

CHILD WELFARE AGENCY REVIEW BOARD

Donaghy Plaza South
7th and Main Street
Conference Room A & B
Little Rock, AR
June 24th, 20201
1:30 p.m.

AGENDA

Exhibit "A" - Approval of Special Considerations/Temporary Approvals "Bundle" "A")

AGENCY / LICENSE #	PRLU SPECIALIST	REQUESTED BY(OR) FOSTER HOME	REG. #	REGULATION	PURPOSE OF REQUEST	TA Date By:
a. DCFS 100	Chelsea Vardell	B [REDACTED] & C [REDACTED] DCFS Kimberly King	211.5	Foster homes shall not have more than five (5) foster children in care. A foster home shall not have more than eight (8) children in their home, including their own.	To allow 2 siblings to be placed in this home that already has their 2 siblings. The foster family also has four children on their own.	4/05/21
b. DCFS 100	Beth Davis	C [REDACTED] D [REDACTED] DCFS O'Shaneia Nelson	209.2	Each bedroom shall have at least 50 square feet of floor space per occupant.	To allow 2 infant relatives to remain in the home with their relative.	4/06/21
c. DCFS 100	Rachel Carlton	T [REDACTED] & B [REDACTED] J [REDACTED] DCFS Elaine Dowdy	209.2	Each bedroom shall have at least 50 square feet of floor space per occupant.	To allow a foster child to share a room that is 19 sq. ft. short of space.	4/12/21
d. DCFS 100	Steven Pitts	M [REDACTED] W [REDACTED] -C [REDACTED] DCFS Shaleena White	209.2	Each bedroom shall have at least 50 square feet of floor space per occupant.	To allow 2 nephews share a room in their relative's home that measures 86.28 sq. ft. This will allow the children to remain with family.	4/13/21
e. DCFS 100	Rachel Carlton	St [REDACTED] B [REDACTED] DCFS Jasmine Miller	209.2	Each bedroom shall have at least 50 square feet of floor space per occupant.	To allow a sibling group of 4 remain with relatives. The male sibling will share a room with his cousins that measure 131 sq. ft.	4/14/21
f. DCFS 100	Steven Pitts	P [REDACTED] H [REDACTED] DCFS Charlie Boyd	209.2	Each bedroom shall have at least 50 square feet of floor space per occupant.	To allow 3 siblings to share a room in their grandparent's home that measures 120 sq. ft. The siblings are 9 y/o male, 8 y/o male & 5 y/o female. This will allow the children	4/22/21

					to remain in the home with relatives.	
g. DCFS 100	Steven Pitts	M [REDACTED] & M [REDACTED] T [REDACTED] DCFS Brandon Smith	211.5	Foster homes shall not have more than five (5) foster children in care. A foster home shall not have more than eight (8) children in their home, including their own.	To allow 2 sibling groups as well as 4 other children to have a safe and loving home while in care. There would be a total of 9 children in the home. 6 of those children are foster children.	4/23/21
h. DCFS 100	Charlotte Galusha	L [REDACTED] J [REDACTED] s DCFS Tiesha Rone	209.1	Each household occupant shall have a bedroom that provides privacy.	To allow a sibling group of 5 to remain with their grandmother. The grandmother has moved her disable son into the living room. Two of the rooms for the grandchildren measure 94.48 sq. ft. for 2 of the boys and the other room measures 129.03 sq. ft. for the girls.	5/4/21
i. DCFS 100	Ezell Breedlove	N [REDACTED] M [REDACTED] DCFS Katese Mason	209.2	Each bedroom shall have at least 50 square feet of floor space per occupant.	To allow siblings to remain in the home with their relative. The 2 males will share a room that measures 93.80 sq. ft.	4/29/21
j. DCFS 100	Lakesha White	D [REDACTED] W [REDACTED] DCFS Tarsha Cook	209.2	Each bedroom shall have at least 50 square feet of floor space per occupant.	To all the 7 y/o niece to share a room with her 4 y/o & 10 y/o cousins in a room that measures 120 sq. ft.	4/28/21
k. ABCH 140	Lakesha White	W [REDACTED] & S [REDACTED] M [REDACTED] ABCH Ashely Spinks	211.5	Foster homes shall not have more than five (5) foster children in care. A foster home shall not have more than eight (8) children in their home, including their own.	To allow the 6 th placed foster child to remain in proximity of her siblings.	4/28/21
l. DCFS 100	Steven Pitts	M [REDACTED] & D [REDACTED] H [REDACTED] DCFS Charlie Boyd	209.2	Each bedroom shall have at least 50 square feet of floor space per occupant.	To allow 3 siblings to remain together in a room that measures 149.547 sq. ft.	4/28/21
m. DCFS 100	Lakesha White	K [REDACTED] & D [REDACTED] W [REDACTED] DCFS Susan Townsend	209.2	Each bedroom shall have at least 50 square feet of floor space per occupant.	To allow siblings to remain together with relatives in a room that measures 134 Sq. ft.	4/30/21
n. DCFS 100	Charlotte Galusha	S [REDACTED] & A [REDACTED] DCFS Tammy Blount	209.2	Each bedroom shall have at least 50 square feet of floor space per occupant.	To allow a 3-month-old female to remain in the home of her grandparents. She will share a room with her 17 y/o Aunt in a room that measures 98.07 sq. ft.	5/03/21
o. DCFS 100	Rachel Carlton	L [REDACTED] V [REDACTED] DCFS Cindy Sparkman	209.10	Foster children, except infants under age two (2) years, shall not share a sleeping room with adults;	To allow a 6 y/o male to share a room at 109.9 sq. ft. with his grandmother. This will allow the	5/03/21

				this age would increase through age four (4) for a grandparent to the child and a teen parent in foster care with her child.	foster child to remain with relatives.	
p. DCFS 100 NLN	Beth Davis	H & E DCFS Demijah Newman	211.6	Foster homes shall not have more than two (2) children under the age of two (2) years, including the foster parent's own children	To allow a 19 month old burn victim to live in a home with foster parents that already have 3 children under the age of 2. The foster parents feel that they can supply the foster child with love and give him the care that he needs.	5/04/21
q. DCFS 100	Charlotte Galusha	M & W DCFS Gwen Maxwell	209.2	Each bedroom shall have at least 50 square feet of floor space per occupant.	To allow a 1 y/o to remain in the care of his Aunt while sharing a room with his cousins that measures 91.91 sq. ft.	5/11/21
r. DCFS 100	Beth Davis	E & P DCFS Darrian Ison	209.2	Each bedroom shall have at least 50 square feet of floor space per occupant.	To allow 3 siblings to share a room that measures 119 sq. ft.	5/12/21
s. DCFS 100	Rachel Carlton	S & B DCFS Melissa Emery	209.10	Foster children, except infants under age two (2) years, shall not share a sleeping room with adults: this age would increase.	To allow a 16 y/o foster child to share a room with her biological 19 y/o sister that will soon go to college in the fall.	5/25/21
t. DCFS 100	Lakesha White	J & G DCFS Tarsha Cook	209.1	Each household occupant shall have a bedroom that provides privacy.	To allow the 6 y/o grandson to remain with his grandmother, while she sleeps on a pull-out sofa in the living room.	5/27/21
u. DCFS 100	Sharra Litzsey	T & C DCFS Gala Griffin	209.2	Each bedroom shall have at least 50 square feet of floor space per occupant.	To allow a newborn foster child to share a room with the foster parents that measures 131 sq. ft.	6/02/21
v. DCFS 100	Sharra Litzsey	V & M DCFS Jennifer Watkins	209.10	Foster children, except infants under age two (2) years, shall not share a sleeping room with adults: this age would increase.	To allow a medically fragile 5 y/o foster child to share a bedroom with her grandmother.	6/03/21
w. DCFS 100	Sharra Litzsey	T & C DCFS Brittany Garth	209.7	Children of the opposite sex shall not share the same bedroom if either child is four (4) years or older, except for a parent in foster care with her child.	To allow siblings of the opposite sex ages 6 and 12 to share a bedroom and to remain in a relative placement home.	6/03/21
x. ABCH	Lakesha White	A ABCH Maggie Peeler	209.10	Foster children, except infants under age two (2) years, shall not share a sleeping room with adults: this age would increase.	To allow a 2 y/o to remain in the bedroom with the foster parents in her own bed. There are other bedrooms in the home, but due to the home being built into a hill, the	5/10/21

					windows in the other bedroom are too high for the foster child to reach in case of an emergency.	
y. Compact 147	Beth Davis	W [REDACTED] Compact Brian Page	209.2 209.7	Each bedroom shall have at least 50 square feet of floor space per occupant. Children of the opposite sex shall not share the same bedroom if either child is four (4) years or older, except for a parent in foster care with her child.	To allow siblings ages 5, 4, and 3 of the opposite sex to share a bedroom that measures at 108.78 sq. ft. The male child was initially placed in his own bedroom. However, this caused trauma for the children and they begged to share the same bedroom. This would be in the best interest for the children.	5/20/21
z. DCFS 100	Beth Davis	R [REDACTED] D [REDACTED] DCFS Andrew Davault	209.2 209.7	Each bedroom shall have at least 50 square feet of floor space per occupant. Children of the opposite sex shall not share the same bedroom if either child is four (4) years or older, except for a parent in foster care with her child.	To allow siblings of the opposite sex ages 8 (F), 7 (F) and 4 (M) share a room that measures 131.3 sq. ft. This will allow the siblings to remain in a relative placement home.	5/18/21
aa. DCFS 100	Lakesha White	D [REDACTED] & B [REDACTED] H [REDACTED] DCFS Jessica Edwards	211.6	Foster homes shall not have more than two (2) children under the age of two (2) years, including the foster parent's own children.	To allow a 9-month-old male foster child to be placed with his relatives that has 5 children. The ages are 7-year-old twins, 9-month-old twins and a 2-year-old male. This foster home has the transportation and support to meet the needs of the children.	4/15/21
bb. DCFS 100	Ezell Breedlove	S [REDACTED] C [REDACTED] DCFS Ambra Conway	209.1	Each household occupant shall have a bedroom that provides privacy.	To allow 2 foster siblings to have their own room. The foster parent request to continue to sleep in the living due to her health conditions which allows her to have rest at night.	5/19/21
cc. DCFS 100	Steven Pitts	P [REDACTED] H [REDACTED] DCFS Charlie Boyd	209.7	Children of the opposite sex shall not share the same bedroom if either child is 4 or older, except for a parent in foster care with her child.	To allow 3 siblings to share a room in their grandparent's home that measures 120 sq. ft. The siblings are 9 y/o male, 8 y/o male & 5 y/o female. This will allow the children to remain in the home with relatives.	4/22/21

dd. DCFS 100	Charlotte Galusha	L [REDACTED] J [REDACTED] DCFS Tiesha Rone	209.2	Each bedroom shall have at least 50 Sq. ft. of floor space per occupant.	To allow a sibling group of 5 to remain with their grandmother. The grandmother has moved her disable son into the living room. Two of the rooms for the grandchildren measure 94.48 sq. ft. for 2 of the boys and the other room measures 129.03 sq. ft. for the girls.	5/4/21
-----------------	-------------------	---	-------	--	--	--------

Date of Next meeting: Thursday August 26, 2021

Transcript of the Testimony of

06242021 CWARB

Date: June 24, 2021

Case:

Bushman Court Reporting

Laura Carnahan

Phone: (501) 372-5115

Fax: (501) 378-0077

www.bushmanreporting.com

STATE OF ARKANSAS
CHILD WELFARE AGENCY REVIEW
BOARD MEETING

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

June 24, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Andy Altom, Chair, Foster Care Unit
Charles Flynn, Emergency Shelters Unit
Beverly Massey Foti, Psychiatric Residential Care Unit
David Whatley, Residential Care Unit
Andrew Watson
Sandi Doherty
SANFORD TOLLETTE:

ALSO PRESENT:

Joe West, DCFS Designee Attorney for the Board
Michelle Bridges-Bell
Ebony Russ, PRLU Program Manager
Ashelyn Abney, OCC/ECE

