

Transcript of the Testimony of
Child Welfare Agency Review Board

Date: July 22, 2020

Case:

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CWARB MEETING
CHILD WELFARE AGENCY REVIEW BOARD MEETING
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
700 WEST MAIN STREET
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
DATED
JULY 22, 2020

BOARDS MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Charles Flynn, Chairman
Ms. Sandy Doherty
Mr. Andy Altom
Ms. Beverly Massey Foti
Mr. David Whatley
Mr. Josh Bryant (via videoconference)
Mr. Sanford Tollette (via videoconference)

ALSO PRESENT:

Ms. Ebony Russ, Placement and Residential
Licensing Manager

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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MS. RUSS: Residential Licensing Meeting.

I will be facilitating today in absence of Charles Flynn, he used to get up and go to the podium. For everyone on Zoom, if you would please type your name in the chat box it will help our court reporter. Please mute yourself if you're not talking. When you do speak, could you please state your first and last name if you're on Zoom. If you have any questions, feel free to put your question in the chat box. We have someone going through those as well.

Well, everyone welcome to Child Welfare Agency Review Board Meeting, July 22, 2020.

THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, these are -- just because of the masks it's a little bit harder for me to -- I'm not familiar with all of it. I'm sorry. But you're doing -- you're doing great. It is just helped me a little bit.

MR. RUSS: So, welcome to the July 22nd, 2020, Child Welfare Agency Review Board Meeting. The time is 1:30 and I'm Ebony Russ, I'm the Program Manager for Placement and

1 Residential Licensing Unit. So what we'll do
2 is follow the agenda, so apparently I'll turn
3 the meeting over to our Board Chair, Mr.
4 Charles Flynn.

5 MR. FLYNN: Okay. Can you hear me through
6 the mask or do I need to pull the mask down?

7 THE COURT REPORTER: I can hear pretty
8 well.

9 MR. FLYNN: Okay. Thank you. We are
10 calling this meeting to order. I'll take a
11 privilege like I did last month and then I'd
12 like to introduce our new board member, Andrew,
13 and I'll just let you tell a little bit about
14 your program. But before we do that, I want to
15 pause a minute and remember James Volcom.
16 James has passed away this past week. James
17 was the former Executive Director of Children's
18 Home, Inc., in Paragould. He was a long
19 time -- in fact, he was a member of this Board
20 or the beginning of this Board in 1997. David
21 Whatley were actually charter members of this
22 Board. But even before that, James was a part
23 of the other Board that oversaw Child Welfare
24 Residential Placement and also Daycare at that
25 time.

1 James, as I understand, was actively
2 involved with the legislature in creating the
3 original licensing board and, you know, he
4 often bragged that he was placed on this Board
5 by five different governors. And so James --
6 James, even though we don't see much anymore of
7 James in the recent years his impact on child
8 welfare in Arkansas continues on through his
9 past days now.

10 Some of you know James, and I would like
11 to just take a minute if anyone would kind of
12 like to make a comment or share a story. For
13 me, I first met James --

14 MR. SANFORD: I am having difficulty. Is
15 anybody talking? This is Sanford.

16 MR. FLYNN: What did you say, Sanford?

17 MS. FATIMA: Sanford, this is Fatima.
18 They have not started yet to my knowledge.

19 MR. TOLLETTE: Oh, I see Fatima.

20 MR. FLYNN: Okay, Fatima? Fatima, can you
21 hear me?

22 MR. TOLLETTE: This is working. So, thank
23 you for responding. At least I know it's
24 working.

25 MS. FATIMA: Okay.

1 MR. TOLLETTE: Thank you.

2 MR. FLYNN: Fatima? Fatima, this is
3 Charles. Can you hear me? Sanford, can you
4 hear me? Tell you what, if you're on video and
5 you can hear me raise your hand.

6 Okay. No one is raising their hand.

7 MR. FLYNN: Yeah, I think it's muted.
8 We're working on it over here. Okay. If you
9 can hear me and you're on video raise your
10 hand.

11 All right. Sanford, you are now here. We
12 have begun our meeting. I was making a few
13 comments, so I'll just kind of start over for
14 the record. We'll just make this a fresh start
15 if we need to. We've called the meeting to
16 order. I believe you -- did everyone hear
17 Ebony's comments at the beginning? If you did,
18 raise your hand if you heard Ebony's comments.

19 MR. TOLLETTE: I did not.

20 MR. FLYNN: Okay. Ebony, let's start
21 over.

22 MS. RUSS: Okay. Welcome everyone. I'm
23 Ebony Russ. I'm the Program Manager for the
24 Placement and Residential Licensing Unit. I
25 will be facilitating this meeting, the Child

1 Welfare Agency Review Board Meeting held on
2 today, July 22nd at 1:30 p.m. If you are on
3 Zoom, please insure that you are muted if you
4 are not speaking. When it is your time to
5 speak would you please say your first and last
6 name so that it will help with the court
7 reporter, otherwise, please remain muted. I
8 will again turn the meeting over to the Board
9 Chair.

10 MR. FLYNN: Okay. Thank you, Ebony. I
11 will call this meeting to order and before we
12 move on to our agenda. I want to take a --
13 this moment a personal privilege to -- and just
14 speak in memory of -- of James Balcom, the
15 former Executive Director of Children's Home,
16 Inc., or a member of this Board since its
17 inception in 1997, former chairmen of this
18 Board and prior to that he was a member of the
19 original Board of Licensing Residential and
20 Placement Care in Arkansas.

21 James liked to brag that he had been
22 appointed by five different governors to these
23 two boards. For me, what I remember -- well,
24 so many things about James during the years,
25 the first time I met him was in 1992, almost 30

1 years ago really. And it was at a -- a
2 conference. And even then James was doing a
3 skit called the World's Oldest Living Childcare
4 Worker and -- but what I remember about them is
5 the same thing I saw on James's 80th birthday,
6 Louda and I went and saw James, and Charlene
7 was bouncing around like always and James was
8 pretty calm. But, the same thing I saw 30
9 years ago that I saw then was that genuine
10 smile. Not just in his mouth, but a smile in
11 his eyes, and the comfort and the joy that
12 James brought to a room.

13 But through and through the years of this
14 Board I remember memories like at one of our
15 retreats climbing to the top of Mount Magazine
16 with James and Charlene. So, lot's of good
17 memories and thankful for the impact that he
18 had not just at the Children's Home there at
19 Paragould but throughout the State for our
20 programs.

21 But I'd like also to -- if anyone else
22 would like to share your opinion of James or a
23 thought I'll give you a second to do that.

24 MR. WHATLEY: This is David Whatley, and
25 well said Charles. I'd just like to say that

1 it was an honor and a privilege to know James.
2 I actually started serving with him on the
3 Board, the Child Welfare Board in 1997. There
4 was a period of time that I stepped off that
5 Board and then came back home. But the
6 knowledge and experience that James had to the
7 Board and the advice that he would give and the
8 help that he had for the children in the State
9 of Arkansas for so many years in the -- really
10 the lifetime of service he gave. It was just,
11 you know, one of things that's just amazing to
12 see. And so I can truly say that it was just a
13 privilege and honor to know him and to be
14 associated with Mr. James Balcom.

15 MR. FLYNN: What I'd like to do then is
16 before going on with the meeting, I've asked
17 David Whatley if he would just voice a prayer.

