

**Child Welfare Agency Review Board (CWARB) Meeting  
January 25, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Board Members Present: Charles Flynn, Andy Altom, Andrew Watson, Beverly Foti, David Whatley, Sandi Doherty, Sanford Tollette

Others Present: Ebony Russ, Sharra Singleton-Litszey, Dawn Jeffrey, and Michelle Bridges-Bell

Members Absent: Justin Heimer and Sara Farris

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**I. Call to Order**

Andy Altom called the CWARB Meeting to order on January 25, 2023, at 1:32 p.m.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Andy Altom requested a motion for approval of the October 26, 2022 meeting minutes.  
Decision: All approved/none oppose

**III. Pre-deprivation Hearing: Perimeter of the Ozarks**

Abbey Trussell, the DHS Attorney, stated she has been in communication with Art Hickman from Perimeter of the Ozarks (POTO). Ms. Trussell stated that Mr. Hickman waived his right to a predeprivation hearing, agreed to the terms of the Probationary License, and does not contest the citations listed within the Corrective Action Agreement. Mr. Hickman request that the Probationary License to be 6 months instead of 12 months. Licensing supports this request stating it will be no less than 6 months and can be extended as needed. The Board discussed that during the previous CWARB meeting, a year probationary license was issued, although that vote was not valid. It was determined to issue a probationary period of no less than 9 months. Charles made the motion to approve this request/David seconded the request/All approved.

**IV. Permissions to Work**

	Agency	Resource Worker	Client	Motion	Second	Decision	Comments
1	DCFS	Carol Harp	Nirvanna	Sandi	Charles	Approved to attend 2/23 meeting	Nirvanna not present due to point system at job
2	DCFS	Carol Harp	Joshua	A. Altom	Sanford	Approved to attend 2/23 meeting	Joshua not present due to weather
3	DCFS	Lynda Gullings	Brandon	Andy	Charles	Approve	
4	DCFS	Lynda Gullings	Anna	David	Charles	Approve	
5	DCFS	Lynda Gullings	Scarlett	A. Altom	Sanford	Approve	
6	DCFS	No Longer Needed					
7	DCFS	Whitley Bond	Makayla	Sandi	A. Altom	Approved to attend 2/23 meeting	Both not present due to weather

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8	DCFS	Whitley Bond	Yolanda	Sandi	A. Altom	Approved to attend 2/23 meeting	Both not present due to weather
9	DCFS	Takiyah Walker	John	Sandi	David	Approved to attend 2/23 meeting	Client out of state and unable to attend
10	DCFS	Ashleigh Smith	Robert	Beverly	A. Altom	Approved to attend 2/23 meeting	Client unable attend due to sickness
11	DCFS	Melissa Emery	Joshua	Sandi	A. Altom	Approved to attend 2/23 meeting	Both not present due to weather
12	DCFS	Takisha Cherry	Tia	Sanford	A. Altom	Approve	
13	DCFS	Milissa Ennis	Tori	Charles	A. Altom	Approve	
14	DCFS	Kiarra Harris	Cedric	Sanford	A. Altom	Approve	
15	DCFS	Alicia Dunn	Dawn	David	Sanford	Approve	
16	DCFS	No Longer Needed					
17	ABCH	Jamie Tacito	Don	A. Altom	David	Approve	Charles Abstained
18	Millcreek	No Longer Needed					
19	Millcreek	Christie Aaron	Randy	A. Altom	Charles	Approve	
20	EAYS	Jessica Sampley	Destiny	David	A. Altom	Approve	Ebony presented. Destiny will be supervised by LCSW
21	Compact	Beth Davis	Jack & Lance	A. Watson	Sandi	Not Approve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Licensing does not support approval</li> <li>Board's decision based on insufficient education for caseworker supervision</li> </ul>

**V. Introduction of Exhibit A: "Temporary Approvals"**

- Motion approved for all temporary approvals to be approved.

**VI. Old Business:**

Re-licensure of Closed Licenses

- Discussion based on intent of Act 772. Board understood the Act to only apply to psychiatric residential treatment facilities (PRTF).