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. 96013

1	INDEX	
2	WELCOME - Ebony Russ, PRLU Program Manager - Meeting Facilitator.....	4
3	CALL TO ORDER - Mr. Andy Altom, Chairman.....	4
4	APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES - April 22, 2021.....	4
5	ITEM 1. LIFELINE CHILDREN SERVICES, INC.....	5
6	ITEM 2. ARBOR HOUSE.....	5
7	ITEM 3. ARKANSAS BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES.....	7
8	VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTIONS.....	8
9	CONTINUE ITEM 3. ARKANSAS BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES.....	9
10	ITEM 4. DANA'S HOUSE.....	10
11	CONTINUE ITEM 1. LIFELINE CHILDREN SERVICES, INC.....	12
12	ITEM 5. PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN.....	15
13	a. DCFS - MS. H.....	16
	b. DCFS - MR. W.....	20
14	c. DCFS - MS. M.....	21
	d. DCFS - MR. W.....	21
15	e. DCFS - MS. E.....	24
	f. DCFS - MR. H.....	25
16	g. DCFS - MR. B.....	26
	h. DCFS - MR. B.....	27
17	i. DCFS - MS. B.....	28
	j. DCFS - MS. G.....	29
18	k. DCFS - Y.O.....	30
	l. DCFS - MR. B.....	30
19	m. DCFS - MS. S.....	32
	n. DCFS - P.P.....	32
20	o. DCFS - Ms. S.....	32
	p. DCFS - P.....	33
21	DISCUSSION ABOUT PERMISSIONS ON AGENDA THAT ARE NO LONGER NEEDED.....	34
22	q. DCFS - MR. P.....	36
23	r. DCFS - MS. P.....	44
24	s. MILLCREEK - MR. J.....	45
	t. CENTERS - MR. C.....	47
25		

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 INDEX (CONTINUED)

2 ITEM 6. Exhibit "A" - Approval of Special
 Considerations/Temporary Approvals "Bundle" "A"..... 50

3 Exhibit "A", Approval of Special
 Considerations/Temporary Approvals "Bundle"... (MARKED) 52

4

5 ITEM 7. OMITTED

6 ITEM 8. REPORT OF TEMPORARY APPROVALS/ACTIONS (LOGS
 PRESENTED) JUNE 24, 2021..... 52

7 ITEM 9. OTHER BUSINESS..... 52

8 a. Licenced Facilities Update..... 53

9 b. Ebony Russ: Introduction of new staff..... 87

9 ADJOURNED 89

10 COURT REPORTER CERTIFICATE 90

11 Date of Next meeting: Thursday, August 26, 2021

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 PROCEEDINGS

2 (THEREUPON, the meeting began at 1:30 p.m. on
3 June 24, 2021.)

4 MS. EBONY RUSS: Good afternoon, everyone, I am
5 Ebony Russ. I am the Program Manager for the
6 Placement and Residential Licensings Unit. Thank you
7 for participating in this Child Welfare Agency Review
8 Board meeting. I do have just a little housekeeping
9 issues that I'd like to discuss with DCFS staff and
10 Agency staff. When you do present your potential
11 applicant, if you could respond to that person by
12 their -- Mr. or Ms. and the initial of their last
13 name. Okay? So we will follow the agenda, according
14 to how it's presented. So I will turn it over to Mr.
15 Altom.

16 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All right. We'll call the
17 Child Welfare Agency Review Board meeting for June
18 24, 2021 now in session. Called to Order. First
19 item of business is the approval of minutes. The
20 Board should have received minutes from April 22nd
21 and the Special Board meeting is also for May 28th
22 and June 1st, 2021.

23 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I make a motion
24 that we approve all the minutes as they are entered.

25 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I have a motion to approve

1 all the minutes.

2 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: Second.

3 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Second is Andrew. 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 ITEM 1. LIFELINE CHILDREN'S SERVICES, INC.:

12 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Motion carries. First up is
13 Lifeline Children Services, Inc. New application.
14 Lisa Kelly, from Op --

15 MS. EBONY RUSS: Is Fatima Stepps available?

16 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Who's presenting that?

17 MS. EBONY RUSS: So, for Lifeline, we have Lisa
18 Kelly available by Zoom as she's -- also Fatima
19 Stepps. Okay. Can we move to the next one? I'm not
20 sure what happened to Fatima.

21 ITEM 2. ARBOR HOUSE:

22 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Sure. We'll move on to the
23 next. Arbor House, request to maintain inactive
24 license for TFC Home. Antimoore Jackson, Ezell
25 Breedlove.

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 MS. EBONY RUSS: Is it on?

2 MR. EZELL BREEDLOVE: Testing, testing.

3 UNKNOWN: Oops. Sorry. Let me turn this on,
4 you guys. Sorry. There you go.

5 MR. EZELL BREEDLOVE: All right. Okay. I'm
6 Ezell Breedlove here to present for Arbor House.
7 Arbor House has been inactive since 2011. Arbor
8 House has requested in writing for the therapeutic
9 foster care placement license to remain open. PRLU
10 recommends the Agency's therapeutic foster care
11 placement license be granted to remain open until
12 June 30, 2022.

13 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Is there a motion, to accept
14 the request, from the Board?

15 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: (RAISES HAND).

16 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: I'll make -- go
17 with Andy.

18 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Andrew makes a motion.

19 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Second.

20 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: David seconds. Any
21 discussion?

22 (NO RESPONSE)

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

24 (CHORUS OF AYES)

25 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Carries.

1 ITEM 3. ARKANSAS BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME:

2 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Arkansas Baptist Children's
3 Home. Request to maintain inactive license for
4 Arkansas Baptist Ranch. Charles, do you have --

5 MS. RACHEL READER: (INAUDIBLE) --

6 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I'm just checking
7 real quick. Who else is present for the Board?

8 MS. RACHEL READER: We are requesting that
9 Arkansas Baptist Ranch license (INAUDIBLE) --

10 COURT REPORTER: Excuse me. I can't hear that.
11 Can you stop her?

12 MS. RACHEL READER: (INAUDIBLE).

13 MS. EBONY RUSS: I'm sorry.

14 MS. RACHEL READER: This agency has been on the
15 (INAUDIBLE) --

16 MS. EBONY RUSS: Rachel?

17 MS. RACHEL READER: -- since --

18 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: We don't have a
19 quorum.

20 MS. EBONY RUSS: Rachel Reader.

21 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Unless they're
22 online. I can't tell.

23 MS. RACHEL READER: Yes, ma'am?

24 MS. EBONY RUSS: I'm sorry. We couldn't hear
25 you. If you could just give us a second.

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Ebony, we need to make sure
2 we have a quorum. Do we have board members online?

3 MS. EBONY RUSS: I know Sandy -- not Sandy --
4 Sanford requested the Zoom link and I can't tell if
5 he's there.

6 (THEREUPON, Board Member Sandi Doherty joins
7 meeting in-person.)

8 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: We're good now.
9 Here's Sandi.

10 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Now, here's Sandi.

11 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: There's Sandy. We're good.

12 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: She's got us
13 covered, so...

14 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: We're going to have
15 to go back and vote again.

16 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Sorry.

17 VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTIONS:

18 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: We will go back and re-
19 address the minutes. Sandy, we had a motion to
20 approve the three sets of minutes that we were given
21 and seconded. We've -- we're ready to vote, if
22 you're ready.

23 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: I'm ready.

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

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 (CHORUS OF AYES)

2 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

3 (NO RESPONSE)

4 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All right. Minutes carry.

5 Also, we had Arbor House that requested to maintain
6 their inactive license. That was moved and seconded.

7 All those in favor say, "Aye."

8 (CHORUS OF AYES)

9 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

10 (NO RESPONSE)

11 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: And that carries. Charles,
12 you ready?

13 CONTINUE ITEM 3. ARKANSAS BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES:

14 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I'm ready. You see
15 the request. Most of you know that there has been a
16 foster Care on our two main campuses. Just for
17 another year we'd like to keep our residential
18 license inactive at those two locations, our Family
19 Style Care at Arkansas Baptist Ranch and Arkansas
20 Baptist Foster Children.

21 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Mr. Chair, this is
22 David. I'll make a motion to approve the request.

23 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I have a motion to approve.
24 Is there a second?

25 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: I'll second.

1 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: There's a second from Sandi.

2 All those in favor say, "Aye."

3 (CHORUS OF AYES)

4 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I abstain.

5 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

6 (NO RESPONSE)

7 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN:

8 ITEM 4: DANA'S HOUSE:

9 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Dana's House, request to
10 exceed 90 days in shelter. We have Teona Bell and
11 Jeremy Myers.

12 MR. JEREMY MYERS: Good afternoon. Dana's House
13 is a licensed residential in adversity facility and
14 has a long history of compliance with the minimum
15 license standards. The Agency is requesting a
16 special consideration on license standards 201.11, to
17 exceed the 90 days maximum stay for the emergency
18 placement of a child in care since -- I mean -- until
19 January 18, 2021. This extension will allow DCFS
20 more time to secure an appropriate specialized
21 placement for this child. Placement and residential
22 license unit supports the Agency request.

23 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: What's the age of the child?

24 MR. JEREMY MYERS: The age of the child is --

25 MS. EBONY RUSS: Is Ms. Teona available?

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 MR. JEREMY MYERS: -- 11.

2 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay.

3 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: This is David.

4 I'll make a motion to approve the request.

5 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I'll second.

6 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: We have a motion and a
7 second.

8 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Should I abstain
9 since that's one of our children?

10 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Yeah. Thank you, Sandi. If
11 you're abstaining from that. Also, Charles, you
12 abstain from the --

13 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I did abstain from
14 the previous one.

15 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I didn't hear you. All those
16 in favor say, "Aye."

17 (CHORUS OF AYES)

18 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

19 (NO RESPONSE)

20 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Carries. Permission to work
21 with children --

22 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: But is Fatima up
23 there?

24 MS. EBONY RUSS: She is.

25 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: I saw her up there.

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 MS. EBONY RUSS: Ms. Fatima is available; she's
2 on Zoom.

3 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Okay. Good.

4 MS. EBONY RUSS: So, Fatima, are you ready to
5 present?

6 MS. FATIMA STEPPS: Yes, I am here. I
7 apologize.

8 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay.

9 CONTINUE ITEM 1. LIFELINE CHILDREN SERVICES, INC.:

10 MS. FATIMA STEPPS: Fatima Stepps, for --

11 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: This is going back up to
12 Lifeline Children's. Okay. Go ahead.

13 MS. FATIMA STEPPS: Yes. Fatima Stepps with the
14 Placement and Residential Licensing Unit. You should
15 have before you the request for Lifeline Children
16 Services, Inc. Lifeline Children's Services, Inc. is
17 establishing an Arkansas office in Little Rock. The
18 Agency is requesting a new provisional adoption and
19 foster care placement license for one year, to
20 provide adoptive and foster care services in the
21 State of Arkansas.

22 (THEREUPON, Board Member Beverly Massey Foti
23 joins the meeting, in-person.)

24 MS. FATIMA STEPPS: Lifeline Children's
25 Services, Inc. was established in 1985 in the State

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 of Alabama. The Agency currently holds 13 licenses
2 in various states to provide adoptive care services,
3 which are in good standing.

4 Rosheka Amores (PHONETIC) will be the Arkansas
5 locations Administrator/Social Services Director of
6 Caseworker for our location. Ms. Amores has a BA
7 degree in human services agency management, and over
8 15 years experience in various areas of the human
9 services field.

10 Lifeline Children's Services, Inc. obtained the
11 approval to conduct business in the State of Arkansas
12 in March of 2021. A consultation visit was conducted
13 on April 9th, 2021 and all relevant policies and
14 procedures were reviewed and have been determined to
15 meet licensing standards. The Agency also has
16 multiple accreditations through nationally recognized
17 entities in the adoptions field.

18 Lifeline Children's Services, Inc. has applied
19 for a new provisional adoption and foster care
20 license. The Agency has been reviewed and has been
21 determined to meet the minimum licensing standards to
22 obtain new provisional license for one year.

23 The Placement and Residential Licensing Unit
24 supports that agency's request for a new license.

25 I have Lisa Kelly on the Zoom call, should you

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 have any questions about the application.

2 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Does the Board have any
3 questions?