18 MR. TOLLETTE: Charles?

19 MR. FLYNN: Okay, Sanford, are you there?
20 Go ahead.

21 MR. TOLLETTE: Oh, yes. I agree. I was
22 trying to wait my time. And, I met James when
23 I first came on the Board. He mentioned me and
24 I didn't know if I wanted to do this or not and
25 had lots of conversations wondering if I would

1 fit in. But it was his eyes and his smile. I
2 watched him for years bring the dignity and --
3 or consciousness of humanity in his leadership
4 to our Board and it just raised my heart, my
5 joy, my spirit to be a part of such
6 professionalism in terms of the service of our
7 children.

8 You know, we've all said something about
9 James but what I would say is a term that was
10 used that he was a lion to help humanity and
11 with a gentle paw and a spirit that he was
12 gently persuasive to get you to walk in a
13 direction for the greater good. And so, with
14 that man, it hit's my heart because I was
15 talking to Ed Appler's son earlier and what a
16 spirit filled day for me right now as we
17 continue this great work on the shoulders of
18 James and Ed. And so that, it's an honor to
19 serve with all of you with me and what I want
20 to say, the path that so many of us before us
21 have lead and especially those pioneers. And
22 so for me, I hope I can lift the spirits of all
23 of us that serve on this commission and that
24 it is truly an honor. And James left on me in
25 a way that I'll never forget. So thank you for

1 the time. I might have been a little lengthy
2 but I didn't even know we'd lost him. So I'm
3 just finding this out Charles. So thank you
4 for this opportunity.

5 MR. FLYNN: I'll say , I've asked David if
6 he wants to pray for us as we -- for Charlene
7 and the family, for the Children's Home, Inc.
8 family in this time of loss and celebration.

9 MR. WHATLEY: Father we come to you in the
10 name of Jesus and we thank you that we can
11 pause and just honor James and what he has
12 meant to so many of us and the positive impact
13 that he has had on our lives and the impact
14 that he has had on so many children throughout
15 the State of Arkansas.

16 So right now we just lift up the Balcom
17 family to you for Charlene and those others.
18 We thank you for strength that is afforded to
19 each of them that can only come through you,
20 through your holy spirit. So father we thank
21 you for that. We thank you for the comfort
22 that is there. We thank you for strength in
23 the days to come. And we thank you for giving
24 us just the know how, the ability to know how
25 to help minister to the family even in the days

1 ahead. So father, again, we just praise you.
2 Thank you for your love to us. We thank you
3 for the assurance that we can have in knowing
4 that James is at home in heaven with you. So
5 we thank you for that in Jesus's name.

6 MR. FLYNN: Thank you, David. Before we
7 move on with our meeting though I'd like us to
8 recognize our new board member Andrew Watson,
9 Soaring Wings Ranch, the founder and director.
10 And I just ask that -- give him a minute or two
11 to just tell us about Soaring Wings.

12 MR. WATSON: Well, it's an honor to be
13 here today and it's an honor to serve on this
14 Board and I echo the sentiments that y'all just
15 shared about James, he and Ed. I mean, we've
16 taken a hit the last few -- the last couple of
17 months losing two great men that brought a lot,
18 literally, to the table for childcare and a
19 little bit about Soaring Wings.

20 We are a private children's home that we
21 serve families in crisis. We do our very best
22 to reunite families when that's a possibility.
23 But we also have an adoption side to what we do
24 and when -- when that needs to be an option,
25 that's -- that's what we are able to provide.

1 We -- sorry, my mask is falling down. We will
2 have been opened August the 1st this year,
3 going on 13 years for us. And so again, it's
4 an honor to be here. It's an honor to serve
5 with y'all and I just hope that I can make Ed
6 proud in my service. Thank you.

7 MR. FLYNN: Thank you. Okay.

8 Now we can move on to item number 2,
9 Approval of Minutes. You should have received
10 the minutes. Does anyone have any questions,
11 additions, or a motion?

12 MR. ALTOM: I make a motion to approve the
13 minutes.

14 MR. FLYNN: Okay. Andy moves to approve.

15 MS. FOTI: I'll second.

16 MR. FLYNN: And Beverly to second. All in
17 favor say aye?

18 THE BODY IN THE AFFIRMATIVE: Aye.

19 MR. FLYNN: Opposes?

20 MR. TOLLETTE: Aye.

21 MR. FLYNN: Thank you, Sanford. The
22 minutes are approved. Number three, special
23 considerations/permissions?

24 MS. RUSS: Consideration permission:
25 DCFS, Wendy D.; DCFS, Janet Norris and Melanie

1 Cleveland.

2 MR. FLYNN: For the benefit of those that
3 are presenting and -- and for Andrew also --
4 Andrew, the Licensing Unit is not able to see
5 these. They're not able to submit to us in
6 advance. The Board can see these. DCFS can
7 see these. So this is our first opportunity to
8 read this information. So we ask that those
9 attending be patient while we look at this.
10 We'll give them a chance to answer some
11 questions in a minute before we vote.

12 MR. TOLLETTE: Charles, this is Sanford.
13 Can you hear me?

14 MR. FLYNN: I hear you, Sanford.

15 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. Who was
16 that?

17 MR. TOLLETTE: You know because of
18 security. I didn't get that information I
19 don't believe.

20 MR. FLYNN: You will not be able to get it
21 unless you are in the room, Sanford. So, I
22 tell you what all you need to do is just kinda
23 sit quiet. We don't have very many today --

24 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry.

25 MR. FLYNN: -- so if you'll just hang on

1 we'll let you know when you're back involved
2 again, okay? That was Sanford Tollette
3 speaking.

4 THE COURT REPORTER: What is his name?

5 MR. TOLLETTE: Yes, sir. Thank you.

6 MS. PENCE: Sanford Tollette.

7 THE COURT REPORTER: Sanford Tollette?

8 MS. PENCE: Uh-huh.

9 THE COURT REPORTER: Is he on the phone?

10 MS. PENCE: He's on Zoom.

11 THE COURT REPORTER: Zoom.

12 MS. ROME: Yes, he's on the phone.

13 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

14 MR. FLYNN: Okay. You can go ahead and
15 introduce yourselves now.

16 MS. RONE: Hi, my name is Tiesha Rome.

17 MR. FLYNN: Okay. Now can you hear okay?
18 Is the microphone okay for you?

19 THE COURT REPORTER: It's okay.

20 MR. TOLLETTE: A little bit louder for me.
21 This is Sanford.

22 MR. FLYNN: Sanford, you're probably going
23 to miss a lot of this part of discussion but on
24 this part of the session you'll not be voting
25 because you're not present in the room, okay?

1 MR. TOLLETTE: Yes, that's fine then.

2 I'll mute myself.

3 MR. FLYNN: All right. Okay. And you
4 just tell us why you're here today?

5 MS. RONE: I'm here for a complaint. I'm
6 XXX compliance and XXX.

7 MR. FLYNN: Okay. Just give us a minute
8 and we'll read the materials. This is the
9 first time we've seen it. So this is
10 provisional?

11 MS. RONE: Yes, sir.

12 MR. FLYNN: Okay. Tell us a little bit
13 about situation and -- and the family and --
14 and why are we considering this, the placement
15 of --

16 MS. RONE: This -- this is for the
17 placement --

18 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. I'm
19 sorry. Can you kind of look toward me just a
20 little bit? It's kind of hard with all the
21 masks.

22 MS. RONE: This is for the provisional
23 assessment of Ms. [inaudible] grandchildren and
24 she is his partner.

25 MR. FLYNN: So where are the children now?

1 MS. ROME: They're currently at XXX.

2 MR. FLYNN: How's that going?

3 MS. ROME: Going good. It's going very
4 good.

5 MR. FLYNN: How old are the children?

6 MS. ROME: 11 and 14.

7 MR. FLYNN: 11 and 14, XXX age.

8 MS. ROME: I've known the children since
9 the day they were born.

10 MR. FLYNN: So how's it going with the --
11 with the -- not being -- how long have they
12 been in your home?

13 MS. ROME: They've been -- four and a half
14 weeks.

15 MR. FLYNN: Four and a half weeks, okay.

16 MS. ROME: Yeah, their being settled in.

17 MR. FLYNN: Yeah, I saw that.

18 THE COURT REPORTER: The what?

19 MS. ROME: Their being settled in.

20 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you. Thank
21 you.

