

STATE OF ARKANSAS
CHILD WELFARE AGENCY REVIEW
BOARD MEETING

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
7th and Main Street
700 West Main Street
Conference Room A & B
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

October 27, 2021 AT 1:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Andy Altom, Chairman, Foster Care Unit
Charles Flynn, Emergency Shelters Unit
David Whatley, Residential Care Unit
Beverly Foti, Psychiatric Residential Care
Sandi Doherty, DCFS Assistant Director

ALSO PRESENT:

Ebony Russ, OCC/ECE Program Manager
Michelle Bridges-Bell, PRLU Attorney
Joe West, Assistant Attorney General

VIA ZOOM:

Amy Curry

M. P.

I N D E X

1

2 Welcome - Ebony Russ, PRLU Program Manager - Meeting

3 Facilitator 6

4 Call to Order - Mr. Andy Altom, Chairman. 6

5 Approval of Meeting Minutes - September 7

6 ITEM 1. Permissions to work with children. 7

7 a. DCFS - Avis V. 7

8 b. DCFS - Ian L.. . . . 8

9 c. DCFS - Henry S.. . . . 11

10 d. DCFS - David E.. . . . 11

11 e. DCFS - Weldon C. 12

12 f. DCFS - Donald H (Moved to December 8th Meeting). . 13

13 g. DCFS - Richard A. (NLN). 14

14 h. DCFS - Joe S.14. 14

15 i. DCFS - Clay J (14Moved to December 8th Meeting). . 14

16 j. DCFS - Kreg S. 15

17 k. DCFS - Angela B. 15

18 l. DCFS - Robert C. 16

19 m. DCFS - Tonya C.. . . . 17

20 n. DCFS - Oceleee Q. (Moved to December 8th Meeting) . 18

21 o. DCFS - Robert M. (NLN)

22 p. DCFS - Piney Ridge Treatment Center - Rebecca R. . 18

23 q. DCFS - Alfred V. 19

24 r. DCFS - Jesse C.. . . . 19

25 s. DCFS - Kara H. 20

I N D E X (Continued)

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ITEM 1. Permissions to work with children (continued):

- t. DCFS - Keith C. 21
- u. DCFS - Kenna - Marie A. 22
- v. DCFS - Jay and Felicia N. (NLN)
- w. DCFS - Kenneth K. 22
- x. DCFS - Phillip F. (Moved to December 8th Meeting). 24
- y. DCFS - Chester C. 24
- z. DCFS - Kenneth W. 25
- aa. DCFS - David K. 26
- bb. DCFS - Peter S. (Moved to December 8th Meeting). . 27
- cc. DCFS - Christopher W. 27
- dd. DCFS - Lori P. 28
- ee. DCFS - George C. 29
- ff. DCFS - Tyshire D. (NLN)
- gg. DCFS - Gary G (Moved to December 8th Meeting). . . 30
- hh. DCFS - James H. 30
- ii. DCFS - The Centers for Youth and Families - TFC -
Gregory A. 31
- jj. DCFS - Teen Challenge Ranch of Northwest Arkansas -
Shawn D. 32
- kk. DCFS - Comprehensive Juvenile Services - Samantha R. 33
- ll. DCFS - Michael D. 33
- mm. DCFS - Judy H. 34

I N D E X (Continued)

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3 ITEM 2. Exhibit "A" - Approval of Special

4 Considerations/Temporary Approvals "Bundles" "A". 35

5 ITEM 3. An Angel's Choice Adoption Agency. 36

6 ITEM 4. Teen Challenge 37

7 ITEM 5. American Adoptions of KS, LLC d/b/a American

8 Adoptions. 38

9 ITEM 6. Licensing Unit Request to terminate Inactive Licenses

10 in accordance with Act 772 - Presented by Ebony Russ:. 39

11 a. Agape Child and Family Services Child Placement -

12 License Number 223. 40

13 b. Arbor House (Therapeutic Foster Care) Child Placement

14 Agency - License Number 118. 40

15 c. Arkansas Baptist Ranch - License Number 131 40

16 d. Arkansas Baptist Home for Children, Monticello

17 Campus - License Number 132. 40

18 e. United Methodist Children's Home - Searcy Home -

19 License Number 107 41

20 f. United Methodist Children's Home - Winfred Polk Home -

21 License Number 103 41

22 g. Fort Smith Children's Emergency Shelter - License

23 Number 182(R105.1) 46/54

24 ITEM 7. Report of Temporary Approvals/Actions (Logs Presented)

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Date of Next Meeting: December 8th, 2021

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 (THEREUPON, the meeting began at 1:30 p.m. on
3 October 27, 2021.