4 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Lisa, would you
5 like to -- this is Charles. Would you like to say
6 anything about Lifeline and your presence here in
7 Arkansas?

8 MS. EBONY RUSS: You're on mute, Lisa.

9 MS. LISA KELLY: Can you hear me okay?

10 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Yes.

11 MS. LISA KELLY: Okay. Thank you for the
12 opportunity for potentially serving Arkansas. We are
13 super excited to be able to bring in the option to
14 the area. Fatima did a great job explaining
15 everything that we do. We have some other ministry
16 arms that we hope, if everything goes well with
17 adoption, we can also bring in to the State of
18 Arkansas who are (INAUDIBLE) of inspiration and are
19 just (INAUDIBLE) work from here, too. But that will
20 take some time. So we're just excited to be able to
21 have this opportunity and hope that (INAUDIBLE).

22 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Great. Are there any other
23 questions?

24 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: This is Charles. I
25 would like to make a motion to approve this request

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 from Lifeline.

2 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I have a motion. Is there a
3 second?

4 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: This is David.
5 I'll second.

6 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I have a second from David.
7 Anymore discussion?

8 (NO RESPONSE)

9 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All in favor say "Aye."

10 (CHORUS OF AYES)

11 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

12 (NO RESPONSE)

13 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Motion carries.

14 ITEM 5. PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN:

15 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: We'll move to Permissions to
16 Work With Children.

17 MS. FATIMA STEPPS: Thank you, Mr. Altom.

18 MS. LISA KELLY: Thank you, so much.

19 MS. EBONY RUSS: Mr. Altom, would you like for
20 me to call the --

21 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Yes, if you would.

22 MS. EBONY RUSS: Okay. So we're at Permissions
23 to Work With Children and we will begin with DCFS.

24 COURT REPORTER: Excuse me.

25 (THEREUPON, the Reporter requests

1 clarification.)

2 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Mr. Chair, --

3 MS. EBONY RUSS: We will begin with Permission

4 --

5 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: -- I'm going to

6 have to abstain from all these, but the last two.

7 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay.

8 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Instead of just

9 saying it each time. I'm abstaining from all of them

10 except "s" and "t".

11 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, ITEM 5a:

12 MS. EBONY RUSS: Okay. We have Gala Griffin,
13 Athalia Dismuke.

14 MS. ATHALIA DISMUKE: Athalia.

15 MS. EBONY RUSS: Athalia. I'm sorry. With Ms.
16 H. If you could, please report to the front.

17 MS. ATHALIA DISMUKE: My name is Athalia Dismuke
18 with the Department of Human Services. Before you we
19 have Ms. H., who has applied to be a provisional for
20 her grandchildren in Union County.

21 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay. Well this is the first
22 that we're getting this information, so it's going to
23 take the Board a minute to read through it and stuff.
24 That, if Ms. H. would like to go ahead and, if she
25 has anything to say, wants to address the Board, go

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 ahead. And we'll try to read and listen at the same
2 time, if that's okay?

3 MS. H.: Well I'm the -- Ms. H. and I wanted to
4 get my grandkids. I'd rather for me to have them,
5 than them to be in the system. I'll do everything I
6 can for them, like I always have did, when they lived
7 in Strong with me. Well, on the next street, with
8 their uncle. But I want my grandkids.

9 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay.

10 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Do your
11 grandchildren have a special name for you? What do
12 your grandchildren call you?

13 MS. H.: What do I call them?

14 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: No, what name do
15 they call you?

16 MS. H.: Granny.

17 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Granny. Okay?

18 MS. H.: Uh-huh.

19 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Are you able to see
20 them very often?

21 MS. H.: Well not as often as I was seeing them,
22 'cause they in the system. But, whenever I can, I go
23 see them.

24 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: I'd like to know
25 how you pronounce the three-year-old's name?

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 MS. H.: Demarcianna (PHONETIC).

2 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Okay.

3 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Do you have a
4 nickname?

5 MS. H.: Marci (PHONETIC).

6 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: That's a lot to say
7 when you need to call him to come in.

8 MS. H.: Pardon?

9 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: That's a lot to say
10 when it's time to come in.

11 MS. H.: Yeah, I call her Marci, too.

12 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Are there two
13 requests that are separate?

14 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Ask her.

15 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Are there two
16 requests on this? I noticed there's older criminal
17 charges. So is this one request or is there a
18 separate request, as well?

19 MS. ATHALIA DISMUKE: It's one request to the --
20 for Permission to Work With Children, but she also
21 did her medical marijuana, so we put that request in
22 there also.

23 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: The medical
24 marijuana card is something the Agency -- or -- DCFS
25 approves or doesn't.

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Oh.

2 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Sometimes they'll
3 put that in there just so you'll have that
4 information.

5 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Okay.

6 MR. JOE WEST: If you're in (INAUDIBLE).

7 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: But it says she
8 does not have one -- have a card.

9 BOARD MEMBER BEVERLY MASSEY FOTI: She doesn't.

10 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: She does not have a
11 card.

12 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: She doesn't.

13 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: You know, given the
14 reference to this, she doesn't pose a threat for
15 children. All the things have been looked at. I
16 make a motion that we approve this request.

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

19 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: I'll second.

20 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: And a second. Any more
21 discussion, questions?

22 (NO RESPONSE)

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

25 (CHORUS OF AYES)

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

2 (NO RESPONSE)

3 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Congratulations.

4 MS. H.: Thank you.

5 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, ITEM 5b:

6 MS. EBONY RUSS: Okay. Next on the agenda we
7 have Ms. Dismuke, and, with her, applicant Mr. W.

8 MS. ATHALIA DISMUKE: We have Mr. W., who is the
9 life partner of Ms. H., who also applied for the
10 provisional for the grandchildren (INAUDIBLE).

11 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: One of your
12 references says you spoil the children. Is that --
13 are you guilty of that? Do you spoil the children?

14 MR. W.: Yes.

15 (LAUGHTER)

16 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I'll make a motion that we
17 approve this request. Is there a second?

18 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I'll second.

19 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Charles seconds. Any
20 discussion?

21 (NO RESPONSE)

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

24 (CHORUS OF AYES)

25 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 (THEREUPON, Board Member Sanford Tollette joins
2 the meeting, via Zoom.)

3 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: If I may take
4 the liberty, Mr. Chairman. Sanford Tollette, here.

5 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Sure.

6 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: (INAUDIBLE).

7 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Go ahead, Sanford.

8 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: Oh, I was just
9 reporting in that, you know, we finally got
10 connection going.

11 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Oh, great. Glad to have you.

12 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: All right. Good
13 to be here.

14 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Congratulations.

15 MR. W.: Thank you, sir.

16 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, ITEM 5c:

17 MS. EBONY RUSS: Next, with DCFS, we have Ms.
18 Rone or Ms. Beasley, for Ms. M.

19 MS. TIESHA RONE: Hi. My name is Tiesha Rone.
20 My client is not here. I'm requesting that we
21 postpone it to the end.

22 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay.

23 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, ITEM 5d:

24 MS. EBONY RUSS: Next on the agenda, with DCFS,
25 we have either Ms. Dunn or Ms. Scott, from DCFS, for

1 Ms. W.

2 MS. MARY DOBBINS: Good afternoon. I'm Mary
3 Dobbins, resource worker for area 10, here with Ms.
4 W. She's a provisional applicant.

5 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I'm sorry. Can you speak up?
6 I can barely hear you.

7 MS, MARY DOBBINS: I'm Mary Dobbins, resource
8 worker, from Lee County. I'm here with Ms. W. She
9 is here as a provisional applicant for her great
10 niece.

11 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay.

12 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Y'all had quite a
13 drive over, didn't you?

14 MS. MARY DOBBINS: We did.

15 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Did you stop and
16 eat lunch?

17 MS. MARY DOBBINS: Not yet.

18 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Make her feed you
19 on the way back.

20 (LAUGHTER)

21 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Does the Board have any
22 questions?

23 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: Yes.

24 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: This is David. I
25 make a motion --

1 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: Mr. Chairman?

2 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Yes?

3 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: I tuned in late.
4 Where are we on the agenda? I have a ton of papers
5 here. I want to make sure I'm looking at the right
6 thing.

7 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: We are at "d".

8 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: He does not have
9 any paperwork.

10 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: It should have been at -- it
11 was in the packet that Ebony sent out initially.

12 MS. EBONY RUSS: Permissions to work?

13 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Permissions to work; it
14 wasn't on there?

15 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: It's on the agenda,
16 Sanford.

17 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: Okay.

18 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: If you look at the
19 Agenda on five of the letters. You can keep up with
20 it that way, but you'll not have documentation.

21 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Right.

22 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: Exactly. Okay.
23 That's what I thought. I'm not present, so I
24 understand. Thank you.

25 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I'll make a motion

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 to approve this request to (INAUDIBLE).

2 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: No issues since
3 2004, correct?

4 MS. W.: No.

5 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Second.

6 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Second, okay. Any more
7 discussion, questions?

8 (NO RESPONSE)

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

11 (CHORUS OF AYES)

12 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

13 (NO RESPONSE)

14 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Congratulations.

15 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, 5e:

16 MS. EBONY RUSS: Thank you. Next on the agenda,
17 for DCFS, we have either Ms. Blount or Swope, or Mr.
18 or Ms. E.

19 MS. TIESHA RONE: Hi. My name is Tiesha Rone.
20 I'm a resource worker in Garland and Pulaski County.
21 And I'm here with Ms. E. She applied to be the
22 provisional foster parent for her partner's cousins.

23 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: No incidences -- it's been
24 over seven years ago, right?

25 MS. E.: No, sir.

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I'll make a motion that we
2 approve this request.

3 BOARD MEMBER BEVERLY MASSEY FOTI: I'll second.
4 Beverly.

5 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any more discussion or
6 questions?

7 (NO RESPONSE)

8 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: All in favor, say "Aye."

9 (CHORUS OF AYES)

10 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

11 (NO RESPONSE)

12 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Congratulations.

13 MS. E.: Thank you.

14 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, 5f:

15 MS. EBONY RUSS: Next on the agenda, from DCFS,
16 we either have Mr. Hurley or Ms. Sims, for a Mr. H.

17 MS. GWEN MAXWELL: Hi. I'm Gwen Maxwell, with
18 DHS. I'm here --

19 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I'm sorry. Let's --

20 MS. GWEN MAXWELL: My name is Gwen Maxwell. I'm
21 here, presenting Mr. H. for consideration to work
22 with his grandchildren.

23 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Just so I'm clear. This is
24 from an incident in 1992?

25 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: How long since

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 you've (INAUDIBLE)?

2 MS. H.: I have not (INAUDIBLE).

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

5 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I have a motion. Is there a
6 second?

7 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: Second.

8 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Second from Andrew. Any
9 discussion?

10 (NO RESPONSE)

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

12 (CHORUS OF AYES)

13 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

14 (NO RESPONSE)

15 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Motion carries.

16 Congratulations.

17 MR. H.: Thank you, sir.

18 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, 5g:

19 MS. EBONY RUSS: Thank you. Next on the agenda,
20 from DCFS, is Ms. Shaleena White or Ms. Sharum, for
21 Mr. B.

22 MS. SHALEENA WHITE: Good afternoon. My name is
23 Shaleena White. I'm a resource worker for Logan
24 County. Today I'm here with Mr. B. We are
25 requesting that he remain open as a provisional home

1 for his wife's cousin. If you have any questions, he
2 is here to directly answer.

3 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Are you a welder?

4 MR. B.: Yes, sir.

5 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: This was over 19 years ago?

6 MR. B.: Yes, sir.

7 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: No other issues since then?

8 MR. B.: No, sir.

9 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I make a motion to approve
10 this request.

11 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: I'll second.

12 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: We have a second. Any
13 discussion, questions?

14 (NO RESPONSE)

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

17 (CHORUS OF AYES)

18 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

19 (NO RESPONSE)

20 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Congratulations.