22 MR. FLYNN: Yeah. Anybody have any
23 questions?

24 MR. WHATLEY: This is David. I'll make a
25 motion to approve the request.

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MR. FLYNN: Motion to approved, is there a second?

MR. ALTOM: I'll second.

MR. FLYNN: Andy seconds. All in favor say, aye?

THE BODY IN THE AFFIRMATIVE: Aye.

MR. FLYNN: Anyone opposed, by like sign? DCFS? All right. Thank you for coming in today.

MS. ROME: Thank you very much.

MS. RUSS: Okay. Next on the permissions we have DCFS, Ray L.; DCFS, Regina Hill, Cathleen McDaniel.

MR. FLYNN: Okay. Introduce yourself and tell us why you're here today?

MS. BAKER: I'm Amanda Baker resource worker for area XXX and I'm here on Mr. Ray.

MR. FLYNN: And what does Mr. Ray seek to do?

MS. RONE: He's seeking a provisional placement of his grandson. The child has been in the home for approximately a month now, and so we were wanting to make that permanent.

MR. FLYNN: Okay. Just give us a moment to read this, first time for us seeing this

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information.

MR. ALTOM: I'm sorry for your loss. I do have a question: What's changed since 2018?

MR. FLYNN: Just to be clear, if everyone if you did -- did you get that, reporter? What's changed was the question.

MR. RAY: Okay. I went back to work for [inaudible]. Getting this boy means a lot to me. My oldest son died. That's why I'm trying to get custody of my grandson, if not he's going to be in the system. I'm financially able now to raise this boy, you know. I couldn't sleep at night if I didn't try and get my grandson.

MR. FLYNN: I have a motion by Andy.

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

MR. FLYNN: Second?

MS. FOTI: I'll second.

MR. FLYNN: Okay. Everybody, all in favor say, aye?

THE BODY IN THE AFFIRMATIVE: Aye.

MR. FLYNN: Anyone opposed, by like sign? DCFS abstains. Thank you.

MS. RUSS: Okay. Next on the agenda for

1 permissions, we have Ouachita Children's Center
2 T. Davis; Placement Specialist, Charlotte
3 Galusha. We have Sheryl Staggs present.

4 MS. HIGGINS: Amy Higgins.

5 MS. RUSS: Amy Higgins present.

6 MR. FLYNN: Okay. So who's representing
7 Ouachita?

8 MS. HIGGINS: Amy Higgins.

9 MR. FLYNN: Okay. Would you explain why
10 you're here and what your position is? I
11 hadn't looked at it, what responsibility is?

12 MS. HIGGINS: Okay. We are asking
13 permission to bring Mr. Davis on with us
14 full-time where he doesn't have to supervise
15 the kids. I mean, does -- we don't supervise
16 him. He can be alone with the kids.

17 MR. FLYNN: Okay. What would the position
18 be. I probably you would be.

19 MS. HIGGINS: I'm sorry?

20 MR. FLYNN: What is his position?

21 MS. HIGGINS: Qualified Behavioral
22 Healthcare Profession, QBHP.

23 MR. FLYNN: Just be patient. It's the
24 first time we've seen this.

25 MS. HIGGINS: Oh, yes, sir.

1 MR. FLYNN: Okay. I see that the seal --
2 the seal -- you probably couldn't learn that
3 this Board still see's that he --

4 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. Could you
5 tell me that again?

6 MR. FLYNN: I said that I -- I see that it
7 has been sealed. But it has been ruled that
8 this Board can see things that have been sealed
9 and so we'll just take a minute.

10 MR. ALTOM: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion
11 to approve this.

12 MR. FLYNN: Okay, Andy. Is there a
13 second?

14 MR. WHATLEY: It's David, I second.

15 MR. FLYNN: David, seconds. All in favor
16 say, aye?

17 THE BODY IN THE AFFIRMATIVE: Aye.

18 MR. FLYNN: Anyone opposed, by like sign?
19 Okay. Thank you. Welcome to the -- to the
20 program over there. I wish you luck.

21 MS. HIGGINS: Thank you.

22 MS. RUSS: Okay. Now we'll be moving to
23 our Zoom participants. Under item 4, we have,
24 Woodridge of the Ozarks, Change of Facility
25 Name, Perimeter Behavioral of the Ozarks. A

1 specialist, I believe, is Fatima Sepps, for our
2 provider is Robert Marsh. Again, could --
3 before you speak, could you please state your
4 first and last name for the court reporter.
5 Thank you.

6 MR. FLYNN: Okay, Sanford. You're back in
7 the game here, so listen up.

8 MR. TOLLETTE: Can you hear me?

9 MR. FLYNN: We've got you.

10 MR. TOLLETTE: All right.

11 THE COURT REPORTER: Who is this one?
12 Fatima Sepps?

13 MS. STEPPS: Fatima Sepps with the
14 Placement and Residential Licensing Unit. I
15 will be presenting the request for Woodridge of
16 Ozarks in the place of Cathleen Rosenschein.
17 Woodridge of the Ozarks is requesting a change
18 of status to create a doing business as, for
19 the name of their facility. There's been a
20 recent change in ownership to Perimeter
21 Healthcare. Woodridge of the Ozarks has
22 obtained a doing business as for the facility
23 located in Springdale, Arkansas. This location
24 will now be doing business as Perimeter
25 Behavioral of the Ozarks. The agency has been

1 operating in substantial compliance of minimum
2 licensing standards and the Placement and
3 Residential Licensing Unit does support the
4 agency's request. I have Robert Marsh with the
5 agency that is present online as well if you
6 should have any questions.

7 MR. FLYNN: Thank you, Fatima. Does
8 anyone have any questions?

9 MR. TOLLETTE: No. I'd like to make a
10 motion, Mr. Chairman, that we accept the
11 request.

12 MR. FLYNN: Motion by Sanford, is there a
13 second?

14 MS. DOHERTY: I'll second.

15 MR. FLYNN: Second Sandy. All in favor,
16 say, aye?

17 THE BODY IN THE AFFIRMATIVE: Aye.

18 MR. FLYNN: Opposed by like sign? Request
19 passed. Thank you, Fatima.

20 MS. RUSS: And next on the agenda, items
21 five and six belong to Grace Adoptions.

22 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. I'm
23 sorry, can you -- can you say that again. I'm
24 sorry, just one second.

25 MR. RUSS: Say it again?

1 THE COURT REPORTER: Yes.

2 MR. RUSS: Are you ready?

3 THE COURT REPORTER: Okay, yes. Okay.

4 I'm sorry.

5 MS. RUSS: Okay. Next on the agenda, we
6 have Grace Adoptions, items five and six, our
7 Licensing Specialist, Charlotte Galusha.

8 MS. GALUSHA: Hey, I'm Charlotte Galusha
9 with Placement Residential Licensing and I
10 believe that we -- also from Grace Adoptions,
11 we have Mr. Andrew Appler, Ms. Sharon Appler
12 and Ms. Deeann Smith. Our first request is the
13 agency, Grace Adoptions has requested a special
14 consideration for 4.2 that the agency wants
15 social services director who shall supervise
16 placement activities. Ms. Deeann Smith, has
17 been for over two years. She does need the
18 family service part of that work relation and
19 Grace would like to go ahead and bring her on
20 board. She will not actually receive her
21 bachelor's degree, she's pursuing her
22 bachelor's degree in social work and expects to
23 obtain that by December of this year. So they
24 would like to bring her on board permanently as
25 their Social Service Director.