4 MS. RUSS: I'm Ebony Russ, and I'm the Program
5 Manager for the placing of Residential Licensing for
6 DCCECE. Thank you all for traveling in to
7 participating -- to participate in this month's Child
8 Welfare Agency Review Board meeting. I do ask for
9 the resource workers, if you please, when you come
10 up, please do not say the full names of your
11 applicants or clients. I would really appreciate
12 that. Also, if you don't mind, if you could pull you
13 mask down when you're speaking, so that our court
14 reporter can have a good hearing on what you're
15 saying. Thank you.

16 And I'll turn it over to Mr. Andy Altom, our
17 floor chair.

18 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Okay. We'll call the Child
19 Welfare Agency Review Board meeting for October 27th
20 --

21 THE COURT REPORTER: I need him to speak just --
22 I need him to speak a little louder, please.

23 MS. JEFFREY: She needs him to speak louder.

24 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: -- can you hear me? We'll call
25 the Board to order for the October 27th, 2021,

1 meeting.

2 The first item on the agenda is approval of the
3 minutes from August 26, 2021. Do I hear a motion?

4 MR. FLYNN: I make a motion to accept.

5 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: There's a motion. Is there a
6 second?

7 MR. WHATLEY: I second.

8 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Seconded. All in favor say,
9 aye.

10 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

11 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 (Motion carries.)

14 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Next up, is Permission to work
15 with Children, Avis V. Is there anything you'd like
16 to say, to address the Board?

17 MR. BOYD: Me or him?

18 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Anyone?

19 MR. BOYD: Yeah, I would like to say that --

20 THE COURT REPORTER: I need his name, please,
21 for the record.

22 MR. BOYD: -- and I'd like to say -- Charlie
23 Boyd, DCFS, Fort Smith, Arkansas. The one thing that
24 I would like to say is -- is that when I first met
25 Avis -- Avis, I met him at like, two o'clock in the

1 morning, you could see the kids and how they -- the
2 bond they had. And we could see that -- that he was
3 happy to have the kids, his relatives, as well. And
4 he thinks, and the department thinks, he is a great
5 parent. He is ready for having permanency.

6 MR. AVIS P.: Avis, and I just want to say, you
7 know, I care for those, and all, and I'm taking
8 parenting classes, and doing what I can for them.
9 I'm been taking classes, and just doing everything I
10 can do.

11 Anybody have any questions of me?

12 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Is there a motion to approve?

13 MR. WHATLEY: I'll make a motion to approve the
14 request; David Whatley.

15 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Second?

16 MR. FLYNN: I'll second.

17 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: All in favor say, aye.

18 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

19 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 (Motion carries.)

22 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Thank you, Mr. Avis.

23 Next up is Ian. The case worker is Brandy
24 Jones.

25 THE COURT REPORTER: Ebony?

1 MS. JONES: I just want to say thank you to the
2 Board.

3 THE COURT REPORTER: I can't see them, and I
4 can't tell who's making a motion and seconding it.

5 MS. RUSS: Okay.

6 THE COURT REPORTER: I can't see them, and I
7 can't tell who's doing it.

8 MS. RUSS: Okay.

9 THE COURT REPORTER: Can you have them say who
10 is making the motion, and who's seconding it? Do you
11 mind, please?

12 MS. RUSS: Uh-huh.

13 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you. I appreciate
14 it.

15 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Ms. Jones, while -- while the
16 Board is looking over this, do you have anything to
17 say, that you can go ahead get on the record, and
18 tell us anything you'd like to, and then also -- is
19 it Ian?

20 IAN: Yes, Ian.

21 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Ian, if you have anything to
22 say to the Board --

23 MS. RUSS: Just a second. If you all -- the
24 court reporter can't see your names, so if you make a
25 motion or second, she said can you say your name --

1 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: -- sure. This is Andy Altom.