21 MR. B: Thank you, sir.

22 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, 5h:

23 MS. EBONY RUSS: Thank you. From DCFS, we have
24 Mr. Hurley with Ms. D. DCFS, Charles Hurley.

25 MS. MICHELLE BROWNING: Hi. This is Michelle

1 Browning. I'm a resource worker for Faulkner County.
2 Do you mind telling me what is this for, for Ms. D.,
3 because we asked for her to be removed, but you did
4 have two waivers and I'm not sure which one this is
5 for?

6 MS. EBONY RUSS: This is for the permission to
7 work.

8 MS. MICHELLE BROWNING: (INAUDIBLE).

9 MS. EBONY RUSS: No. Did you want to remove the
10 permission to work?

11 MS. MICHELLE BROWNING: Yes.

12 MS. EBONY RUSS: Okay. Well you're not even for
13 this one.

14 MS. MICHELLE BROWNING: Okay.

15 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: So we're removing that?

16 MS. EBONY RUSS: So we're removing letter "h".

17 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay.

18 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, 5i:

19 MS. EBONY RUSS: From DCFS, we have Ms. Rone,
20 for Mr. or Ms. B -- Ms. B.

21 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay.

22 MS. TIESHA RONE: Hi. My name is Tiesha Rone.
23 I'm here with Ms. B. She is applying to be a
24 provisional foster parent for her granddaughter.

25 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Is there a motion?

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

3 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I'll second that.

4 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I have a motion and a second;
5 any more discussion?

6 (NO RESPONSE)

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

9 (CHORUS OF AYES)

10 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

11 (NO RESPONSE)

12 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Motion carries.
13 Congratulations.

14 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, 5j:

15 MS. EBONY RUSS: Next on the agenda, from DCFS,
16 Ms. Cook-Smith or Ms. Mangrum, for Ms. G.

17 MS. TARSHA COOK-SMITH: Hi. I'm Tarsha Cook,
18 from Mississippi County. I'm a resource worker
19 there. And I'm presenting Ms. G. She's a
20 provisional applicant for her grandson.

21 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Is there a motion from the
22 Board?

23 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: This is David.
24 I'll make a motion to approve the request.

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

1 discussion?

2 (NO RESPONSE)

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

5 (CHORUS OF AYES)

6 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

7 (NO RESPONSE)

8 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Congratulations.

9 MS. G.: Thank you.

10 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, 51:

11 MS. EBONY RUSS: Thank you. Next on the agenda,
12 from DCFS, either Ms. Kasey Tolbert, Erica Crisp
13 (PHONETIC), Rae Shook, for Ms. B. -- Mr. B. I'm
14 sorry.

15 COURT REPORTER: Did you skip k?

16 MS. EBONY RUSS: "k" is no longer needed.
17 Letter "k" is no longer needed?

18 MS. ERICA CRISP: Good afternoon. My name is
19 Erica Crisp. I'm a resource worker for Johnson
20 County. I am here with Mr. B. We are requesting
21 that he have permission to remain open as a
22 provisional relative home for his three cousins.

23 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Mr. -- can you tell
24 -- what can you tell us about these three cousins?
25 How old are they? I could probably find it in here,

1 but it's easier for me to ask you.

2 MR. B.: They're one, three, and four.

3 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: All right. You
4 know, one of the things, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate.
5 I read a report, the other day, that, in Arkansas,
6 over 38% of the children in foster care are in a
7 provisional home. I think that's really great here.
8 And it's good that we can come together like this and
9 discuss this, so that we can make this happen in
10 situations. Because -- I'm thankful that you're
11 willing to come before us today, like all these other
12 people have, in a situation that could be
13 embarrassing. The easy thing to do would be to not
14 do this. So, thanks, for being willing to step up
15 for these little ones.

16 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: Nothing since 2005?

17 MR. B.: No, sir.

18 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: I make a motion we
19 approve.

20 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: We have a motion from Andrew.
21 Is there a second?

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

23 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Second from Beverly. Any
24 more 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: Congratulations.

7 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, 5m:

8 MS. EBONY RUSS: Next, from DCFS, we have Ms.

9 Hill or Ms. McDaniel, for Mr. M.

10 (NO RESPONSE)

11 MS. EBONY RUSS: Okay. Letter "m" is no longer

12 needed.

13 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, 5n:

14 MS. EBONY RUSS: Letter "n" is no longer needed.

15 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, 5o:

16 MS. EBONY RUSS: Next, we have, from DCFS, Ms.

17 Casey or Mr. Hurley, for Ms. S.

18 MS. MICHELLE BROWNING: Hi. I'm Michelle

19 Browning, again, resource worker from Faulkner

20 County, requesting for Ms. S. to work with her

21 grandchildren in her home as a provisional.

22 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I see you have a --

23 it says you have a relationship with your

24 grandchildren, I see.

25 MS. S.: Yes, sir.

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: And I'm technically
2 on vacation, so I have three grandchildren, that live
3 overseas, and their parents took a little vacation,
4 for the first time ever, and we're keeping those
5 three grandchildren this week. So I appreciate your
6 relationship you already have with them, so that they
7 have a place that they can go.

8 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Is there a motion from the
9 Board?

10 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I make that motion,
11 Mr. Chair.

12 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: Second.

13 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I have a motion from Charles;
14 second from Andrew. Any more discussion?

15 (NO RESPONSE)

16 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Questions?

17 (NO RESPONSE)

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

20 (CHORUS OF AYES)

21 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Opposed?

22 (NO RESPONSE)

23 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Congratulations.

24 MS. EBONY RUSS: Letter "p" on the agenda is no
25 longer needed.

1 MS. EBONY RUSS: Next, from DCFS, we have Ms.
2 Ballew or Ms. Patrick, for Mr. P.

3 DISCUSSION ABOUT PERMISSIONS ON AGENDA THAT ARE NO LONGER
4 NEEDED:

5 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Ebony, can I ask,
6 was it moved to the August date or it's pulled
7 completely? And the reason I'm asking that is
8 because most of these that are on here we already
9 received temporary approval, but that was only until
10 the Board met, which would be this time. So, if
11 there still going to come in August then we're going
12 to still have to get that temporary on up till
13 August. Because the approval was just until today.

14 MS. EBONY RUSS: Correct. So I do know, for
15 letter "c", for the record, I was advised by Ms. Rone
16 that that is no longer -- that one is no longer
17 needed. For letters "h", "n" -- "m", "n", and "p",
18 it will be moved to the August Board meeting.

19 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Which letters?

20 MS. EBONY RUSS: Letter -- letter "h" is no
21 longer needed. Letter "k" is no longer needed.
22 Letter "m" is no longer needed. Letter "n" is being
23 moved to August. And letter "p" is being moved to
24 August at their request.

25 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: So does DCFS, then,

1 need to get with Charles Flynn?

2 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Are the children in
3 the home?

4 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Yes, sir.

5 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: That would be the
6 question.

7 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Yes, they would be.
8 If we --

9 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Okay. So, yes, so
10 we --

11 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: -- granted
12 temporary approval, yes, they --

13 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: The process that we
14 have only temporary approval till the Board meets.
15 So...

16 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Sandi, are you making a
17 motion to grant temporary approval for those?

18 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: I mean, I certainly
19 requested it until this board meeting and the Board
20 did -- or extended it -- Charles would approve it.
21 And I don't know which ones these are without looking
22 at them. But, yes, we would need to reapprove them
23 till the August --

24 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: That can all be done outside
25 this meeting, right? That's what we've done in the

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 past.

2 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I think it's really
3 important, in my -- for discussion, for them to be
4 here, because I hate for children to be in a home
5 another two months with this pending. You know, it's
6 one thing for a few weeks. It's another thing for
7 two months.

8 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: I really think,
9 probably, DCFS needs to look into why they're not
10 here and then contact Charles, the representative,
11 about whether we need the temporary before the Board
12 meets again.

13 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay. Good, Charles?

14 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Investigate --

15 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: So that's "n" and
16 "p"?

17 MS. EBONY RUSS: Yes, ma'am, "n" and "p".

18 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, 5q:

19 MS. EBONY RUSS: Next on the agenda, moving to
20 letter "q", DCFS staff, for Mr. P.

21 MS. AMBRA CONWAY: Hello. I'm Ambra Conway,
22 area 7 resource worker for Lonoke and Prairie County.
23 Today I have Mr. P with me, seeking provisional
24 placement of his niece and nephew.

25 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Sandi, is this the

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 one we discussed recently? I'm not for sure if
2 you're seeing the packet. So I don't believe the
3 children are in the home yet; is that right?

4 MS. AMBRA CONWAY: Correct.

5 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Because this one
6 was more recent, Mr. Chairman, I thought I would let
7 it come before the whole Board, than me make that
8 decision. (INAUDIBLE).

9 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Can you explain what's
10 changed since this incident?

11 MR. P.: What was that?

12 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Say again?

13 MR. P.: What was it?

14 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: The question is what's
15 changed since you had these violations?

16 MR. P.: Um...

17 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: You mention that you've
18 learned to take care of business; what does that
19 mean? You take care of your business?

20 MR. P.: Yes. I take care of my business. I'll
21 take care of them.

22 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Would you explain a little
23 more about what that means?

24 MR. P.: Basically just hanging on every month.
25 Pay it off and stay out of trouble.

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Often, in these
2 situations, they -- if you -- probably you're hearing
3 that, some of these have happened 30 years ago, in
4 individuals that have had a really good chance to
5 show, "Hey, I've gotten beyond that." Yours is very
6 recent. So that's what we're looking for, is the
7 indication by it. Because we don't have the benefit
8 of 20 years since they've had a problem. So that's
9 why it's really important. That's why I wanted you
10 here today, so you could convince us that those
11 changes have happened and that you're ready to take
12 this responsibility. You know, if the -- this
13 responsibility has to do with your criminal -- your
14 record, where now the responsibility is children. So
15 this is your chance just to convince us that you're
16 up for this.

17 MR. P.: All I can say is I'll do the best I
18 can.

19 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I'm sorry? What?

20 MR. P.: I'll do the best I can.

21 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Do the best you can?

22 MR. P.: Yeah. It's a hard (INAUDIBLE).

23 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: It's got to start somewhere,
24 doesn't it?

25 MR. P.: Yes.

1 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: You haven't had anything
2 since this, though?

3 MR. P.: No. That's really it.

4 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: How far away are
5 you from getting your license back?

6 MR. P.: Getting them back? They had some kind
7 of, I guess, issues with my stuff, because there's,
8 like, two different places saying that they are
9 reinstated and then there's another place saying that
10 oh, they're suspended. So right now I'm working on
11 trying to get that straightened out. I've been to
12 court and everything about it. So...

13 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: Mr. Chairman?

14 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Yes, sir.

15 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: This is Sanford
16 Tollette.

17 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Go ahead, Sanford.

18 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: You know, first
19 of all, I have to -- as Charles pointed out --
20 abstain, because I don't have the documentation on
21 all of the votes, as a matter of record. But, after
22 all the years here, of the individual in front of
23 you, there is a challenge in the system when you make
24 a mistake. How has that impacted you to be before
25 this Commission right now, for them to vote in favor

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 of you? You know, I -- you're almost there, but I
2 need to hear a little bit more, even though I can't
3 vote. Because this is serious.

4 MR. P.: Yes, sir. I understand it's --

5 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: This is serious.

6 MR. P.: I understand it's serious. And this is
7 a big road that I'm taking. And you know, for my
8 wife, and I'm trying my best to be that bigger man
9 and step up for the kids, 'cause I know they're in a
10 hard position right now. So, I mean, I have a lot to
11 give. All I can do is just show it. I know I can do
12 it; I just need to show it.

13 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I saw in the --

14 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: (INAUDIBLE) --

15 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: -- document -- the
16 document -- sorry. Go ahead, Sanford.

17 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: I have been with
18 those people you're looking at for a lot of years.
19 If they vote to give you a chance -- and I'm just
20 going to go off the record -- or, on the record and
21 say this is serious as a heart attack, man. You
22 can't mess up. You gotta be serious if you get this
23 chance. And, you know, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank
24 you and congratulate you. But I get the sense of
25 this. And I understand the system can be stacked

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 against you, also. So when you want to, as Charles
2 said, have -- I think it was Andy that said -- it has
3 to start somewhere. And I can't think of a better
4 group of people for you to be looking at right now,
5 that have shown compassion, over many years, if
6 you're serious.