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- Michelle stated the Department of Human Service (DHS) and the Attorney General's (AG) Office interpret the Act to apply across all licensed issued by the CWARB.
- Charles recommended that the Board of Trustees be added to the action steps for Re-licensure.
- David made a motion to have A. Altom contact the AG Office to request a legal opinion on Act 772. Andrew W. seconded the motion. An amended motion was made to permit Charles to contact the AG office if Andy is unable to. All were in favor/no oppose. The Board requested Andy submit his findings in writing and distribute to the Board.

**VII. New Business:**

Temporary Shelter Extensions

- Director Ellie Lindgren had a total of 5 90<sup>th</sup> day extensions for Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter (NWACS). Licensing supports these requests. The agency must return in 90 days for extension if the children have not been discharged. All 5 extensions approved for 90 days.

Mid-South Health Systems Inc- West Memphis

- Requesting an alternative compliance to standard 310.1 in order to keep a foster child with his grandmother. There is concern about the grandmother being "double-paid" for this work. Sandi stated that the Division of Child Care and Family Services (DCFS) does not view foster parents as employees, rather they are volunteers who receive a stipend. Alicia Dunn, the child's caseworker" stated that the child is doing well with the grandmother. Charles made the motion to grant a special consideration/A. Watson seconded/All approved.

Timothy Hill

- Daniel Peacock and intern Tyler Davis were present. Ebony presented their request to increase their capacity from 10 to 13. A new location has been purchased that will provide therapeutic care. Licensing supports this request. Charles made the motion/A. Watson seconded/All approved.

Capstone Treatment Center

- Jeremy Sciba, Nate Crowe, and Adrian Hickman were present. Adrian presented building plans for a new youth cabin. They requested an alternative compliance for standards regulating the number of children who can be in 1 room. The Board discussed and decided they cannot vote on this matter as there are several minimum licensing standards that will be impacted. The Board advised them to work closely with DHS: Licensing to ensure all licensing standards are met and can request alternative compliance once the building is complete.

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- Ebony presented their request to increase their capacity from 20 to 26. Licensing supports this request. A. Altom made the motion/Sanford seconded/All approved.

Elizabeth Mitchell Centers

- Requesting an alternative compliance to regulation 911.11 and 912.2 due to construction needed in a classroom as a result of pipes bursting. Construction is expected to be complete in 6 to 8 weeks. There was discussion to ensure privacy and proper supervision is maintained. Licensing supports these requests.
  - Regulation 911.11: A. Altom made the motion/Sandi seconded/Approved
  - Regulation 912.2: David made the motion/Charles seconded/Approved

Lifeline Children's Services

- Brianna Shannon was present, and Lisa Kelley was present by phone to give their 6 month update on their provisional license. Ebony presented their request to have their provisional license move to a regular license. Licensing supports this request. Sanford made the motion to approve their request/Beverly seconded/All approved
- Ebony presented their request for an address change. Licensing supports this request. Charles made the motion/Beverly seconded/All approved

**VIII. Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility Updates:**

Perimeter of Forrest City

- Perimeter of Forrest City staff were present and provided updates about their facility's progress. They requested their Corrective Action Agreement be lifted on 2/14/23. Licensing supports this request. The motion was approved.

Perimeter of West Memphis

- Sharra presented and state there are still recorded citations, Licensing has worked them to obtain/complete staff trainings. Sharra will continue to provide the Board with updates.

Perimeter of the Ozarks

- Sharra presented the Corrective Action Agreement (CAA) that will be given to this agency. There are several concerns indicated. The Board would like to continue to receive updates. If the level of concern rises, the Board would like to have an emergency meeting. Michelle will follow-up to see if this type of meeting can be done virtually. Their current census is 29 (11 are out of state children). They also have a new CEO.

**IX. Announcements and Action Items:**

- A. Altom reminded Board members to submit their Statement of Finance due by the end of January.

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- A. Altom let Board members know that he will not speak on behalf of board members to reporters. He will direct reporters to Board materials that are on the public record.

**X. Next Meeting:**

February 22, 2023, at 1:30 pm. Location will be in Training Room 6 at the DHS Central Office West building in Little Rock.

**XI. Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 4.35 p.m.

DRAFT