1 MR. FLYNN: Andrew or Sharon, would one of
2 you like to say some nice things about the
3 Deeann for us? Sharon would you like to say
4 something? I read your letter, very nice
5 letter. I just -- I didn't know if you -- who
6 wanted to kind of present from Grace Adoptions.

7 I think they're on mute. You're still on
8 mute there. All right. Now you're -- now
9 you're live.

10 MS. APPLER: Sharon Appler for Grace
11 Adoptions. Deeann has been working with us
12 going on three years. She has done home
13 studies, written home studies and placements.
14 I am not sure if you've come to a board meeting
15 with Ed, we -- she's been a part of Grace
16 Adoptions now for awhile and we're very
17 confident she can do the job and has a heart
18 for kids. She's -- we're really glad to have
19 her.

20 MR. FLYNN: All right. Thanks. Can I get
21 the --

22 MS. MCCLOUD: Mr. Chairmen?

23 MR. FLYNN: Yes.

24 MS. MCCLOUD: This is Kay McCloud. I'm an
25 attorney and I do strictly family formation and

1 I have worked with Grace Adoptions for -- since
2 they were licensed, initially. And since Mr.
3 Appler's passing, I have had the opportunity to
4 work with Ms. Smith in carrying on the work
5 that Grace Adoptions does. And as an attorney
6 that practices only in the field of adoption
7 and family formation, I can testify that she
8 has the skill set, the ability to pick up the
9 ball and run with it, she has the ability to be
10 available in emergency placements, since we've
11 had a few of those recently.

12 And I could recommend that Ms. Smith would
13 carry on the work of Grace Adoptions with
14 admirable skill.

15 MR. FLYNN: Thank you. I'll need to
16 verify that the court reporter got that name?

17 THE COURT REPORTER: The name, no.

18 MS. MCCLOUD: Kay McCloud.

19 THE COURT REPORTER: Kay McCloud. Thank
20 you.

21 MR. FLYNN: Okay. Thank you. Thank you
22 for those comments. Anyone else have anything
23 they'd like to say? Any board members have any
24 questions for the -- for the --

25 MR. SANFORD: Sanford Tollettee here,

1 Charles. And -- and to Sharon, mixed emotions
2 in the fact that I can't see you. And to Kay,
3 the attorney, and to Ms. D, as I read, kind of
4 refers to you in Conway, as Ms. D. What I've
5 read is that Ms. D is an excellent and superb
6 human being and dedicated to the cause of our
7 children in our community. At the same time,
8 understanding Grace Adoptions and Ed and Sharon
9 and their work, I, too, want to say that I
10 think they're one of the flagships of programs
11 in our State and anybody that brings -- knows
12 before this Board has met the rigorous
13 character and standards written about you in
14 the first place. And so, you know, when the
15 opportunity for me to make a motion is put
16 forward I'd like to do so but I also hear from
17 other board members.

18 MR. FLYNN: Any questions?

19 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, what was
20 his name? What was his name?

21 MR. FLYNN: That was Sanford.

22 THE COURT REPORTER: Sanford.

23 MR. FLYNN: I think it looks good too
24 qualified. Sanford, you can go ahead and make
25 that motion.

1 MR. TOLLETTE: Yes, I would like a motion
2 that we accept the recommendation of staff for
3 Grace Adoptions.

4 MR. FLYNN: All right. Is there a second?

5 MR. WHATLEY: Second.

6 MR. FLYNN: Okay, we'll let David Whatley
7 have the second. All in favor say, aye?

8 THE BODY IN THE AFFIRMATIVE: Aye.

9 MR. FLYNN: Anyone opposed by like sign?
10 And there is none. Thank you. Welcome to the
11 new position and I think we're going to hear
12 from you one more time before you leave, aren't
13 we?

14 MS. GALUSHA: Yes, the second request for
15 Grace Adoptions is for 104.3, and this to have
16 Ms. Deeann Smith to also serve in the position
17 of case worker before her degree is received
18 which is expected later this year. And I would
19 like to apologize I forgot to include that we
20 did have Ms. Kay McCloud online with us
21 earlier. I had forgotten to mention her name.

22 MR. FLYNN: Okay. Everything's the same
23 except a different position, does anyone have
24 any questions concerning this request? If not,
25 I'll take a motion to approve?

1 MR. ALTOM: I make a motion to approve.

2 MR. FLYNN: Andy approves.

3 MS. FOTI: I'll second.

4 MR. FLYNN: And Beverly seconds. All in
5 favor say, aye?

6 THE BODY IN THE AFFIRMATIVE: Aye.

7 MR. FLYNN: And there's no one opposed.
8 So, thank you, Sanford. All right. Thank you
9 guys. Thank you. Carry on.

10 MS. RUSS: Next on the agenda for Zoom, we
11 have Treatment Homes, Inc. The Licensing
12 Specialist is Shannon Rouse. The Provider is
13 Consevella James.

14 Before you speak, could you please state
15 your first and last name for the reporter.
16 Thank you.

17 MR. FLYNN: We're ready. Is Shannon
18 there?

19 MS. ROUSE: Are you there?

20 MR. FLYNN: Hunts Valley, do you want to
21 present for yourself? Have you been here
22 before? Tell us what that request is, okay?

23 THE COURT REPORTER: What was that name?

24 MS. ROUSE: Can y'all hear me now?

25 MR. FLYNN: Yes.

1 MR. TOLLETTE: Yes.

2 THE COURT REPORTER: Which one is that?

3 Which one is -- which one is -- what?

4 MS. ROUSE: Okay, okay. My mic has been
5 acting up for some reason. I have been --

6 MS. RUSS: This is Shannon Rouse.

7 MR. FLYNN: Hang on just a second,
8 Shannon, and let the court reporter catch up.

9 THE COURT REPORTER: Okay. I'm sorry, I
10 just didn't know which one --

11 MR. FLYNN: Okay. This is Shannon Rouse
12 now speaking.

13 THE COURT REPORTER: Shannon? Is her name
14 up there?

15 MS. RUSS: It's not up --

16 MS. ROUSE: This is Shannon Rouse with
17 Placement and Residential Licensing. I am
18 presenting on behalf of Treatment Homes, Inc.
19 I should have two for them. And we might want
20 to do this separately. I think the only one
21 listed is 103.2.c. but it's actually two
22 different regulations for the background check,
23 that's what it's for.

24 MR. FLYNN: It's two separate requests. I
25 guess we should do them separately.

1 MS. ROUSE: Yes. I'm going to do them
2 separately. And [inaudible]?

3 MR. FLYNN: She is.

4 MS. ROUSE: Do you have any further
5 questions?

6 MR. TOLLETTE: Question, Mr. Chair. It's
7 Sanford Tollette.

8 MR. FLYNN: Go ahead, Sanford.

9 MR. TOLLETTE: The first request is 103.2.
10 Shannon, my question, is the second request
11 also 103.2 or is it another reg?

12 MS. ROUSE: No, sir. It's the other reg.
13 It's 103.5.

14 MR. TOLLETTE: Okay 103.5. I got my book
15 here.

16 MR. FLYNN: All right. Go ahead, Shannon.

17 MS. ROUSE: The first regulates is
18 requesting a special consideration for
19 regulation 103.2.c., which states the following
20 person in a child placement agency shall be
21 checked with Child Maltreatment Central
22 Registry and his state of residence, if
23 available, and any state of residence in which
24 the person has lived for the past five years
25 and the first state of employment, if

1 different, for records of -- for child
2 maltreatment.