7 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Sanford, that's --

8 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: Charles asked
9 you, or Andy asked you, what does it mean? This is
10 it. I heard your "wife". So, if you got anything
11 else, I'm trying to give you an open.

12 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Sanford, you and I
13 -- you and I, through the years, have seen a lot of
14 folks that have got a bad charge against them, so we
15 understand that, for sure. It says you knew the
16 children before they went into care.

17 MR. P.: Yes.

18 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: So tell me a little
19 bit about the children, about your relationship with
20 them.

21 MR. P.: Well I know the youngest one, that he
22 crazy about me.

23 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Yeah.

24 MR. P.: He comes and he -- all the time.

25 (INAUDIBLE) (INAUDIBLE) what you doing? You know,

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 always worried about what I'm doing. And I see that
2 he really need me there, so... I mean, I'm really
3 close to them. Whenever they -- I'm going to be
4 honest, I wasn't a kid person. You know, I wasn't
5 that type. I'm a father of two kids. I have two
6 kids of my own. And, of course, you know, me and
7 (INAUDIBLE); we're separated. But I have a
8 relationship with my kids, too. And I see them. And
9 I just grew up to be a pretty good dad. So I'm
10 pretty sure I can be a pretty good role for them
11 kids. I mean that's all I can say. I really don't
12 have the words for it. I just -- I'm here for
13 support (INAUDIBLE) and just do what I can. I'm not
14 good with words. I mean, all I can do is just prove
15 it.

16 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: You did good.
17 Thank you for saying that. That's what I was wanting
18 to hear, personally. I don't know about anybody
19 else, but that's what I was listening for, the
20 passion in your voice.

21 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: Last question,
22 Mr. Chairman.

23 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Yeah, go ahead Sanford.

24 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: How are they
25 doing in school, all your kids?

1 MR. P.: Our kids, they doing great. They doing
2 great.

3 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: No trouble?

4 MR. P.: No trouble. I'm their dad, so, you
5 know...

6 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: Are their grades
7 pretty good?

8 MR. P.: Yeah, grades pretty good. They grades
9 really good. They're good kids. "Yes, sir," "Yes,
10 ma'am," "No, sir," all that. They know about all
11 that. Good manners, all of it. I taught them that.

12 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: Very well.
13 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Even though I can't vote.
14 Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

15 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: You bet, Sanford.

16 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I'd be glad to make
17 a motion to approve this request.

18 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I have a motion. Is there a
19 second?

20 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: I'll second.

21 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Second. Any more discussion
22 or questions?

23 (NO RESPONSE)

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

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 (CHORUS OF AYES)

2 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

3 (NO RESPONSE)

4 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Congratulations.

5 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Are they coming
6 over today? Are y'all going to be able to place them
7 today.

8 MS. AMBRA CONWAY: Yes.

9 MR. P.: Thanks folks.

10 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Great. Thanks.

11 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Good deal.

12 MR. P.: Thank you.

13 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: Good luck.

14 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, 5r:

15 MS. EBONY RUSS: Next on the agenda, from DCFS,
16 Ms. Hobbs, for Mr. P.

17 MS. KIMBERLY HOBBS: I'm Kimberly Hobbs and I'm
18 a resource worker for Gurdon (sic) County. I'm here
19 today with Mr. P and we're asking that he have
20 permission to work with his God-children that are 13
21 and 14, and right now they're open as a fictive kin
22 provisional home.

23 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: This is one of
24 those that Charles was talking about. It's been a
25 long time since there's been anything that occurred.

1 I -- in a way I just apologize that you had to come
2 before this Board.

3 MR. P.: Oh, that's fine.

4 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: But I'd like to
5 make a motion to approve the request.

6 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: We have a motion.

7 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: And I second that.

8 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: A second from Andrew. Any
9 discussion?

10 (NO RESPONSE)

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

13 (CHORUS OF AYES)

14 MR P.: Thank you.

15 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

16 (NO RESPONSE)

17 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Congratulations.

18 MR. P.: Thank you.

19 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, 5s:

20 MS. EBONY RUSS: Thank you. Next on the agenda
21 is Millcreek. Ms. Aaron for a Ms. J.

22 MR. EZELL BREEDLOVE: Good afternoon, again. My
23 name is Ezell Breedlove. I'm here for PRLU. I'm
24 here to introduce Ms. Christie Aaron of Millcreek,
25 the representative who also has brought K.J. --

1 UNKNOWN (FROM ZOOM): Can't hear.

2 MR. EZELL BREEDLOVE: -- who has brought Mr.
3 K.J. who is requesting a special consideration for
4 permission to work with children.

5 MS. CHRISTIE AARON: Good afternoon. I'm
6 Christie Aaron, (INAUDIBLE), with Millcreek. I am
7 here to request a special permission to work on
8 behalf of Mr. J. And he'll entertain any questions
9 that you have for him.

10 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Is this just the
11 one in 2016?

12 MR. J.: Yes, sir.

13 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Okay. And is a
14 misdemeanor -- isn't that -- would that not be heard
15 after August? This is August of 2016. So we're
16 really close to the five years on this. So I'd like
17 to make a motion that this request be approved.
18 Thanks for coming back. I know we had a discussion
19 about this before. So...

20 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I have a motion. I'll second
21 it. Is there any other discussion or questions?

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.

4 MR. J.: Thank you, so much.

5 PERMISSIONS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN, 5t:

6 MS. EBONY RUSS: Thank you. Next on the agenda
7 is Centers for Youth and Families, Ms. Myers for Mr.
8 C.

9 MR. EZELL BREEDLOVE: Again, Ezell Breedlove and
10 we have Centers for Youth and Families. We have Ms.
11 Myers, who is a representative for Centers. And she
12 has Mr. C.

13 MS. CAMI MYERS: Good afternoon. I'm Cami
14 Myers. I'm the Director of Nursing at the Centers.
15 We're here today to petition the Board to make an
16 exception to allow Mr. C. to be employed at Centers
17 as a nurse manager. When we were reviewing
18 applicants for this position, we wanted someone who
19 had an extensive experience in pediatrics and
20 leadership, which Mr. C. did. He worked for 11 years
21 at Arkansas Children's Hospital, where he progressed
22 from a staff nurse into a leadership position. He
23 also was very highly recommended by his superiors at
24 Arkansas Children's. When he did disclose this issue
25 we still felt very strongly about keeping him

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 employed at Centers, which is why we're here today.
2 This is the first employee we have ever petitioned to
3 make an exception for. We do believe in second
4 chances. This was an incident that occurred over 20
5 years ago, when he was a very young man. He did not
6 pose any harm or threat to the health, safety, or
7 welfare of others. He has had no further incidences
8 since that time. He had a long-standing, positive
9 employment at Children's hospital, without any
10 issues. And we really feel like some of his past,
11 that he can relate to our clients.

12 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: Mr. Chairman?

13 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Yes, Sanford.

14 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: I received a
15 pretty ex -- a substantial packet. Is this any way
16 related --

17 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: No. This is
18 unrelated.

19 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: Is this the --

20 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: This -- Sanford,
21 this is totally unrelated to that.

22 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: Okay then.

23 Thank you.

24 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Yes.

25 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: This has been

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 sealed, and, understand, we -- you understand that;
2 even though it's sealed, we still see it. Just the
3 fact that something is sealed says a lot to me, as
4 far as when I make these decisions.

5 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: Yeah.

6 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: We still have to
7 hear it, but it does say somebody else has looked at
8 it before, too.

9 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: I make a motion
10 that we approve this request.

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

13 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I'll second.

14 (THEREUPON, the court reporter requested
15 clarification.)

16 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: So I have a motion from Sandi
17 and a second from Charles. Is there anymore
18 discussion?

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 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Congratulations.

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 MS. CAMI MYERS: Thank you.

2 MR. J.: Thank you.

3 MS. EBONY RUSS: And that concludes the
4 Permissions to Work. Mr. Altom, do you want to move
5 forward?

6 ITEM 6. Exhibit "A" - Approval of Special
7 Considerations/Temporary Approvals "Bundle" "A":

8 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Well the next up is the
9 Exhibit "A", Approval of Special Considerations. Did
10 you have any feedback on that, Ebony, to provide to
11 the board members?

12 MS. EBONY RUSS: Yes. There was a request from
13 Mr. Glenn to separate letters "f" and "h", and I have
14 done so on the most recent agenda. I have added
15 those to the end of the list. Also, there was -- let
16 me make sure. Okay. On letter "p", was no longer
17 needed. That has been scratched from Exhibit "A" --
18 removed.

19 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: So "n" is the only
20 one left... so, it would be "n" is the only one. Oh,
21 never mind. Never mind.

22 MS. EBONY RUSS: Okay. All right.

23 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Do we need motions on this,
24 the changes? A motion to accept as presented?

25 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I'll make that

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 motion, but (INAUDIBLE) this -- some of these I
2 abstain on, so we're voting on the whole packet.

3 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: For
4 clarification, this is Sanford. Are we voting on the
5 "f" and "p" (sic) separately or are we going to keep
6 them in a block?

7 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: On the docket we
8 have that they're separated out, so I'm good with
9 this.

10 MS. EBONY RUSS: Correct.

11 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Yeah, just,
12 historically, when there's been two requests, we
13 voted on each of them separately.

14 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Right.

15 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: But I'm
16 (INAUDIBLE).

17 MS. EBONY RUSS: Okay.

18 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay. So all those in favor,
19 say "Aye."

20 (CHORUS OF AYES)

21 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

22 (NO RESPONSE)

23 BOARD MEMBER BEVERLY MASSEY FOTI: And I will
24 abstain, since I was out of town and did not have a
25 chance to read it.

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay.

2 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: The Board temporary approves
3 the Actions Log as presented.

4 (THEREUPON, Exhibit "A" was marked for
5 identification and attached hereto.)

6 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Ebony?

7 MS. EBONY RUSS: I don't have anything. I just
8 wanted to make sure and get you all -- do we need to
9 discuss "f" and "h" separately or --

10 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I -- on mine I recognize that
11 they were submitted together, so I just indicated I'm
12 voting for both of these separately.

13 MS. EBONY RUSS: Correct.

14 ITEM 9. OTHER BUSINESS:

15 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Other business. Are we ready
16 to move on to other business?

17 MS. EBONY RUSS: Did you -- Number 8, did you
18 address number 8, the temporary -- report of
19 temporary --

20 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Do we have any logs presented
21 on that?

22 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Not on the table.

23 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: We don't have the logs.

24 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Were they in an
25 email?

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 MS. EBONY RUSS: Okay.

2 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: No, we haven't seen
3 them.

4 Item 9a. LICENSED FACILITIES UPDATE - PINEY RIDGE TREATMENT
5 CENTER/CENTERS - ELIZABETH MITCHELL CENTERS:

6 MS. EBONY RUSS: Okay. So, for other business
7 -- stand up. So there were two letters of reprimand
8 that have been issued by the board. And a part of
9 those, the request of the board said PRLU, the
10 Placement and Residential Licensing Unit, provide the
11 board with updates from the last meeting -- board
12 meeting that occurred.

13 And so, specific to Piney Ridge, the last board
14 meeting that they participated in was April 22nd, of
15 2021. However, we did have two special board
16 meetings, one May 28th, 2021 and June 1st of 2021.
17 So I just wanted to give you just an overview from
18 the last board meeting that Piney Ridge attended.

19 So Piney Ridge, there have been a number of five
20 unannounced visits at that facility. There were --
21 there was a technical assistance, a TA, issued to
22 that facility. The technical assistant was regarding
23 missing baseboards, as far as, like buildings and
24 grounds. There have been some citations for ensuring
25 that the bathrooms were clean and sanitary and also

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 to ensure that a hole in the wall has -- is going to
2 be corrected.

3 There were a number of complaints received,
4 concerning Piney Ridge Treatment Center. And I will
5 just give you an overview of what I have before me.
6 So there were four reported elopements that have
7 occurred. So I do know that two of those elopes
8 concluded with two founded licensing violations. The
9 other two are pending additional information. There
10 were three reported incidents with injuries. And
11 I'll talk about those. So the first one that I have
12 involved a peer to peer incident that ended with one
13 of those peers ending up with a fractured nose. And
14 that child had been seen by medical. The second
15 incident on the unit occurred -- it was reported that
16 another child accidentally stepped on another youth's
17 hand, and that resulted in the child's finger being
18 broken. And the last incident that I have before me
19 is that another child was outside playing catch with
20 a football and jammed his finger and that finger --
21 resulted in being fractured, as well.