2 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

3 MS. JONES: My name's Brandy Jones --

4 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: You need to move over in front
5 of the microphone.

6 MR. JONES: -- oh, can you hear me now?

7 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Yes.

8 MS. JONES: My name's Brandy Jones, I'm with
9 DCFS. Ian has been a home that is providing care for
10 a child that's very dear to him. He's had him stay
11 when he was younger, and he's a completely different
12 person now. I think he's having twin girls here
13 soon.

14 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Ian, do you have anything you
15 want to say?

16 IAN: No, sir.

17 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Okay. Is there a motion from
18 the Board? I'll make a motion to approve this
19 request, this is Andy Altom.

20 MS. FOTI: I'll second it. This is Beverly
21 Foti.

22 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Motion made and seconded. All
23 of those in favor say aye?

24 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

25 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

1 (No response.)

2 (Mption Carries)

3 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Congratulations.

4 Athalia Dismuke, Henry S.

5 Do you want to go ahead and state your name, for
6 the court reporter?

7 MS. DISMUKE: Anthalia Dismuke, DCFS.

8 MR. FLYNN: I make a motion to approve this
9 request.

10 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: We have a motion. Is there a
11 second?

12 MR. WHATLEY: David Whatley; I second.

13 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: All those in favor say, aye.

14 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

15 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 (Motion carries.)

18 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Next up is Angela -- Angela
19 Hill, David E.

20 MR. FLYNN: I make a motion to approve this
21 request, also.

22 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: I have motion to approve the
23 request. Is there a second?

24 MS. FOTI: I'll second. This is Beverly Foti.

25 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: All those in favor say, aye.

1 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

2 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 (Motion carries.)

5 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Congratulations.

6 Weldon C. Is Ms. Bell here for Weldon C?

7 MS. RUSS: She just called and said he was here.

8 MS. BELL: Mareia Bell, DCFS worker, Area 4.

9 I'd like to say that these children have been placed
10 in Mr. C's home for a year now, and he has supported
11 them financially for so long, and he has four of his
12 own.

13 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Okay.

14 MR. FLYNN: I make a motion to approve this
15 request.

16 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Is there second?

17 MR. WHATLEY: David Whatley; I'll second.

18 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Seconded. All those in favor
19 say, aye.

20 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

21 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 (Motion carries.)

24 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Congratulations, Mr. C.
25 Donald H.

1 MS. CONWAY: I'm Ambra Conway, from Area 7. Mr.
2 Harris could not be here on today, because he's ill.

3 MS. RUSS: Mr. Donald.

4 MS. CONWAY: Mr. who?

5 MS. RUSS: Mr. Donald.

6 MS. CONWAY: Mr. Donald.

7 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: So the children at this time --
8 the children are placed?

9 MS. CONWAY: Yes.

10 MR. FLYNN: So I guess we make a motion to hear
11 this at the next meeting? Is that --

12 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Yes. Is there a motion to --

13 MR. FLYNN: -- I'll make that motion.

14 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: -- there's a motion to hear at
15 the next -- the next meeting --

16 MS. RUSS: Which is December the 8th.

17 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: -- December 8th. Is there a
18 second?

19 MR. WHATLEY: I'll second.

20 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: There's a second. All of those
21 in favor say, aye.

22 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

23 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 (Motion carries.)

1 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Richard A. That's no longer
2 needed, okay.

3 Joe S.

4 MR. DAVAULT: I'm Andrew Davault. This is Joe
5 S. He's here for permission on the children.

6 THE COURT REPORTER: Would you pull your mask
7 down?

8 MR. DAVAULT: Yes.

9 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Nothing since 1999? No
10 problems since 1999?

11 MR. WHATLEY: I'll make a motion to approve the
12 request.

13 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: There's a motion. Is there a
14 second?

15 MR. FLYNN: I'll second; Charles Flynn.

16 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Motion and seconded. All of
17 those in favor say, aye.

18 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

19 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 (Motion carries.)

22 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Congratulations.

23 MR. S.: Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: We have a request to move the
25 next one to December 8th, and I'll make that as a

1 motion.