3 See the proper adherence of each member of
4 the household, age 14 years, and older
5 including children in foster care. These
6 checks shall be made prior to approval and
7 shall be repeated every two years after --
8 thereafter.

9 They have a child. The foster parent has
10 a child in the home that has cerebral palsy.
11 He has seizures and is unable to walk or talk
12 and he requires a wheelchair and 24-hour care.
13 The Placement and Residential Licensing Unit
14 supports this requests.

15 MR. FLYNN: Consaella [sic], you're
16 welcome to say something. But I bet we're
17 ready to vote. So I have a motion to approve
18 this request?

19 MR. ALTOM: I make the motion.

20 MR. FLYNN: Motion by Andy.

21 MR. WHATLEY: Second.

22 MR. FLYNN: Second by David. All in favor
23 say, aye?

24 THE BODY IN THE AFFIRMATIVE: Aye.

25 MR. FLYNN: Any opposed by like sign? All

1 right. Thank you, Shannon. Now you've got
2 another one?

3 MS. ROUSE: Yes, sir. Shannon Rouse, Placement &
4 Residential Licensing again with another request for
5 Treatment Homes Regulation 103.5.c., which states the
6 persons in a child placement agency shall be checked
7 with the Identification Bureau of the Arkansas
8 State Police for conditions of offenses list in
9 Arkansas Code Ann. 9-28-409(c), the foster
10 parents and each member of the household age 18
11 years and older, excluding children in foster
12 care, the foster parents shall serve by writing
13 annually whether or not household members age
14 14 through 17 have criminal records. Again,
15 foster parent has a child in the home that was
16 born with cerebral palsy, he has seizures and
17 is unable to walk or talk, he requires a
18 wheelchair and 24 hour care. PRLU supports
19 this request.

20 MR. ALTOM: I make a motion to approve.

21 MR. FLYNN: Motion by Andy, second by
22 David. All in favor say, aye?

23 THE BODY IN THE AFFIRMATIVE: Aye.

24 MR. FLYNN: Those opposed? The
25 possibility or at least say hello. We didn't

1 even let near the microphone today, so.

2 MS. JAMES: Hello to everyone and I was
3 not expecting to hear about James Balcom, and I
4 didn't know about Ed either. So, it was a
5 double whammy for me today. But thanks for
6 your approval of the licensing request.

7 MR. FLYNN: Thank you, Consevella.

8 MR. TOLLETTE: This is Sanford Tollette.
9 It's good to hear your voice, Consevella.

10 MS. JAMES: Thank you.

11 MR. FLYNN: Nice to see you again. All
12 right. Thank you. All right. Next up?

13 MS. RUSS: Next on the agenda. We have
14 item 8, Curt, Cliff & Opal Young Children's
15 Home. The Licensing Specialist is Shannon
16 Rouse, Provider is Marla Nelson and Debbie
17 Stripling.

18 MS. ROUSE: Shannon Rouse, Placement and
19 Residential Licensing. Here for Curt, Cliff &
20 Opal Young Children's Home and I either have
21 Marla Nelson or Debbie Stripling also. If you
22 have any further questions. Young Children's
23 Home is requesting a special consideration for
24 regulation 201.11, which states that the
25 facility should admit children for a maximum on

1 90 days. Young Children's Home is requesting a
2 foster child be allowed to stay at the facility
3 until placement can be found. Based on
4 supporting documentation the foster child is
5 stable and doing well at the facility. DCFS is
6 attempting to have the child admitted to UAMS
7 PRICU department currently for filing the
8 review and has not been approved for that.
9 PRLU supports this request.

10 MR. FLYNN: Thanks. So, Marla, are there
11 or is someone else there? Anyone from Young
12 Home online?

13 MS. RUSS: If you could just ask them to
14 unmute them.

15 MR. FLYNN: Okay. If you are from Young
16 Home, just unmute your microphone. I see Marla
17 up there but the microphone is muted. I don't
18 know that it's necessary to hear from them. I
19 was going to give them a chance to give us an
20 update. I think Shannon did a good job of
21 presenting the situation. Does anyone have any
22 questions that maybe Shannon could answer?
23 Sounds like DCFS is working on a placement, and
24 so.

25 MR. ALTOM: I make a motion to approve.

1 MR. FLYNN: Andy makes a motion to
2 approve. I'll second. All in favor say, aye?

3 Aye.

4 MR. FLYNN: Opposed by like sign? And it
5 approves, so. All right. Thank you, Shannon.

6 MS. RUSS: Item 9 on the agenda, Fostering
7 Change. We have Program Coordinator Sharra
8 Litzsey-Singleton presenting. We should have
9 Marla Nelson by Zoom as well.

10 MS. SINGLETON: Hi. This is Sharra
11 Singleton-Litzsey. I'm presenting the request
12 for Fostering Change and we should have Abby
13 Rundell for Fostering Change.

14 MS. RUNDELL: I'm present as well as my
15 Clinical Director XXX Kendrick.

16 THE COURT REPORTER: Who is that?

17 (Talking over each other)

18 MR. FLYNN: Okay. I'm sorry. Let's --
19 hang on just a second. I want to see if the
20 court reporter is missing something. So, have
21 you got it? All right.

22 THE COURT REPORTER: No, I didn't.

23 MR. FLYNN: Thank you. Pam, are we good
24 to go? Okay. So, let's start over. Sharra,
25 you're presenting? Introduce yourself again

1 for the court reporter.

2 MS. SINGLETON: This is Sharra
3 Singleton-Litzsey presenting request for
4 Fostering Change, an address change.

5 MR. FLYNN: And what is the request
6 address?

7 MS. SINGLETON: Oh. Western Arkansas
8 Counties Center owner of Fostering Change
9 Community Reintegration Program has a
10 residential childcare facility license since
11 2018 and it's located in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

12 The agency is currently licensed for
13 twelve children. The agency has a residential
14 license for ages 5 - 18 years old. Fostering
15 Change Community Reintegration Program is
16 requesting to move their license from their
17 current address of 3113 South 70th Street in
18 Fort Smith to 418 South 17th Street in Fort
19 Smith. The license will remain the same for
20 residential with a capacity of twelve.

21 MR. FLYNN: Okay.

22 MR. TOLLETTE: A Sanford Tollette,
23 question.

24 MR. FLYNN: Go ahead, Sanford.

25 MR. TOLLETTE: Is this change a better

1 facility? Just explain the change of address
2 for clarification for me.

3 MR. FLYNN: Is someone from the agency
4 there that can answer that question?

5 MS. RUNDELL: Yes. This is Abby Rundell
6 with Fostering Change, and our new building
7 will have more rooms as far as space goes for
8 the children as well as we will have a fenced
9 in back yard. It's a more home-like
10 environment. In my opinion, I would definitely
11 say that it is an upgrade from our current
12 building for our children.

13 MR. TOLLETTE: Thank you very much, Mr.
14 Chairman. I just needed clarification and I
15 heard what I wanted to hear. If not other
16 board members have any other questions, I will
17 wait to see when you call for the motion.

18 MR. FLYNN: I guess on those who had
19 requested it, QRTP which is how we license a
20 client but is that part of your move is to XXX
21 made by the QRTP?

22 MS. RUNDELL: We will -- we have a
23 community reintegration contract with the
24 department as well as a QRTP contract with the
25 department, however, in our current building

1 there's no room to grow or expand. When we
2 move, we will have property to build on as well
3 as a house that comes with the property that
4 could potentially be renovated to house QRTPs.
5 So, we wanted to see if QRTP could be added to
6 our current license that way moving forward we
7 can have our community reintegration program as
8 well as QRTP to kind of continue of care for
9 our children.

