
4 request. Is there a second?

5 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Second.

6 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Second is Sandi. All those
7 in favor say, "Aye."

8 (CHORUS OF AYES)

9 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

10 (NO RESPONSE)

11 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: And I have a
12 question already.

13 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Yeah.

14 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: How many -- how
15 many licenses are there out there like -- like these
16 two, as far as inactive? I know we have two of them.
17 And I'd just as soon submit and have them done as you
18 guys having to do it. So I need to know what the
19 process is. We talked about this previously, but I
20 didn't know whether each agency will initiate that
21 or whether the licensing specialist will talk to the
22 agency, let them know about this, and, you know, it
23 feels a little different for me to do it than for you
24 to take those away from them. Does that make sense?

25 MS. EBONY RUSS: That's a very good question.

1 So if you would like to just go ahead and turn in the
2 license to close it, we're welcome and open to
3 accepting that. For those, we may need to reach out
4 to some, because we have not had any contact with any
5 of the owners or the administrators. So that may be
6 our next step.

7 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: And a lot of them
8 -- many of them are probably unaware of --

9 MS. EBONY RUSS: Correct.

10 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: -- (INAUDIBLE).
11 You know, but so, for these two, did they contact
12 you, or did they know we're doing this today or --

13 MS. EBONY RUSS: No. They do not. But we will
14 be sending out a letter letting them know what has
15 occurred.

16 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: You don't have any
17 idea how many -- I mean I've looked at it online and
18 I don't remember. There are several inactive
19 licenses out there.

20 MS. EBONY RUSS: There are several and I don't
21 have a number --

22 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: So how do you
23 decide when to deal with them? I'm just trying to
24 understand, so we can get the jump on this game.

25 MS. EBONY RUSS: Yeah. So now we actually have

1 time, now that we have the unit kind of separated,
2 where I can focus more on looking at those inactive
3 statuses. So, within the next month or so, I can
4 start pulling who is inactive.

5 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I was just curious
6 why these two got picked out for this meeting and
7 nobody else; if there was a system or something?

8 MS. EBONY RUSS: To be honest with you, we are
9 very familiar with these two agencies, because they
10 were at the last --

11 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: December.

12 MS. EBONY RUSS: -- December --

13 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: It's been a regular
14 --

15 MS. EBONY RUSS: 2020 -- 2019 board meeting.

16 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Yeah, we've seen
17 them every December. Yes.

18 MS. EBONY RUSS: Yeah. It was a really big
19 issue then, so it was just on top of our minds. So
20 we were familiar with this one.

21 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Okay. Just to be
22 clear, and everyone is in the same situation they
23 are, whether it's one year or several years?

24 MS. EBONY RUSS: Correct.

25 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: And are very many

1 around, you know, that are longer than 2017?

2 MS. EBONY RUSS: I believe one for sure.

3 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Maybe it might be
4 good to correspond with them before our October
5 meeting, if -- and --

6 MS. EBONY RUSS: Sure.

7 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: -- It's kind of a
8 surprise, I imagine. I know they -- I'm pretty sure
9 they were aware of this Bill. Joel -- he's usually
10 on top of those things, but other agencies may not be
11 aware, so...

12 MS. EBONY RUSS: Correct.

13 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: -- (INAUDIBLE) give
14 them, I guess, a (INAUDIBLE) response. Thank you.

15 MS. EBONY RUSS: Yes.

16 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay.

17 ITEM IX. DCFS - Alternative Compliance request to approve
18 relative and fictive kin homes prior to the completion of
19 CPR and First Aid:

20 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Next up is DCFS alternative
21 compliance's request.

22 MS. EBONY RUSS: Okay. Again, Ebony Russ, here
23 to present DCFS alternative compliance request. And
24 we do have Sandi Dougherty here to answer any
25 additional questions. The standard is 210.5, foster

1 parents should have a current certificate of
2 completion of first aid and CPR before a child is
3 placed in the home. The training shall require
4 hands-on, skill based, instruction, as well as
5 practical testing. Training and certification that
6 is provided solely online would not be accepted. The
7 reason for the recommendation, the alternative
8 compliance request is that CPR and first aid
9 certification would no longer be a requirement to
10 remove the provisional status of relative and fictive
11 kin resource homes. This will stop delaying
12 financial support to these individuals and the
13 children placed in their homes. The relative and
14 fictive kin resource homes will continue to meet the
15 requirement of receiving their CPR and first aid
16 certifications during their first six months of
17 service. The licensing unit supports this request.