2 Can we have a second from a Board member?

3 MS. FOTI: I'll second. This is Beverly.

4 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: All of those in favor say, aye.

5 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

6 (No response.)

7 (Motion carries.)

8 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Kreg S.

9 MS. NELSON: O'Shaneia, O-S-h-a-n-e-i-a, Nelson.

10 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Is there a motion from the
11 Board?

12 MR. WHATLEY: I'm looking for the date of --

13 MS. FOTI: 2009.

14 MR. FLYNN: -- 2009? You're telling me it's
15 2009?

16 MR. WHATLEY: This is David. I make a motion to
17 accept.

18 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: I second.

19 All those in favor say, aye.

20 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

21 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 (Motion carries.)

24 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Congratulations, Mr. S.
25 Angela B.

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MS. JONES: Melva Jones, Resource Worker for Pulaski County.

CHAIRMAN ALTOM: You've not had any problems since 1996?

MS. B.: 1996?

CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Yes, you've not had any problems since then?

MS. B.: Oh, it was one or two there in '12, but it's been resolved. It was just me and my spouse, like on that one. So we both had counseling, and we've been doing great.

CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Is there a motion?

MR. FLYNN: I make a motion to grant this request.

CHAIRMAN ALTOM: I have a motion. Is there a second?

MS. FOTI: I'll second. This is Beverly.

CHAIRMAN ALTOM: All those in favor say, aye.

BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

(No response.)

(Motion carries.)

Congratulations.

Robert C.

MS. WATKINS: Jennifer Watkins, DCFS here with

1 Mr. Robert C.

2 MR. FLYNN: You've not received any other
3 charges since 1996?

4 MR. C.: No, sir.

5 MR. WHATLEY: I'd like to make a motion to
6 accept this request.

7 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: There's been a motion. Is
8 there a second?

9 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: I'll second. All those in
10 favor say, aye.

11 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

12 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 (Motion carries.)

15 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Tonya C.

16 I make a motion to approve this request.

17 MR. FLYNN: I second.

18 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: There's a second. All those in
19 favor say, aye.

20 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

21 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: DCFS sustains.

24 MS. WATKINS: Moving on to the next one. If you
25 can hear me, can you just go ahead and read that into

1 the record?

2 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Ocelelee Q.

3 MS. WATKINS: Jennifer Watkins, DCFS. Ocelelee
4 called me about 12, and said (inaudible).

5 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Okay.

6 MR. FLYNN: I make a motion to move this to
7 December the 8th meeting.

8 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Second. All those in favor
9 say, aye.

10 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

11 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 (Motion carries.)

14 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Next, Piney Ridge Treatment
15 Center.

16 MR. HOOVER: Good afternoon. My name is Justin
17 Hoover, CEO of Piney Ridge Treatment Center. I'm
18 here for a request for Rebekah. Rebekah is -- has
19 worked in the Human Services field for 20 years here
20 in Arkansas. She's held different jobs from foster
21 care to in-home, and now for the Piney Ridge
22 Treatment Center.

23 MR. FLYNN: This is Charles; I propose we
24 approve this request.

25 MR. WHATLEY: David; I second this.

1 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: We have a motion and a second.
2 All those in favor say, aye.
3 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
4 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Opposed?
5 (No response.)
6 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Congratulations.
7 MR. HOOVER: Thank you, everyone.
8 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: We have Alfred V. He could not
9 attend the August 26th meeting; requested it be moved
10 to October 27th. This is one that was requested from
11 the last meeting. Appreciate you showing up.
12 MR. V.: Thank you, sir.
13 MS. ISON: Darrian Ison. (Inaudible).
14 MS. FOTI: I'd like to make a motion to move
15 this forward --
16 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: We have a motion to approve
17 this request.
18 MS. FOTI: -- Beverly.
19 MR. FLYNN: Second.
20 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Charles has seconded. All
21 those in favor say, aye.
22 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
23 MR. V.: Thank you.
24 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Thank you.
25 Jesse C.

1 MS. Garrison: I'm Dea Garrison. I'm here with
2 Jesse C, and he has placement of his wife's nieces
3 and nephews.

4 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: I make a motion to approve this
5 request.