10 So, that was community reintegration
11 program that can transition to our QRTP program
12 and still have the same mental health treatment
13 team that they currently have.

14 MR. FLYNN: The licensing people may have
15 to answer this. But as I understand, QRTP is
16 not a license. It is a residential.

17 MR. WHATELY: That is correct.

18 MR. FLYNN: So there is not -- this is for
19 your information. There is not a separate
20 license for QRTP.

21 But anyway, I'm ready, Sanford, unless
22 anyone else has a question for you to make a
23 motion if that's what you wanted to do?

24 MR. TOLLETTE: Yes, sir. Then again, I
25 formally make a motion to accept the regulation

1 of staff.

2 MR. FLYNN: Is there a second?

3 MS. DOHERTY: I'll second.

4 MR. FLYNN: Second by Sandy.

5 All in favor say aye?

6 THE BODY IN THE AFFIRMATIVE: Aye.

7 MR. FLYNN: Anyone opposed by like sign?

8 And that is approved. Thank you. Good luck on
9 that move.

10 MS. RUNDELL: Thank you so much.

11 MS. RUSS: Okay. There's a slight change
12 to the agenda. To keep in line with DCFS,
13 we're going to skip item 10 and move it to item
14 11. DCFS, Richard and Sharyn P, request for
15 additional space. We have Lakesha White as the
16 PRLU Specialist and Kristen Swafford from DCFS.

17 MS. WHITE: Lakesha White, Placement and
18 Residential Licensing Unit. I'm here today
19 regarding a request from DCFS for space. DCFS
20 is requesting a special consideration for
21 Regulation 209.2, which states each family room
22 shall have at least 50 square feet of floor
23 space per occupant.

24 This request is to allow three people to
25 share a bedroom that is 130 square feet, which

1 is 20 square feet less than the 150 needed for
2 three people. This bedroom will be shared by
3 the foster parents who's also the grandparents
4 and a one year old foster child. This bedroom
5 consist of a king bed and a crib. DCFS feels
6 that this is the best home for siblings in the
7 order -- in order to support reunification.
8 The siblings will also continue their sibling
9 bond.

10 This request is child-specific and time
11 limited until the July of 2022. PR -- PRLU
12 granted a temporary approval on March the 11th,
13 2020. A virtual monitor visit was completed on
14 July the 16th of 2020. PRLU supports this
15 request. We have Kristen Swafford with DCFS
16 available if you have any questions.

17 MR. FLYNN: Does anyone have any
18 questions? Motion?

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

21 MR. FLYNN: Motion has been made. I'll
22 second it. All in favor say, aye?

23 THE BODY IN THE AFFIRMATIVE: Aye.

24 MR. FLYNN: Opposed by like sign? There
25 is none. Thank you. It is approved.

1 MS. WHITE: Thank you.

2 MS. RUSS: Okay. So, now we'll be -- we
3 will follow on with item ten on the agenda. We
4 did have a question coming from licensing.
5 Normally we would read each item into the
6 record, however, we are requesting that we
7 enter this item as if it is one.

8 It's up to you. It's fine. I have no
9 problem with reading each item into the record.

10 MR. FLYNN: I will approve it if you don't
11 tell Charlie after he read that in past times.

12 MS. RUSS: It was actually Charlie's
13 recommendation, so...

14 MR. ALTOM: I'll make a motion that we --
15 we adopt this as Exhibit 1 and forego the
16 reading into the record.

17 (Exhibit Number 1 was marked for
18 identification.)

19 MR. FLYNN: Well, Andy recommends that we
20 approve this as Exhibit 1.

21 MR. WHATLEY: Second.

22 MR. FLYNN: And the second from David. We
23 don't want to hear it anymore than you want to
24 read it, by the way, because we've already read
25 it, so... All in favor say, aye?

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THE BODY IN THE AFFIRMATIVE: Aye.

MR. FLYNN: And I know there's no one opposed to that.

MR. RUSS: Okay. Thank you so much. Okay, now we're -- for item twelve, Report of Temporary Approvals/Actions (Logs Presented) May, June and July 2020.

MR. FLYNN: Does anyone want to see those? If not, some of them are not necessary or...

MR. RUSS: Okay. Moving to item 13, Other Business. There are a couple of items that we need to discuss. Item A has recently come to our attention. There have been a couple facilities that are requesting to use unused facilities on their properties to quarantine new admissions. And so, Licensing was needing to check with the Board to see if we can get temporary approval to go ahead and do that?

MR. FLYNN: That is something that the Licensing Specialist will actually go out to the property and, of course, go see.

MS. RUSS: Correct. But before they accept any children into the building, a licensed specialist would need to monitor that facility doing.

1 MR. FLYNN: Have we -- I think -- what I
2 would guess is that a lot of these Licensing
3 Specialists have been in that some of the
4 buildings already. The Specialist who's worked
5 with these programs have been in and out of
6 these campuses, and for have for years. And
7 it seems like maybe even in some of those
8 buildings it would be possible to do a video.
9 Have y'all considered that or FaceTime or Zoom
10 situation to check on fire extinguisher codes,
11 you know, and that type of thing.

12 MS. RUSS: Yes. We are currently using
13 that process as well for certain issues.

14 MR. FLYNN: So --

15 MS. DOHERTY: I have a question.

16 MR. FLYNN: I was going to say Ebony had
17 contacted about this last week and I just
18 wanted us to give them some guidance. So,
19 please, Sandy?

20 MS. DOHERTY: Can you hear?

21 MR. FLYNN: Yes.

22 MS. DOHERTY: I motioned because you just
23 said for new admissions. I thought it was
24 needed to move them to quarantine? So, is it
25 just new admissions?

1 MS. RUSS: I mean, it wouldn't have to be
2 singular to new admissions. If there are any
3 residents happen to test positive, they will
4 also be moved over to that quarantine unit.

5 MR. TOLLETTE: Very good. This is Sanford
6 Tollette. That's very good. I'm listening
7 very carefully. I might have a comment but I
8 wanted to let everybody finish.

9 MR. ALTOM: This came out of --

10 MS. STEPPS: This is Fatima. I wanted to --

11 MR. RUSS: Fatima, hold on just a second.
12 I think Andy Altom had the -- just a second,
13 Fatima.

14 MS. STEPPS: Okay.

15 MR. TOLLETTE: I really can't hear Andy or
16 anybody --

17 MR. ALTOM: Can you hear me now?

18 MR. TOLLETTE: -- or Charles. Yeah, I can
19 hear you now.

20 MR. ALTOM: This came out of, I believe, a
21 request from The Children's Home, Baptist
22 Children's Home. One of the issues that
23 they're having is you have a 14-day quarantine
24 on a new admission. This is where this came
25 up, was the question.

1 So I know the question was on new
2 admissions but at, you know, if it's approved
3 it'll also be used for, let's say, you have
4 somebody that tests positive and you can
5 isolate them to another facility, you don't run
6 the risk of - - some of our facilities have --
7 don't have single rooms, things like that so
8 that -- having that option, it's not an
9 addition of beds, as long as the facility
10 meets, you know, the licensing guidelines.

11 I think it's just a matter of you have to
12 staff two facilities versus one facility to
13 make sure that the kids are safe, but it allows
14 the safety for the rest of the population and
15 workers.