22 So I'm not sure if anyone is on from Piney Ridge
23 Treatment Center, if you all have any additional
24 questions.

25 MR. JUSTIN HOOVER: This is Justin Hoover. I'm

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 the CEO at Piney Ridge. I've been here going on
2 about three months now. Can everybody hear me?

3 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Yes.

4 (THEREUPON, the court reporter request
5 clarification.)

6 MR. JUSTIN HOOVER: (INAUDIBLE) I don't have any
7 questions at all. I would like to comment. I know
8 that we have had some challenges, prior to my time
9 being here; and a few challenges since I've been
10 here. I will tell you, just regarding the physical
11 plant things that have been brought up, we have done
12 a ton of improvements to the physical plant. Whether
13 that be replacing walls, doors, many projects are
14 currently going on right now regarding the grounds.
15 I can tell you that we have added another position,
16 which is our COO position, which is Cole Mitchell.
17 And he has provided another layer of oversight from
18 plant ops to housekeeping. I'm very pleased with the
19 way the facility looks. And then, just to talk about
20 a couple of those elopements. Just to talk about one
21 of the -- or, two of those elopements did involve the
22 same resident. That resident, to this day, is doing
23 very well in treatment. He was a high achiever two
24 weeks ago on his unit. So that all had to do with
25 special treatment planning. So I just want the board

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 to know that we are working really hard over here at
2 Piney Ridge and we really are striving to do the best
3 that we are able.

4 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I'm sorry. Could you state
5 your name again for the court reporter?

6 MR. JUSTIN HOOVER: Absolutely. My name is
7 Justin Hoover.

8 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Thank you, Justin.

9 MR. JUSTIN HOOVER: Absolutely. Thank you.

10 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Does the Board have any
11 questions?

12 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: Yes, Mr.
13 Chairman; this is Sanford.

14 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Go ahead, Sanford.

15 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: Mr. Hoover, did
16 you get any resources to help with any of that
17 renovation, in coming into compliance; did it relate
18 to any of the COVID resources there for you? Were
19 you able to get any help there?

20 MR. JUSTIN HOOVER: No, Mr. Stanford (sic) we
21 did not get those resources, but what I can tell you
22 is that our corporate has gave us a ton of resources.
23 Some of those resources consist of a gym renovation,
24 that we're currently in the process of doing. That's
25 going to take place in two months. It's been fully

1 approved. We're waiting on materials. Resources
2 regarding new doors for the unit and keyless entry;
3 resources regarding a marked fence. We've also done
4 a ton of cosmetic things. So our resources are
5 coming from here at the facility, but we've allocated
6 a ton of resources to our physical plant environment.
7 We've also added some resources to add in some other
8 positions, as well as clinical positions, a certified
9 recreation therapists, that were here doing that.
10 So, yes, we are doing quite a bit of added resources,
11 yes, sir.

12 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: Well you
13 answered my second question, which is what are you
14 doing in terms of supervision and staffing, as it
15 related to those incidents.

16 MR. JUSTIN HOOVER: Yeah.

17 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: So, thank you.

18 MR. JUSTIN HOOVER: Staffing is a challenge
19 across the board in our industry. If anybody cares
20 to know, when you talk about our retention and
21 recruitment strategies, I can tell you we're working
22 very, very hard. Things that have to do with -- as
23 far as, you know, free meals to our staff, for those
24 60 to 90 day check-in's; with all of our new
25 employees, we're doing anniversaries. We had a food

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 truck out here last month for staff appreciation.
2 We've put up an administrative kind of -- I don't
3 want it "complaint box", but, at the end of the day,
4 a suggestion box. And we're going back and circling
5 back with staff on that. So it's hard right now to
6 attract staff, but we're doing everything that we can
7 to attract staff, as well as very competitive pay,
8 and sign-on bonuses, when necessary.

9 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: I want to thank
10 you, very much. Mr. Chairman, it sounds like someone
11 is not running away from the difficulty, but stepping
12 up to the plate to try to solve the difficulties.
13 Thank you.

14 MR. JUST HOOVER: Thank you, Mr. Stanford for
15 addressing that. I appreciate your support.

16 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: You're welcome.

17 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any other questions?

18 (NO RESPONSE)

19 MS. EBONY RUSS: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Hoover.
20 I believe they do not have any additional questions
21 for you.

22 MR. JUSTIN HOOVER: Thank you for allowing me to
23 speak.

24 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Thank you for being here,
25 attending.

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 MS. EBONY RUSS: Okay. Next for our updates.
2 Again, this is concerning a letter of reprimand that
3 has been issued to Centers for Youth and Families -
4 Elizabeth Mitchell Centers, in Little Rock.

5 There were -- there was a special board meeting
6 held on May 28th, 2021 and another one on June 1st,
7 2021, concerning Centers, specific to that letter of
8 reprimand. Again, before -- prior to that, the last
9 Child Welfare Agency Review Board Meeting was held
10 April the 22nd. So I just wanted to give you a brief
11 overview from the time from April 22nd to current.

12 Okay. So, as you all know, Centers is on a
13 formal corrective action agreement, which began May
14 5th of 2021. It's scheduled to last six months.
15 Since it -- since April there have been a total of
16 seven visits to that facility. And, actually, that
17 includes a visit that Ashelyn Abney and I made today,
18 just to speak with the agency.

19 There have been some deficiencies noted during
20 that time. Just to give you a brief overview. One
21 involved buildings and furnishings being safe and
22 clean and in good repair. A second deficiency
23 concerned supervision with staff at the facility.
24 The third involved missing documents in records.

25 So, overall, there have been a total -- a number

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 -- about incidents that have occurred at Centers
2 since April 22nd, 2021. Those incidents vary from
3 peer to peer altercations, self-harm incidents,
4 allegations of maltreatment, and a youth -- most
5 recently, a youth that was found unresponsive at the
6 facility that had to be rushed to the ER. So we are
7 following up on that most recent incident.

8 I do want to give Ashelyn Abney the opportunity
9 to speak more about what's going on at the facility.

10 MS. ASHELYN ABNEY: Thanks Ebony. Ashelyn
11 Abney, DCC/ECE. We did meet with Centers earlier
12 this morning, because we were made aware that the
13 facility is using their emergency shelter license --
14 so license number 158, they are using as a
15 psychiatric residential treatment facility.

16 So they refer to the emergency shelter as
17 Destiny's House. So, if you hear that in the future,
18 I just want you to be aware that, while the license
19 says Centers for Youth and Families Emergency
20 Shelter, Destiny's House is the same thing.

21 The license, itself, does not allow for a
22 psychiatric residential treatment facility. So the
23 facility is asking the board to temporarily approve
24 the -- their ability to leave 11 children at that
25 location, serving as PRTF, while they sort out their

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 license. I believe they are thinking through
2 combining their license, because on the same campus
3 they do have another license number that does serve
4 and is a license type for the PRTF's. So their
5 request is to do a temporary approval. And I did
6 agree with them, this morning, to present that
7 information to the board for the board to consider
8 (INAUDIBLE) licensing.

9 I do believe that there are representatives from
10 Centers here, should the board have any questions for
11 them.

12 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Anybody from Centers want to
13 step up and speak? I think I kinda understand the
14 situation they're in, but I'd like for you to explain
15 it to our board.

16 MS. ASHLEY HUDSON: Certainly. Mr. Chairman,
17 thank you, Board. Ashley Hudson (INAUDIBLE) on
18 behalf of Centers. I wanted to correct a couple of
19 things that came up during the report and just kind
20 of start and work backwards.

21 One, was the child found unresponsive. The
22 child was not found unresponsive. The child was
23 experiencing nausea and some other symptoms. Centers
24 did what they should, which was take them to the
25 emergency room at Children's, where that child was

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 diagnosed with diabetes. It was a child who was 13
2 years old, which is the typical age of onset for
3 Type-1 diabetes in children. And so had Centers not
4 acted as quickly as they had, or had that child been
5 at home, the outcome might not have been as positive
6 as it is. That child is still at Children's, because
7 it takes a while, as some of you may know, to save
8 the lives of a child who has diabetes. But the
9 reason for that child being unresponsive was not
10 through any fault of any individual at Centers. I'm
11 certain that that's not what they intended to imply
12 in the report, because it was a medical condition
13 that Centers did not have notice of, because, of
14 course, Centers is not a medical facility. But their
15 staff acted promptly to ensure that that child got
16 the attention that they needed, in an effort to
17 ensure that that child is getting care and that child
18 is maintaining care now.

19 To back up just a little bit, with regard to the
20 licensing issue. As most of you know, Centers has
21 been part of the community, here, in Central Arkansas
22 for about 150 years. They have been licensed since
23 1984 for those residential and PRTF beds. The campus
24 over on 12th Street is the location they've been
25 continuously operating at for a number of years.

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 Some of you may have visited that campus in the past.

2 Prior to 2017, Centers did offer an emergency
3 shelter in one of the buildings. You all know that
4 the licensure for emergency shelters is different
5 than some of the licensure for other levels of care.
6 And so, at the time that emergency shelter was
7 reserved for children who qualify to be in an
8 emergency shelter.

9 However, since 2017, that same area has been
10 utilized for PRTF and residential facilities. We
11 have a valid PRTF and residential license, which was
12 mentioned before. And, as many providers do, we have
13 always meant -- or, assumed that that license was
14 meant to be a campus wide license. 16501 West 12th
15 Street is the address for the campus. You probably
16 know that many of the regulators have been out to
17 Centers since 2017, not just this agency, but joint
18 commission, AFMC, and other regulators, are often out
19 to review licenses and to go over other items of
20 import with Centers and the staff.

21 The fact that they had a PRTF is no surprise.
22 Our previous licensing specialist, Ms. Stepps, had
23 also been out there before. I know that she saw now,
24 when it was being used as a PRTF, after 2017. And,
25 again, there was no issue with that usage during that

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 entire time.

2 Yesterday, at 5:22 p.m., Centers was notified by
3 staff that they were shutting down their PRTF program
4 effective today. This was after business hours.
5 Prior to that, earlier in the day, Mr. Breedlove had
6 been on campus and he said nothing. Centers was
7 forced in a position, after hours, last night -- and
8 I will tell you I was up most of the night with them,
9 trying to figure out if they were going to end up
10 having to discharge 11 children. Many of them have
11 been placed at Centers by DCFS. And many of them
12 have nowhere else to go.

13 When Centers CEO, Melissa Dawson, reached out to
14 Megan Bush (PHONETIC), at DCFS, to alert her, she had
15 not been told.

16 All of this happened after hours. We were in a
17 position in which I planned to file a temporary
18 restraining order in court this morning, in an effort
19 to make sure that there was some sort of order put to
20 this chaos. There was no reason to do an emergency
21 pull back of these children yesterday. If licensure
22 was sincerely the reason, there was no need to give
23 less than 24-hour's notice.

24 When Ashley Martin, who works at Centers, asked
25 Mr. Breedlove what they were supposed to do with the

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 kids, he said, "I don't know. You can maybe put them
2 in one of your other buildings." But, of course,
3 given the fact that the campus has very specific
4 purposes throughout, we can't just cram kids into one
5 big building, all together, especially when some of
6 the children on campus are as young as five and our
7 campus ages go up to eighteen. As y'all know, that
8 would be a violation of the regulations that we
9 operate other, to mix kids, based on age. But, given
10 the (INAUDIBLE) hour arrival of this directive to
11 have all of the children exit the PRTF program,
12 Children's (sic) was not sure what to do.

13 She mentioned, too, that according to the
14 document Mr. Breedlove gave to Center's yesterday, he
15 said he was responding to a complaint received on
16 June 18th. That was on a weekday; on a business day.
17 So, from June 18th to June 23rd, no one reached out
18 to Centers and told them that there might be an issue
19 with their license. No one reached out and said that
20 there may be some problem that needed to be looked
21 into. And, certainly, no one reached out and told
22 them they were going to have to suddenly and
23 unexpectedly discharge 11 children.