6 MR. FLYNN: I second.

7 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Seconded by Charles. All those
8 in favor say, aye.

9 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

10 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Congratulations.

13 Kara H.

14 MR. DAVALT: I'm Andrew Davault, here with Kara
15 H.

16 MR. FLYNN: (Inaudible).

17 MS. H: Yes.

18 MR. FLYNN: And a two year old?

19 MS. H.: And a three year old.

20 MR. FLYNN: Three year old?

21 MS. H.: Yeah, he turned three in August.

22 MR. WHATLEY: I'm going to say congratulations.

23 MS. H.: Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN: Is there a motion from the Board?

25 MR. WHATLEY: I'll make a motion to grant the

1 request.

2 MR. FLYNN: Second.

3 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Charles seconds. All of those
4 in favor say, aye.

5 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

6 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

7 (No response).

8 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Congratulations.

9 MS. H: Thank you so much.

10 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Keith C.

11 MS. BAJOREK: My name is Amber Bajorek, and I'm
12 from Area 7. And Keith is unable to be here today.

13 MR. FLYNN: I can't hear you.

14 MS. BAJOREK: My name is Amber Bajorek, and I
15 work in Area 7. And Keith was not able to be here
16 today.

17 MR. FLYNN: Do you know why he's not here?

18 MS. BAJOREK: He said he cannot get off work.

19 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Does the Board want to make a
20 motion to set this for the next meeting, or --

21 MR. FLYNN: I think, yes, with the understanding
22 that he probably should make arrangements to be here
23 for that one.

24 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: -- is there a motion?

25 MR. FLYNN: I make that motion.

1 MR. WHATLEY: And I second it.

2 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: We have a motion and a second.
3 All in favor say, aye.

4 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

5 Marie A.

6 MS. GARRISON: Dea Garrison. You guys -- what
7 are you calling them, the last name, the first --

8 MS. RUSS: The first.

9 MS. GARRISON: -- okay, so Kenna A., and she's
10 wanting to continue on with the process for a
11 traditional foster home.

12 MR. WHATLEY: Your record was expunged?

13 Ms. KENNA A.: That is correct.

14 MR. FLYNN: It takes me a minute to read it.

15 MR. WHATLEY: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a
16 motion to approve the request.

17 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: We have a motion to approve.
18 I'll second it. All those in favor say, aye.

19 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

20 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

21 (No response).

22 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Congratulations.

23 MS. KENNA A.: Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Kenneth K. I believe I skipped
25 somebody. We'll go ahead and do Kenneth, and then

1 we'll come back to that.

2 MS. RUSS: It's no longer needed.

3 MS. TOLBERT: Good afternoon, everyone. My
4 name's Casey Tolbert. I work for a Resource Unit in
5 area 2. I'm here with Joe Kenneth K. today. He's
6 asking for approval for his grandmother to remain in
7 his home, and he's here to answer any questions you
8 may have.

9 MR. FLYNN: So the home health nurse just did
10 not like what had happened?

11 MR. KENNETH K.: No.

12 MR. FLYNN: Had your grandmother been in poor
13 health, or --

14 MR. KENNETH K.: Yes.

15 MR. FLYNN: -- dementia, or just --

16 MR. KENNETH K.: She -- she was diabetic, and
17 she was just in bad health, and --

18 MR. FLYNN: -- I'll make a motion for the
19 request. But that's a very brief description there.
20 I'm just trying to piece it together.

21 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: We have a motion. Is there a
22 second?

23 MS. FOTI: I'll second. This is Beverly.

24 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: All those in favor say, aye.

25 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Congratulations.

4 MR. KENNETH K: Thank you.

5 MS. TOLBERT: Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Phillip F.

7 MS. WATKINS: Jennifer Watkins, DCFS. Phillip
8 informed me around 12, that he won't be able to come,
9 due to a family emergency. H had to take a friend to
10 the hospital, so he requested this be moved to the
11 December 8th meeting.

12 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: I make a motion to move this to
13 the December meeting.

14 MR. FLYNN: I'll second that.

15 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Seconded. All those in favor
16 say, Aye.

17 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

18 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 MS. TOLBERT: Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Chester C.