16 MR. WHATLEY: And I also have a --

17 MR. TOLLETTE: Andy, it sounds like we
18 need a new reg for the new normal for what
19 we're facing right now.

20 MR. FLYNN: Sanford, let's have a retreat
21 and talk about it.

22 MR. WHATLEY: One of the questions is how
23 long will they be quarantined? Are we going to
24 talk about that?

25 And then the other is how long would we

1 approve for this to go on?

2 MS. RUSS: Well, the agencies will be
3 following the recommendations of the Arkansas
4 Department of Health. Typically, it's 14 days
5 quarantined and we --

6 MR. WHATLEY: It just changes hourly.

7 MS. RUSS: -- right. I can't give you a
8 specific date on how long it will last.

9 MR. FLYNN: I'm assuming that there's
10 already good communication between the unit and
11 I would imagine just emails going back and
12 forth keeping the Licensing Specialists aware
13 of the population and the changes?

14 MS. RUSS: Correct. The facilities are
15 required to inform Licensing Specialist of any
16 positives either residential or staff that they
17 have in their facility.

18 MR. FLYNN: That's a different question
19 I've got. Go ahead, Andy.

20 MR. ALTOM: Once again, this is not
21 additional beds. This is just basically being
22 able to count beds at the facility versus that
23 at --

24 MR. TOLLETTE: I can't hear you.

25 MR. ALTOM: This would not be an

1 additional bed to any provider. This would
2 just be allowing the provider to move the
3 additional bed to a different facility for a
4 temporary period and then bringing it back into
5 their facility with the population. So, it's
6 not an issue of --

7 MR. TOLLETTE: Andy, it's very clear to
8 me. Very clear. I understand.

9 MR. FLYNN: And the question I have,
10 Ebony, you said that the provider is to let
11 Licensing know about a positive test of a
12 resident or an employee.

13 MS. RUSS: Uh-huh. Yes.

14 MR. FLYNN: Are we aware of that?

15 MS. RUSS: I'm sorry?

16 MR. FLYNN: Are we aware that we need to
17 let you know about positive test results?

18 MS. RUSS: Well, Licensing Specialists
19 are --

20 MR. FLYNN: They are? Okay. That's -- I
21 don't work with Licensing Specialists in my
22 position, so I just need to make sure that what
23 I was aware that they need to be informing you,
24 because --

25 MS. RUSS: Okay. Well, we definitely need

1 that information back. I'll just make sure
2 that everyone has that information.

3 MR. FLYNN: -- yes.

4 MR. WHATLEY: I think one of the things
5 that they're getting, Charles, I think the
6 Licensing Specialists are checking in with the
7 facilities and just asking questions if they're
8 any positive tests.

9 MR. ALTOM: Yes.

10 MR. FLYNN: Any other suggestions for
11 licensing as we go forward in this new way?
12 Something that we'll just review from time to
13 time and see how it's going.

14 MS. RUSS: Correct.

15 MR. TOLLETTE: Well, Sanford Tollette,
16 again, Mr. Chair, just a comment, from
17 facilities that have the extra buildings for
18 this, it's a blessing but do we have any
19 facilities out there that any of the
20 specialists know that they don't have an
21 isolation place or spot in case something
22 happens, that a License -- us as a Board?

23 MS. STEPPS: This is Fatima. Precisely
24 what I was going to bring up. Charles, you
25 said that. Was it only buildings that are on

1 site? I've recently had a facility to ask me
2 about obtaining a building that is across the
3 street from their residential facility to
4 utilize as a temporary quarantine. So, it
5 would be some agencies that may not have that
6 capability but may fall into that range so we
7 would need to know if that would be considered
8 a temporary, maybe emergency preparedness
9 situation that would be acceptable for the
10 Board as well.

11 MR. FLYNN: Thank you, Fatima.

12 MR. TOLLETTE: And to Andy's point, this
13 situation will be increasing beds within their
14 current license; am I correct?

15 MS. FATIMA: This is Sanford Tollette.

16 MR. WHATLEY: That's correct.

17 MR. FLYNN: So Fatima, that was a question
18 I kind of had and I was wondering how far do we
19 go? Is the building across the street? Is it
20 someone's home?

21 So, Andy, what were you about to say?

22 MR. ALTOM: What I was going to say is
23 those facilities, because we've got the
24 facility, we don't have facility beds to use
25 and in those cases, you know, we've ended up

1 moving beds into the gymnasium and using that
2 as a quarantine area and those type of
3 offerings.

4 But I would realistically see if I were
5 provided with a home across the street that I
6 can rent, and it would pass licensing
7 guidelines. That would be a much better
8 environment for that child to spend two weeks
9 in that having to live out in the gymnasium or
10 cafeteria or some other part.

11 So I think that we ought to use some
12 common sense here and just say, "Look, if it
13 passes the standards for the facility and it's
14 not an additional beds, it really shouldn't
15 matter. I mean, it's just -- it could be
16 listed as a temporary address and it comes back
17 and gets reviewed mainly on an annual basis.

18 MR. WHATLEY: This is David. I just
19 wanted to add onto what Andy just said, if they
20 are meeting minimum standards anyway, that --
21 they are being monitored so the minimum
22 standards are being met whether it's across the
23 street or on campus or somewhere else; is that
24 correct?

25 MS. RUSS: That would be correct.

1 MR. TOLLETTE: I could hear again.

2 MR. FLYNN: Go ahead, Sanford.

3 MR. TOLLETTE: Go ahead. I didn't hear
4 the other person. I'm sorry.

5 MR. FLYNN: Okay. And Andy, what I was
6 going to ask, for a new building, do we want
7 the Licensing Specialist to walk through that
8 building first or do a video?

9 MR. ALTOM: I think that -- I think that
10 if they've never seen it, it should probably be
11 a walk through.

12 MR. FLYNN: That's what -- I agree with
13 that. So is that giving you some direction
14 there, Ebony, do you have any questions for the
15 Board about anything we've said?

16 MS. RUSS: No, sir. I do not. I
17 understand that the Licensing Specialist has
18 not seen that facility building before that
19 they should be required to do a walk through.

20 MR. FLYNN: Any other comments? Beverly,
21 go ahead.

22 MS. FOTI: I just have a follow-up
23 question, not about this, but about something
24 from the last board meeting.

25 MR. FLYNN: Okay. All right. We'll get

1 to that in just a minute. So, all right, are
2 we good with that?

3 MS. RUSS: Yes, sir.

4 MR. FLYNN: I think Ebony has one more
5 item, but let's let Beverly go ahead with her
6 question from a previous board meeting.

7 MS. FOTI: Well, Ebony maybe addressing my
8 question but --

9 MR. FLYNN: I don't think so.

10 MS. FOTI: Okay. So --

11 MS. RUSS: Is it about POAs?

12 MS. FOTI: -- yes.

13 MR. FLYNN: Oh, okay. That's another --
14 okay, so...

15 MS. RUSS: So from our last board meeting
16 there was a question about the POAs and, I
17 believe, Mr. Joe West was -- so, our attorney,
18 Joe West, was going to follow up on that and I
19 believe he has some more work to do on that and
20 I'll let you speak on that.

21 MR. WEST: Yes, I started researching on
22 that ended and up getting a road block. I
23 need to get some more information from Ebony
24 this week.

25 I don't have the final answer today but

1 I'm working with my counterpart who is -- or
2 our office's attorney for the board.

3 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. I'm kind
4 of not being able to hear because of masks. So
5 just do it a little bit slower.

6 MR. WEST: Okay. I'll start over.

7 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry.

8 MR. WEST: I have reached out to my
9 colleague, who represents [inaudible] services
10 agencies for -- I need to get some more
11 information from Ebony sometime this week to
12 continue it. I'm hoping to have an answer on
13 that by the next board meeting so I -- with
14 everything else going on in the world, I have
15 started researching, but I don't have a final
16 answer today.