18 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: So in just the first six
19 months, you can go ahead and place them, but then --

20 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: It's really, in
21 essence, no difference, because we can place and they
22 have -- the relatives or fictive kin have six months
23 to complete all the requirements anyway.

24 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay.

25 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: But, until they

1 complete them all, they cannot receive any kind of
2 financial assistance.

3 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Oh, okay.

4 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: So what this does
5 is it's an approval, temporary, for up to the six
6 months, from the board, so that --

7 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: So they can get the
8 resources?

9 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: -- if all the other
10 requirements are met, this won't hold them back from
11 going ahead and getting that board payment for the
12 children. And I couldn't help but think how that
13 would help this lady that has her six nieces and
14 nephews and is getting no financial assistance.

15 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: Right.

16 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: But we also have
17 gone through all the other requirements and our goal,
18 in Children and Family Services, is to cut the length
19 of time to have them approved to -- we're shooting
20 for 45 days. Our director would like 30 days to have
21 all the requirements met. And the children are
22 already placed there anyway, they just -- without
23 this we can't start paying them a board payment.

24 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay.

25 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: I will say, too,

1 that we have trained a couple of staff members in
2 each of the 10 service areas to be able to teach,
3 because some areas have more access -- ready access
4 to the CPR and the first aid; others don't. And so
5 it's been a challenge, at times, just to get it even
6 within that time frame.

7 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay.

8 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: So there's no
9 difference basically in the requirement to receive
10 the CPR and first aid training?

11 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Absolutely not.
12 They still -- the law lets us -- from the date of the
13 placement of the child, we have six months to have
14 them approved. Or the way the law reads, we either
15 give them custody or move the children. And -- but
16 we cannot make a board payment until all requirements
17 have been satisfied.

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

20 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: We have -- we have a motion.
21 Is there a second?

22 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: I second it.

23 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Have a second. All those in
24 favor say, "Aye."

25 (CHORUS OF AYES)

1 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

2 (NO RESPONSE)

3 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: It carries.

4 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: I abstain.

5 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: DCFS abstains.

6 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Abstains.

7 MS. EBONY RUSS: Thank you.

8 ITEM X. Report of Temporary Approvals/Action (Logs
9 Presented) August 26, 2021:

10 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Report of temporary approval
11 action log presented.

12 ITEM XI. OTHER BUSINESS:

13 (a). Licensed facilities update:

14 MS. SHARRA LITZEY: Hello. I'm Sharra Litzey,
15 with PRLU, again. I would like to provide an update
16 on some psychiatric residential facilities. The
17 first one will be Piney Ridge Treatment Center. On
18 June 25th Ashelyn Abney and Ebony Russ traveled to
19 Piney Ridge Center to meet with the administration
20 staff at the agency and to tour the facility. Piney
21 has made great gains with the buildings and grounds.
22 The facility appears to be much cleaner. The
23 residents' rooms were clean. The cafeteria and the
24 outside activity were also clean. Piney has
25 completed a gaming and activity area that the youth

1 appeared to enjoy very much. Piney has implemented a
2 student council which allows residents to bring their
3 concerns directly to the CEO and other administration
4 staff. Piney is also doing well with self-reporting
5 important information to their licensing specialist.
6 Piney Ridge Treatment Center has made great changes
7 to their facility and their program.

8 The next program I would like to give an update
9 on is Perimeter Behavioral Health of Forrest City.
10 They were recently placed on a corrective action
11 plan, on July 19, and that is based on a number of
12 reports of citing for inappropriate behavior guidance
13 and inappropriate restraint holds. That corrective
14 action plan will last for six months and the facility
15 has been placed on an increased monitor visit
16 schedule.