22 MS. ISON: Hi, I'm Darrian Ison, case worker for
23 Area (inaudible), for Chester C.

24 MR. WHATLEY: So this was in 1999?

25 MR. CHESTER C: Yes, sir.

1 MR. WHATLEY: I'll make a motion to accept this
2 request.

3 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: I have a motion to accept.
4 I'll second. All those in favor say, aye.

5 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

6 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

7 (No response).

8 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Congratulations.

9 Kenneth W.

10 MR. REID: Kenneth Reid, DCFS, Faulkner County
11 Resources, Area 2. If you have any questions, please
12 ask.

13 MR. FLYNN: I'm always interested in the thick
14 of kids, so how do you know these children?

15 MR. KENNETH W.: The oldest child, a 14 year old
16 girl, is my son's best friend.

17 MR. FLYNN: Okay.

18 MR. KENNETH W.: They go to school together.

19 MR. FLYNN: Okay.

20 MR. KENNETH W.: They were in a bad situation,
21 and needed some help.

22 MR. FLYNN: My children have the same -- my
23 children have the same heart for friends at school,
24 that maybe have difficult situations.

25 MR. KENNETH W.: He cried over it, for days.

1 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Yeah. I appreciate the in-
2 depth explanation.

3 MR. KENNETH W.: Probably too much, but -- but I
4 was told specifics were required, so --

5 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: We appreciate your candor and
6 honesty.

7 MR. FLYNN: It's much easier for us to read it,
8 than to ask a lot of questions too, so --

9 MR. KENNETH W.: -- I'd prefer you read it, then
10 ask all the questions.

11 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: I make a motion to approve this
12 request.

13 MR. FLYNN: I second it.

14 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: There's a second. All of those
15 in favor say, aye.

16 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

17 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

18 (No response).

19 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Congratulations.

20 MR. KENNETH W.: Thank you, sir.

21 MR. REID: Thank you, sir.

22 MR. FLYNN: Being willing to do this, so --

23 MR. KENNETH W.: Yes, sir.

24 MR. FLYNN: -- it's easier to say, no.

25 MR. KENNETH W.: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: David K.

2 MS. ENNIS: I am Milissa Ennis, with --

3 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry?

4 MS. RUSS: Please use your microphone.

5 MS. ENNIS: -- I'm Milissa Ennis, Pope County.

6 I'm here with David K.

7 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Do we have a motion from a
8 member of the Board?

9 MR. FLYNN: I'll make that motion.

10 MS. FOTI: I'll second.

11 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: We have a motion and a second.
12 All those in favor say, aye.

13 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

14 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Congratulations, Mr. K.

17 MR. K.: Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: I make a motion to move Peter S
19 to December 8th Child Welfare Agency Review Meeting,
20 if anybody wants to second.

21 MR. FLYNN: I'll second your motion.

22 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: There's a second. All those in
23 favor say, aye.

24 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

25 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIRMAN: Christopher W.

3 MS. ALDERSON: Good afternoon. My name is
4 Yalanda Alderson, Area 3 Resource Worker, and I'm
5 here with Mr. Christopher.

6 MR. FLYNN: No issues or arrests since 2009?

7 MR. CHRISTOPHER W.: No, sir.

8 MR. WHATLEY: I'll make a motion to approve this
9 request.

10 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: I have a motion to approve. Is
11 there a second? I'll second. All those in favor
12 say, aye.

13 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

14 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: DCFS sustains.

17 Lori P.

18 MS. OLINGER: Judy Olinger, O-l-i-n-g-e-r, Area
19 1 Resource Worker, and I'm here with Ms. Lori.

20 MR. FLYNN: I make a motion to the Chairman, to
21 approve this request.

22 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: We have a motion to approve the
23 request. Is there a second?

24 MR. WHATLEY: I'll second.

25 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: All those in favor say, aye.

1 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

2 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: DCFS sustains.

5 GEORGE C.

6 MS. KATESE MASON: Katese Mason, Area 6 Resource
7 Worker. Can you hear me now?

8 MS. RUSS: Pick up the microphone.

9 MS. MASON: Katese Mason, Area 6 Resource
10 Worker, Pulaski County office, here for George C.

11 MR. FLYNN: Who are the children? Are they
12 family, or --

13 MR. C.: I didn't understand you, sir.

14 MR. FLYNN: -- who are the children that -- that
15 you were able to --

16 MR. C.: My grandkids.

17 MR. FLYNN: -- your grandkids, okay. That's
18 good. I can't -- it's probably here, and I just
19 can't find it. How old are they?