17 MS. RUSS: All right. Thank you.

18 MR. FLYNN: Okay. So there is one more
19 item then, I believe.

20 MS. RUSS: There is. So a update for
21 licensing, there have been some updates. Some
22 things have been changing in the Licensing
23 Unit. For one, we're down five staff, however,
24 we can approve to hire three new positions and
25 we're in the process of doing it currently. So

1 you may be unfamiliar with some Licensing
2 Specialist that may reach out to you.

3 Of course, we have [inaudible] and Fatima
4 who just needs some verification, or that you
5 think could be received from them. It's not
6 odd for them to reach out to me as well.

7 So, there's one thing. Due to Covid-19,
8 and the fact that we do have some at risk
9 staff, our agency has around some staff to do
10 virtual visits. Of course, we call ahead and
11 determine the schedule with providers and say,
12 "Hey, you know, we have at risk staff that
13 aren't able to come into your facility, may we
14 please go ahead and do a virtual visit?" That
15 has been working. We haven't had any issues so
16 far with that. So that may come across your
17 agency as well. So, just to let you know.

18 Also, it's still in process. I think the
19 next steps are for us to have those public
20 hearings in the next month or so, month or two,
21 October, for the public hearings to start. Of
22 course, we'll keep you updated on that as well.

23 And that was recently we've received some
24 information. It's DCFS but the Licensing Unit
25 will be requesting alternative compliances for

1 agencies requesting to open transitional living
2 programs.

3 The new MLS no longer requires
4 transitional live license to have a residential
5 formative license or an independent living
6 license won't be in effect yet.

7 Excuse me. And so, therefore, to comply
8 with the MLS to be a transitional life license,
9 they will need an AC to exempt them from the
10 requirement to have a residential program
11 license or an independent living license. Part
12 of the justification for an AC being that
13 within a few months we won't be required
14 anyway. So that may be coming up on the
15 horizon that licensing may be asking for
16 alternative compliances for those.

17 MR. TOLLETTE: Sanford Tollette here, Mr.
18 Chairman. That sounded like she was submitting
19 a recommendation for both. This is just
20 information or do we need to take action, is
21 that a request?

22 MR. FLYNN: This information. We will
23 handle these individually as agencies approach
24 us.

25 MR. TOLLETTE: Okay.

1 MR. FLYNN: We had this discussion, I
2 think, we had a little discussion last year
3 about this and it got in with a lot of other
4 stuff to be propagated and, in the meantime,
5 this need is arising for transitional living
6 and so these contracts are out and so we will
7 be approached, I imagine, by each individual
8 agency to approve.

9 MR. TOLLETTE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 Sanford Tollette again. Thank you, Mr. Chair,
11 for -- for clarification.

12 MS. RUSS: And so, for Licensing, if
13 there's anything that you ever feel like that
14 you're not getting enough information on,
15 please reach out to me. I have no problem with
16 discussing or sharing information with you. We
17 like to keep it the next time for the Board,
18 and the Licensing Unit. That's all I have.

19 MR. FLYNN: Okay. One more thing though
20 that you and I corresponded about yesterday was
21 the criminal justice information system, you
22 know, I think you could explain all that in
23 email but I thought maybe you could just say a
24 word about that to the Board today.

25 MS. RUSS: Yes, it was brought to our

1 attention -- our attention from the Privacy
2 Office that the board members are required to
3 have -- it's called speeches or the Criminal
4 Justice Institute's --

5 MR. FLYNN: Criminal Justice and Relations
6 System's.

7 MS. RUSS: -- training and so what I'll do
8 is I'll email you the information the reason
9 why it's required and who do we need to contact
10 and the deadline for you to complete that
11 training, which commonly lasts about an hour or
12 two, just depends on how many answer your
13 question.

14 MR. FLYNN: Online training.

15 MS. RUSS: Online training.

16 MR. FLYNN: All right. Any questions from
17 the Board about anything else? If not, I will
18 say we are adjourned.

19 MS. MARY: This is Mary with Ozark
20 Guidance. We had a special consideration that
21 was supposed to be on the agenda for today that
22 we submitted in May with Fatima.

23 THE COURT REPORTER: Do what now?

24 MR. FLYNN: Fatima, are you still there?

25 MS. MARY: Yes, I am here. Mary, what

1 special consideration you submitted it to me or
2 your Licensing Specialist?

3 MS. MARY: It was to Rachel Carlton but
4 she's out this week so she said that you would
5 be the one helping with it. It was for --

6 MS. MARY: A foster home?

7 MS. MARY: Yes.

8 MS. MARY: You're -- that request was a
9 part of the bundled requests that were voted on
10 for the Board. They were not presented
11 individually because you-all received the
12 temporary approval for [audible].

13 MS. MARY: Okay.

14 (Exhibit Number 1 was marked for
15 identification.)

16 MR. FLYNN: Exhibit 1, it was approved.

17 MS. MARY: Okay. Thank you.

18 MS. BULLARD: Hello .this is Ariel
19 Bullard. I was just checking to make sure
20 maybe my --

21 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. I'm
22 sorry. Can you get her name?

23 MS. MARY: Ariel Bullard.

24 THE COURT REPORTER: Ariel Bullard. Thank
25 you.

1 MR. FLYNN: Okay. Who was the Specialist?

2 MS. BULLARD: In making sleeping

3 arrangements?

4 MR. FLYNN: So Pamela -- y'all need to
5 help us figure out if that's included. It's
6 included. I'm getting a thumbs-up over here.
7 So we're good. That was approved in the bundle
8 that we called Exhibit 1. The Board considered
9 all of these individually and before the
10 meeting we voted them at one time.

11 MS. BULLARD: Okay. Thank you so much.

12 MS. PENCE: It could be, Charles, I think
13 perhaps. I mean, we sat and viewed that as a
14 bundle, but if audible, and they don't know
15 that they're in the bundle.

16 MR. FLYNN: We may need to re-tune -- or
17 the -- I think it'll be an education process
18 with a specialist to contact them and let them
19 know it's included in the bundle.

20 Yeah, I know. We have one included too
21 and the Director asked me today if he needed to
22 be here and I said, "Well, no, not [audible]
23 bundle."

24 All right. Anybody else out there that
25 wants to ask us a question?

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MS. RUSS: Just for the record, licensing will be letting the resource workers know that their items are included in the exhibit.

MR. FLYNN: Thank you. The meeting is concluded. Thank you. We're adjourned again.
(Meeting was concluded at 2:06 p.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARKANSAS)
)
COUNTY OF PERRY)

I, Connie M. Williams, Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public, do hereby certify that the facts stated by me in the caption on the foregoing proceedings are true; and that the foregoing proceedings were reported verbatim through the use of the stenographic method and thereafter transcribed by me or under my direct supervision to the best of my ability, taken at the time and place set out on the caption hereto.

I further certify that in accordance with Rule 30(e) of the Rules of Civil Procedure, review of transcript was requested by the deponent or a party thereto.

I further certify that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or employed by the parties hereto, nor financially interested in the outcome of action, and that I have no contract with the parties, attorneys, or persons with an interest in the action that affects or has a substantial tendency to affect impartiality, that requires me to relinquish control of an original deposition transcript or copies of the transcript before it is certified and delivered to the custodial attorney, or that requires me to provide any service not made available to all parties to the action.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL this 28th day of August, 2020.

Connie M. Williams

CONNIE M. WILLIAMS
CCR, LS No. 750, Notary Public in
and for Perry County, Arkansas
My Commission Expires 5/2/23