17 The last agency that I would like to report on
18 is Centers for Youth and Families. They have asked
19 to close one of their licenses and to have -- asked
20 to create a campus, which the board has approved
21 today. There has been a reduced number in the number
22 of incidents that have been reported to licensing.
23 There have been substantial compliance of the
24 buildings and grounds. That was never really an
25 issue, but there are some things that Centers has

1 addressed with that. They have completed the intent
2 training of all of their staff except for there are a
3 few part-time people there, between five and ten
4 people, that have not been trained. There have been
5 no injuries reported during their restraints since
6 the last board meeting, as well.

7 Are there any questions?

8 (NO RESPONSE)

9 MS. SHARRA LITZEY: Thank you for your time.

10 b. Ebony Russ - Introduction of new Assistant Director
11 and Program Coordinators:

12 MS. EBONY RUSS: So I just wanted to take this
13 opportunity to again introduce our new Assistant
14 Director, Ms. Dawn Jeffrey. And I'll pass the mic so
15 she can maybe talk just a little bit more about
16 herself.

17 MS. DAWN JEFFREY: Good afternoon. I tried to
18 go around before we started, introducing myself and
19 to tell you a little bit about myself. I've been
20 working with kids and families since 1984. That
21 tells you how old I am. I've worked for children
22 with disabilities. I've worked with typically aged
23 children and I've worked with children from birth to
24 18 years old. The one that I have not ever really
25 worked with is adults. I am a speech therapist and a

1 early childhood developmentalist. I also have a
2 master's degree in early child/special education and
3 an emphasis in administration. So I just left a
4 program. And when I started there I had about six
5 kids the very first day I was there -- I tell this
6 story all the time -- and when I left 15 years later,
7 we had about 260. So we felt like we were there for
8 our community. We felt like we were there to be a
9 servant's heart and to help the community. So, by
10 doing that, I studied poverty. I learned a lot about
11 how families and children who live in poverty act.
12 It's different, so I studied poverty. I studied lots
13 of children development, too. I decided it was time
14 for me to retire. I've been doing this since '84,
15 but I didn't want to go home and I didn't want to
16 quit. So I came here and I worked for Better
17 Beginnings and worked on quality childcare. And this
18 opportunity came open, and I thought, "You know what,
19 I think I'm just going to apply for it." So I did
20 and I guess Monday was my very first day. So what's
21 today, Thursday? So I've been doing it four days.

22 (LAUGHTER)

23 MS. DAWN JEFFREY: I'm excited. I think it's an
24 opportunity. I think everybody in this room wants
25 the same thing I want and that's what best for kids

1 and families. And I think that's what we all --
2 think that's what we all want. So if you want my
3 number, I'll be glad to give it to you. You can call
4 me if you have any questions. I'll be glad to help.
5 And, like I said, I am here for children and
6 families.

7 MS. EBONY RUSS: Thank you, Dawn. We also have
8 two new program coordinators. If they could just
9 come up really quickly. Again, PRLU has divided the
10 unit, where we have Sharra Litzsey as the Program
11 Manager over PRTFs, residentials, and adoption
12 agencies. And I now cover the placement agencies.
13 So I'll introduce you to Mr. Austin Clowers. He is
14 the program coordinator for the residentials, PRTFs
15 and adoption agencies.

16 MR. AUSTIN CLOWERS: Good afternoon. I'm glad
17 to join as of Monday, as well. And I have a
18 background of working in psychiatric residential, as
19 well as, governmental education. So I'm just glad to
20 be here and I am looking forward to working with you
21 all.

22 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay.

23 COURT REPORTER: Was it Austin?

24 MR. AUSTIN CLOWERS: Austin Clowers.

25 COURT REPORTER: C-L --

1 MR. AUSTIN CLOWERS: Like Flowers, with a C.

2 COURT REPORTER: Clowers.

3 MR. AUSTIN CLOWERS: Yes. Clowers.

4 MS. EBONY RUSS: Thank you, Austin. Now we have
5 Ms. Latoya Macon. She is our Program Coordinator
6 over the placement side.

7 MS. LATOYA MACON: Hello. I'm Latoya Macon.
8 And I'm so excited to be here and I started on
9 Monday, as well. My background consists of the last
10 12 years I've been working with the State of Arkansas
11 at the (INAUDIBLE) Human Development Center. So I've
12 worked with kids from age five -- I think our
13 youngest was five -- to adults 60, 70, 80, you know,
14 our elderly -- our seniors, with mental and physical
15 disabilities. So I'm excited to be here and learn
16 something new.