24 So, if you want to talk about trauma (INAUDIBLE)
25 care, discharging 11 kids with no safe place to go is

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 not the way to do it.

2 Now, I know that many of you are providers here
3 and I know that many of you have campus wide
4 licenses, or you think you do. I also know that
5 beginning the end of July the PRTF regulations are
6 going to change and require some additional
7 registration by providers with a (INAUDIBLE) agency,
8 in certain circumstances. Since this is not
9 technically asking for some sort of waiver, although,
10 certainly, that is the direction we need to go at
11 this point to ensure the safety of the children in
12 our care, but Centers position is, was, and will be,
13 that the license is valid for our campus. The
14 Elizabeth Mitchell Center is what Centers went by, as
15 an agency, up until 1987. That title has been used
16 informally by Centers in identifying some of its
17 programs and buildings over the years, but was never
18 anything more than a doing business as type thing.

19 The Centers for Youth and Families, Inc. is who
20 holds the license and that's what's on the license.
21 Underneath their name there's a line that says
22 "Agency" and it says "Elizabeth Mitchell Center."
23 That is the dba that Centers goes by in certain
24 circumstances, because it is the name of the founder
25 of Centers and was what the agency was referred to

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 as, up until 1987.

2 Now Centers does not dispute that there has been
3 a lot happen, especially, as the CEO at Piney Ridge
4 mentioned, due to some of the issues caused by the
5 stress of COVID, having kids in close quarters, with
6 no outlets, no school, no outings, no access to
7 family for certain periods of time in the last year.
8 But I think all of you know that Centers has had a
9 long history in this community as being a good
10 partner with this agency and a good partner with the
11 community, and an excellent provider of care for
12 these children. And that is what Centers is
13 committed to continue to do.

14 What we are asking for today is that this --
15 this agency allow us to continue to operate under its
16 existing license, which is valid. If you determine
17 that it's not valid, then, yes, we would require some
18 time to make sure that we get compliant with whatever
19 this new requirement is. But if it's not valid for
20 us, it's likely not valid for a number of providers
21 across the state. And so, before we open the apple
22 cart, I think that all of us need to really consider
23 how licensure works and whether it's reasonable for
24 someone to think that one address on the entire
25 campus that shares a parking lot, shares staff,

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 shares frontage, shares resources, is really meant to
2 have a separate license.

3 And so if you have any questions, I'm happy to
4 answer them, but our position today is that our
5 license is valid; that the action yesterday was
6 unreasonable, and well outside the authority of Mr.
7 Breedlove; and that we will do what we need to, to
8 protect the kids in our custody and to protect our
9 licensure with the state.

10 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any questions?

11 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: I think we need
12 more information or we're going to make a knee jerk
13 response. So these are -- from whenever --

14 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: This is Sanford
15 Tollette again. And --

16 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Sanford, just a
17 second.

18 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Hold on. Hold on, Sanford,
19 just a second. Sandi's talking.

20 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: Okay. I
21 couldn't hear her.

22 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: So I don't think
23 one of us needs to jump --

24 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Put your mic on, Sandi.

25 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: -- for a knee jerk

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 -- we probably need to do something very temporary,
2 so that we have a chance to make sure everybody's
3 safe, and look into this. Because I have to have a
4 lot more before I'm going to make a decision on this.

5 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: I can't hear
6 anything.

7 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: But I don't want --
8 I don't want children moved or whatever if they're
9 not in danger. If it's a piece of paper right now.
10 But it can't go on indefinitely either. So I think
11 we have to have a time frame, here. That's my
12 opinion on this.

13 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay. Sanford, did you have
14 a comment?

15 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: I couldn't hear,
16 but parts of that. I'm just going on the document
17 that I read that was --

18 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Sanford, I don't
19 think --

20 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: -- there needs
21 to be --

22 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Sanford.

23 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: That's separate.

24 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: That's a separate
25 issue. That document does not have anything to do

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 with this issue.

2 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: It doesn't have
3 anything to do with this issue?

4 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Not at all.

5 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: Well then I just
6 want to back up and make sure that I'm speaking from
7 an intelligent, knowledgeable position. It sounds
8 like a difficult situation and I would have to defer
9 to DHS directors for what they see would be the best
10 remedy at this point, in terms of recommendations to
11 us as a vote.

12 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay. Any other comments
13 from the Board?

14 (NO RESPONSE)

15 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I will tell you that, in full
16 disclosure, Methodist has a license for a campus. We
17 have a PRTF and a QRTP, as well as, we have some
18 cottages that we had our PRTF in before we built the
19 new one, where we're putting them all under one roof.
20 We did add some beds to that and we requested, from
21 the health service agency, to move some beds from our
22 Davis facility to that location, but, other than
23 that, the health service agency did not have any
24 issue with us taking those beds out of the cottage
25 style building and putting them into a new building,

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 because it was on the campus.

2 And that sounds, to me, like what you guys ended
3 up doing. As long as the buildings meet the physical
4 standards for a PRTF -- and I'm assuming they did, if
5 licensing had been out surveying you since then --
6 then I agree -- I think it probably does need to --
7 we need to grant a temporary to iron it all out, a
8 temporary consideration to -- you know, we don't want
9 to be disrupting kids placements or anything like
10 that.

11 But, to me, it just seems like we just got to
12 get it ironed out. I don't think it's that big of an
13 issue, really. And I agree, I think there's other
14 providers that are probably going to be in the same
15 boat and we need to take a hard look at how licensing
16 is looking at things. Because we could be next, as
17 far as -- I don't -- I don't -- I'd have to pull our
18 license and see what the address looks like and see
19 is this going to be an issue or not. Does that make
20 sense?

21 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Beverly, is that --
22 what Andy just related, does that sound consistent
23 with licensing from your facility?

24 BOARD MEMBER BEVERLY MASSEY FOTI: Well I'm from
25 Youth Home, full disclosure. So we also have

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 everything on one campus now. We have two different
2 kinds of license, beds, on that campus. We have QRTP
3 beds and we have PRTF beds, which would be the
4 psychiatric residential beds.

5 You know, we have specifically requested --
6 because it has only been in the last year or year and
7 a half that we have added more QRTP beds, so we
8 specifically asked for a different level of license
9 for a particular house in those cases. Prior to that
10 we had a license for campus, but it was all PRTF
11 beds.

12 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Right.

13 BOARD MEMBER BEVERLY MASSEY FOTI: So, if that
14 answers your question.

15 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: It does.

16 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: So what's the proper
17 procedure here. I guess we would be looking at a
18 special consideration for Centers, till we get this
19 ironed out, and then have licensing come back after
20 -- I'm assuming we need -- health service agency
21 probably needs to be consulted on this, as well.
22 You're an attorney. What's your thought?

23 MS. ASHLEY HUDSON: You know, again, I think my
24 position is that the campus license is sufficient,
25 however I work often with the health department

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 agency; I've actually consulted with them about this
2 issue last year and was told that this was okay. I
3 happened to reach back out to them. I would note
4 that, given the timing of the health department
5 agency's regular meetings and their agenda, it could
6 be a few months before we could get this on. I know
7 that we just had a -- well, I was at a meeting this
8 week for other clients in the department agency. So
9 we probably have time to try to put something on the
10 agenda for the next one. I also know that I reached
11 out to the health department agency this past week to
12 try to get a lay up on the new PRTF requirements that
13 are coming at the end of July, and they are working
14 to try to sort that out with regard to the timing of
15 what their goal is going to be with that.

16 So, all that, to say, I don't know what their
17 agenda is going to look like in the next meeting. We
18 can certainly attempt to get on it, but I don't want
19 to make any assumption based upon the availability of
20 room on the agenda or that we can require -- or give
21 anything other than a request to be on the agenda.

22 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Sure.

23 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: And just for the rest of the
24 Board to understand, that -- they meet quarterly,
25 right? So it's not like --

1 MS. ASHLEY HUDSON: That's correct.

2 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: -- they meet monthly.

3 MS. ASHLEY HUDSON: Yeah.

4 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: So that's what she means.

5 That they just met and it'll be another three months

6 before there will be another meeting that happens.

7 MS. ASHLEY HUDSON: Yes.

8 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: So, your license,
9 does it have a number of beds associated with it and
10 are you within those number of beds?

11 MS. ASHLEY HUDSON: Yes, sir. The license in
12 question has 49 PRTF beds and 20 residential beds.
13 We have 11 PRTF clients at this time.

14 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: So you're inside of
15 the licensing.

16 MS. ASHLEY HUDSON: Well within it.

17 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Yeah. So I'm not
18 even sure anything needs to be done. I think we do
19 need to come in and talk about it. I don't know that
20 -- can we give a special consideration in this
21 situation according to the law? I don't know that we
22 can.

23 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: What are we
24 specially considering? What's the exact violation
25 that we have to have a board to say, "Yes, you can

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 violate that right now," so it's fair to (INAUDIBLE).

2 MS. ASHELYN ABNEY: Okay. So maybe we can get
3 more legal on that. So let me tell you what I look
4 at. So we have license, and we hold the license, and
5 we look at the license, and we have the information
6 on the license, right? So what we have right now, on
7 record, on 504 Centers, is at 6501 West 12th Street,
8 License Number 157, we do have Centers for Youth and
9 Families Elizabeth Mitchell Centers, and then the
10 license type for that particular license number 157
11 is the PRTFs and residential care. And then also on
12 record, at 6425 West 12th, which is on the same
13 campus, at 6425 West 12th, for Centers for Youth and
14 Families Emergency Shelter we have license number
15 158, so it's a separate license number and for the
16 license types it is emergency residential care and
17 residential childcare. So what we look at, on the
18 licensing side, is we need to have a clear and clean
19 license. And so we've got two different license
20 numbers and they are -- the Agency is using the --
21 what is the emergency shelter -- what we have a
22 license as the emergency shelter, for PRTF.

23 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Just a simple
24 question. Are you doing any emergency care?

25 MS. ASHLEY HUDSON: No, sir.

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Can you turn that
2 license in?

3 MS. ASHLEY HUDSON: Well we'd sent off -- I
4 could have Ms. Dawson, the CEO, speak to that, but we
5 have not been doing emergency care since 2017. That
6 was a partnership with Rite of Passage, for a period
7 of time.

8 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Either make that
9 license inactive or turn that license in, would be a
10 simple solution.

11 MS. ASHELYN ABNEY: The Agency does have some
12 options to do that and I believe that that is what
13 they -- or, what was related to me this morning that
14 that is exactly what they want to consider. But they
15 were asking for a temporary approval, because they
16 have 11 children right now at license number 158, the
17 emergency shelter license number, and they are
18 requesting the temporary approval to allow the
19 children to remain there, which we are comfortable
20 with, as well, so that they can think through and
21 decide, and have some more conversation on
22 potentially combining the services that they provide
23 with the correct license types, under a correct
24 license number.

25 So for my team, that's what we need. We just

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 need some clear license and that's what we're --
2 we're notifying the board for you all to decide what
3 direction you want to take. I would agree that more
4 conversation needs to happen and more clarity needs
5 to come. So I would support that, if that's what the
6 board wanted to do.

7 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: So if -- what
8 you're saying is they have no emergency children --
9 emergency care children.

10 MS. ASHLEY HUDSON: We are no longer are a break
11 shelter; that's correct, yes.

12 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Right. But you've
13 taken that number of 11, that it looks like
14 emergency, by license -- emergency shelter, by their
15 -- the -- what y'all are saying by that, and you
16 (INAUDIBLE) license, but they're not emergency
17 shelter children. So you need a temporary, so they
18 can state -- make that message.

19 MS. ASHLEY HUDSON: And I think that that's
20 close, but not exactly what we're saying. We're
21 saying that the emergency shelter ceased operation in
22 2017, at which point we started using that space for
23 PRTF. As we said before, surveyors and specialists
24 have been out there multiple times and, you know,
25 inspected that area, and knew it was being used for

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 PRTF. The special license are the license associated
2 with the emergency shelter was specific to that
3 address, in part, because that was a private -- for a
4 partnership with Rite of Passage.