17 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay. Welcome aboard.

18 MS. LATOYA MACON: Thank you.

19 MR. AUSTIN CLOWERS: Thank you.

20 MS. EBONY RUSS: PRLU has nothing further for
21 this meeting so I'll turn it over to Mr. Andy Altom.

22 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Dawn, where did you go to
23 school for your speech therapy?

24 MS. DAWN JEFFREY: UCA.

25 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: So did I.

1 MS. DAWN JEFFREY: Go Bears.

2 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: So did I.

3 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay. Next date child
4 welfare review board meeting is Wednesday, October
5 27th. And, with that, if there's no other business,
6 we will entertain a motion to adjourn.

7 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: I'll make that
8 motion.

9 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: We have a motion.

10 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: I'll second it.

11 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Second. All those in favor
12 say, "Aye."

13 (CHORUS OF AYES)

14 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: We are now adjourned.

15 (THEREUPON, the meeting was adjourned at 3:34
16 p.m. on August 26, 2021.)

17

18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2021

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

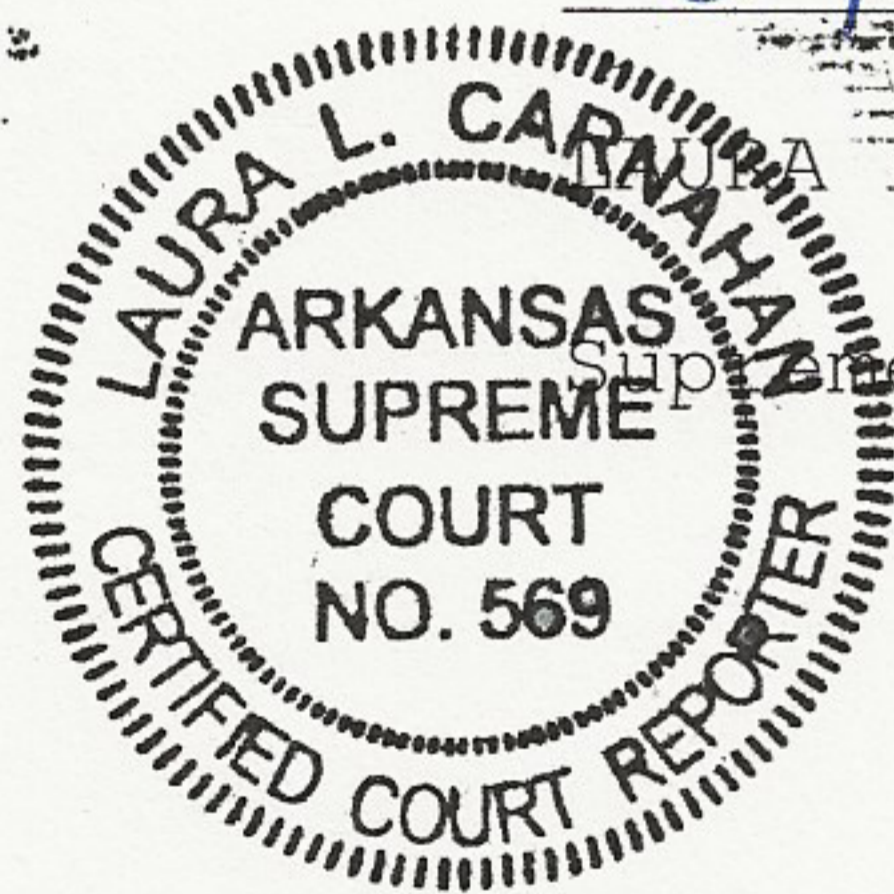
REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
BEFORE THE STATE OF ARKANSAS
CHILD WELFARE AGENCY REVIEW
BOARD

Thursday, August 26, 2021

I, Laura L. Carnahan, a Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Arkansas, 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 1-73 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 on this 24th day of September, 2021.

Laura L. Carnahan



LAURA L. CARNAHAN

BCR#96014

Supreme Court Certified Reporter No. 569