5 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Right.

6 MS. ASHLEY HUDSON: And so in order to allow
7 them to, basically, use our campus for the purpose of
8 emergency shelter, that address was given
9 specifically for that purpose. However, historically
10 -- and, again, going back to 1984 -- the licenses for
11 the PRTF and residential said 6501 West 12th Street.
12 And there are four buildings on that campus, one of
13 those is as kitchen, but the other three provide a
14 variety of services. So this is historically how
15 Centers has operated. The only deviation was that
16 time period which Rite of Passage was using our
17 campus, essentially as a contractor for the emergency
18 shelter, but that shelter ceased operations in 2017.

19 I think the biggest concern to my client, and as
20 this (INAUDIBLE), why is this an emergency that
21 required an after-hours missive that we had to
22 shutdown by today. And so we would request that that
23 be taken into consideration, as well, because this is
24 such a (INAUDIBLE).

25 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Absolutely. I understand.

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 And, hopefully, we'll look at that. I know this
2 board has an opportunity to meet with the licensing
3 unit later next month, for half the day, to -- we're
4 going to kinda sit down and argue -- you know, talk,
5 not argue.

6 (LAUGHTER)

7 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: If we're going to
8 argue I'm not coming.

9 (LAUGHTER)

10 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Well I promise we won't
11 argue.

12 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: Excuse me, Andy.

13 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Now we will probably have
14 some heated discussions about how things work and so
15 we have a better understanding as a board, and
16 understand the direction that the licensing unit is
17 going to go. And I appreciate the fact that that's
18 getting scheduled, because I do think it's needed.

19 But it sounds to me like you just really need
20 one license, with one address, indicating everything
21 that you have on that campus in the current license
22 you have.

23 MS. ASHLEY HUDSON: And we're happy to work on
24 merging licenses or, you know, whatever that need is,
25 but what we are concerned about is, you know, the

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 threat of shutdown without notice. Especially given
2 that what we are talking about -- I can't remember if
3 it was you, Mr. Altom, or someone else, who said this
4 is a paperwork issue. And so that's the concern we
5 have. So we would like some assurances that we're
6 talking about working something out, figuring out
7 that solution, that there is, as Ms. Doherty
8 mentioned, some sort of temporary waiver, or grace
9 period, or whatever we want to call it, so that we
10 can ensure that that's done in an orderly fashion.

11 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Just so I'm clear
12 on this --

13 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: Mr. Chairman,
14 this Sanford here.

15 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Go ahead.

16 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Go ahead, Sanford.

17 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: You know, my
18 heart is very sad, when I heard about 11 children
19 that are going to possibly be disrupted in the
20 continuity of their care, being fussed at -- my
21 priority, as a provision member, is the welfare of
22 children. I have listened. Some I could hear and
23 some I couldn't hear. So my conversation may fit,
24 may not fit, but our priority is the well-being of
25 kids. My question is can we, as a board -- because I

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 heard all of the -- I would say, in the weeds of what
2 kind of license, how, what, when and where, but what
3 can we do -- can we do something right now,
4 temporarily, to give solace for the ongoing care of
5 those children if they are not in jeopardy. And how
6 can we get a motion together to give the organization
7 time to work all these other conversations, in terms
8 of what kind of license for care that we need to come
9 up with. Because I'm hearing they need something
10 immediately from us to help them to kinda stabilize
11 the whole situation.

12 I hope I'm making sense. That's how I'm feeling
13 right now.

14 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay. David?

15 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Yeah, I don't know
16 that I've got a lot more to say after Sanford said
17 that, but I just wanted to make clear -- make sure
18 that I was clear, because we've --

19 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: Can't hear.

20 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: -- got issues,
21 obviously, that they need sorted out, but the number
22 one issue that we're talking about is really an
23 address. Is that correct?

24 MS. ASHLEY HUDSON: An address on the same
25 campus.

1 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Yeah.

2 MS. ASHLEY HUDSON: It's a building on a larger
3 campus, correct.

4 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Yeah.

5 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: Well I just --

6 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: And we haven't
7 operated --

8 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: -- think these are
9 discussions we need to have outside of this. I think
10 we need to decide right now what temporary we can do,
11 if the kids are safe, they have the right staffing
12 there, doesn't matter what they're called on a sheet
13 of paper, as long as they're being treated according
14 to their needs right now; that they can stay put
15 where they are while we do work this out and figure
16 out is it just an address, is it a license, is it a
17 what? And I think everybody can be comfortable as
18 long as the kids are not going to be disrupted right
19 now. As long as they're being cared for, they're
20 safe, and no decisions were made, as far as future,
21 more kids, or not kids, or what it's called.

22 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Well I certainly
23 agree that the kids do not need to be displaced; they
24 need to stay where they are. And if there needs to
25 be more discussion as far as these issues that we're

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 talking about, you know, so be it. But I'm just
2 saying, from what I've heard, it sounds like a risk
3 issue, to me.

4 MS. MICHELLE BRIDGES-BELL: I need to interrupt
5 for a second. I've been -- this is Michelle Bridges-
6 Bell, attorney for paralega (sic). It's been related
7 to me that no one can hear, on Zoom, anything that
8 any of the board members are saying. So I recommend
9 that you use the microphone, so people participating
10 via Zoom can hear.

11 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Does the board all have
12 microphones; can you turn them on.

13 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: Yeah, that's
14 what I tried to articulate. I can't hear.

15 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: It's been on, but
16 the last time they didn't hear us.

17 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: This one's on.

18 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Sanford, this is
19 Charles. Can you hear me?

20 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: Oh, yeah.

21 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Okay. So these are
22 working.

23 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: And this is David.
24 Can you hear me?

25 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: Yeah, I couldn't

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 hear everything you was saying, David.

2 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: Okay. Thank you.

3 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Sanford, can you hear me?

4 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: Yes, bright and
5 clear.

6 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: So, Michelle or
7 Joe, do we have the -- I know we give special
8 considerations in certain situations --

9 COURT REPORTER: Hold it closer, Mr. Flynn.

10 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Is this one of the
11 ways that we can give a special consideration under
12 the law?

13 MS. MICHELLE BRIDGES-BELL: Yes. I believe that
14 today you could choose to make a motion, if someone
15 so chose to, for a temporary action to allow the
16 children to stay until they're able to put a packet
17 together -- that will have to go before Board
18 approval, because no license can be granted without
19 Board approval -- that would then simplify the
20 license structure, would make it clear, any address
21 issues, any building issues, would then be simplified
22 and corrected. And then, any issues that we have now
23 between whether children should be in a certain
24 building or not would be corrected at our future
25 Board meeting. But I think that would give them

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 peace of mind, also, today, to have that moving
2 forward, if you chose to take a temporary action to
3 allow that today.

4 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: And do we, as a
5 Board, --

6 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: Wouldn't that be
7 --

8 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: -- need to give
9 direction to the Unit to kinda -- sorta all the same
10 things, as far as maybe we don't think that one
11 address is good for this. To me, I'm -- and I'm
12 oversimplifying it. It just seems to me that if you
13 get rid of the emergency license and have that on
14 your campus then you're within expectations; don't
15 need any of them changes. But --

16 MS. ASHLEY HUDSON: And I think that that's
17 something that we can discuss. Ms. Bridges-Bell and
18 I opened those discussions earlier today and we will
19 continue those.

20 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: I think just make
21 it simple.

22 MS. ASHLEY HUDSON: These are the types of
23 conversations that make everyone hate lawyers,
24 because we're talking licenses and addresses.

25 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Yeah, we already

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 had two and now we've got a third one, I know.

2 (LAUGHTER)

3 MS. ASHLEY HUDSON: But, no, I think you're spot
4 on.

5 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Yeah. Okay.

6 MS. ASHLEY HUDSON: And we're happy to work with
7 the agency on that.

8 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Okay.

9 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: So is there a motion from the
10 board?

11 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: Yes. I make a
12 motion that we give them time before this next board
13 meeting, licensing and Centers, to work together on
14 this thing, to come with a recommendation, and that
15 the kids stay where there at until this next board
16 meeting, until a decision is made.

17 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay. Is there a second?

18 BOARD MEMBER DAVID WHATLEY: I'll second.

19 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: I have a second from David.

20 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: I'll second.

21 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any more discussions or
22 questions? I do have a question for you. Will that
23 suit Centers to have that for 30 days and then can
24 you come back and iron out this licensing issue?

25 MS. ASHLEY HUDSON: Yes, sir. That would be --

1 that would be a suitable place to start things.

2 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: It would be 60 days. I'm
3 sorry.

4 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: I have a
5 question.

6 MS. ASHLEY HUDSON: Okay. No, that -- that's
7 acceptable. Thank you.

8 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Okay.

9 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: Do I need to put
10 that in there, that it's 60 days? I didn't think
11 about it being 60 days.

12 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: So Andrew has moved it as a
13 motion. We have a second. All those in favor, say
14 "Aye."

15 (CHORUS OF AYES)

16 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Any opposed?

17 (NO RESPONSE)

18 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Thank you.

19 MS. ASHLEY HUDSON: Thank you all.

20 ITEM 9b. INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF:

21 MS. EBONY RUSS: From PRLU, the only other thing
22 -- and I'm not sure she's available -- is we have
23 another new staff member, Felicia Moore. I'm not
24 sure she's available by Zoom.

25 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Would there be a way that

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 next time we could sit over there where we can see
2 this.

3 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: I know. I feel
4 like I got somebody --

5 (TALK OVERLAPPING)

6 (LAUGHTER)

7 MS. EBONY RUSS: Felicia is -- I think I heard
8 her. I think I did hear Ms. Felicia.

9 MS. FELICIA MOORE: I'm here. Yes.

10 MS. EBONY RUSS: I can't see you.

11 MS. FELICIA MOORE: I'm here.

12 MS. EBONY RUSS: Where'd she go? Felicia Moore
13 is our new staff, licensing specialist. She's housed
14 in Bradley County, so she'll be covering south
15 Arkansas.

16 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Good. Nice to meet you.
17 Welcome aboard.

18 MS. FELICIA MOORE: Thank you.

19 MS. EBONY RUSS: From PRLU, we have nothing
20 further.

21 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: If there is nothing else for
22 the board I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

23 BOARD MEMBER ANDREW WATSON: Motion.

24 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: Mr. Chairman, if
25 I may, please?

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

1 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Yes. Go ahead, Sanford.

2 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: I want thank the
3 board and just a point of personal conversation.
4 I've got hit with COVID here, with my staff. That's
5 why you guys haven't see me. My daughter had COVID.
6 And, of course, like all of us being challenged after
7 hit with COVID, it's been pretty challenging. So
8 congratulations, Andy. And it is really good to be
9 able to participate today. Hopefully, now that we've
10 got shots I will see you in person.

11 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Good. We look forward to
12 seeing you.

13 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: So thank you,
14 very much.

15 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Thank you, Sanford.

16 BOARD MEMBER SANFORD TOLLETTE: You bet.

17 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Motion to adjourn.

18 BOARD MEMBER SANDI DOHERTY: I vote we adjourn.

19 BOARD MEMBER CHARLES FLYNN: Please, yes,
20 second.

21 CHAIR ANDY ALTOM: Not hearing any opposition,
22 we're adjourned.

23 (THEREUPON, the meeting was adjourned at 3:28
24 p.m. on June 24, 2021.)

25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 2021

Laura Carnahan

Bushman Court Reporting

501-372-5115

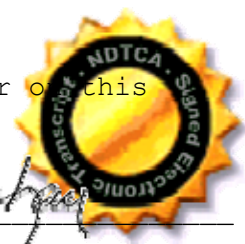
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
BEFORE THE STATE OF ARKANSAS
CHILD WELFARE AGENCY REVIEW
BOARD
Thursday, June 24, 2021

I, Laura L. Carnahan, a Certified Court Reporter in and for the aforesaid state, certify that I reported the proceedings in the aforementioned case; that said recording has been reduced to a transcription by me, or under my direct supervision, and the foregoing pages numbered 1-89 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 of this 26th day of July, 2021.

Laura L. Carnahan



LAURA L. CARNAHAN

BCR#96013

Supreme Court Certified Reporter No. 569