20 MR. C.: Seven and four.

21 MR. FLYNN: Seven and four.

22 MR. FLYNN: Mr. Chairman, I'll make a motion to
23 approve this request.

24 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: We have a motion to approve.
25 Is there a second?

1 MS. FOTI: I'll second.

2 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: There's a second. All of those
3 in favor say, aye.

4 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

5 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: DCFS sustains.

8 Congratulations.

9 MR. C.: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: We have a motion to request to
11 move the AC request on this agenda for Gary G. to
12 December 8th, 2021, Child Welfare Agency Review
13 Meeting. They're not able to do --

14 MR. CASEY: Unable to attend, due to an
15 accident.

16 MR. WHATLEY: I'll make a motion.

17 MR. FLYNN: I'll second.

18 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: -- all those in favor say, aye.

19 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

20 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: James H.

23 MS. BELL: Mareia Bell, Resource Worker, Area 4.
24 I'm here with Mr. and Mrs. Henson. This is a child
25 that's placed in May of this year, and a temporary

1 waiver was issued on the first of this month.

2 MR. WHATLEY: I'll make a motion to approve the
3 request.

4 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: There's a motion to approve.
5 Is there a second?

6 MR. FLYNN: Second.

7 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: A second by Charles. All those
8 in favor say, aye.

9 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

10 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: DCFS sustains.

13 Congratulations.

14 The Centers for Youth and Families, TFC, Gregory
15 A.

16 MR. GWATNEY: Jeffery Gwatney, with The Centers
17 for Youth and Families, requesting permission for
18 Gregory to work as a therapeutic foster parent.

19 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: I make a motion to approve this
20 request.

21 MR. FLYNN: I'll -- I'll make -- second that.

22 CHAIRMAN: Charles seconds. All those in favor
23 say, aye.

24 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

25 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Congratulations.

3 MR. Gregory A.: Thank you, sir.

4 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Teen Challenge Ranch of
5 Northwest Arkansas, Shawn D.

6 MR. SMITH: Good afternoon. This is Justin
7 Smith CEO of Teen Challenge Ranch, requesting
8 permission for Shawn to -- to work as a ranch hand
9 staff. If you have any questions, we'd be happy to
10 answer them.

11 MR. CLOWERS: Austin Clowers, Department Co-
12 ordinator, DCFS.

13 MR. FLYNN: Good references. I'll make a motion
14 to approve this request.

15 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: We have a motion to approve.
16 Is there a second?

17 MR. WHATLEY: I'll second.

18 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: There's a second. All those in
19 favor say, aye.

20 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

21 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Congratulations.

24 MR. SMITH: Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Comprehensive Juvenile

1 Services, Samantha R.

2 MS. JUSTICE: I'm Janice Justice, Director of
3 Comprehensive Juvenile Services, Administrator of
4 Western Arkansas Youth Shelter, requesting permission
5 for Samantha to work at the western Arkansas Youth
6 Shelter, as a direct care worker.

7 MR. WHATLEY: I love to hear stories of
8 recovery. Congratulations.

9 MS. SAMANTHA R.: Thank you.

10 MR. WHATLEY: I'll make a motion to approve the
11 request.

12 MR. FLYNN: Second.

13 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: We have a motion to approve,
14 with a second from Charles. All those in favor say,
15 aye.

16 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

17 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Congratulations.

20 MS. SAMANTHA R.: Thank you, so much.

21 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Michael D.

22 MS. DISMUKE: Athalia Dismuke, DCFS.

23 MR. FLYNN: You've had to sit on that front row
24 a long time today, to get here.

25 MR. MICHAEL D: Yes, sir.

1 MR. FLYNN: 1978?

2 MR. MICHAEL D.: It's been so long, I couldn't
3 tell you. It's been a long, long time ago, when I
4 was a kid.

5 MR. FLYNN: Okay.

6 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Is there a motion to approve
7 the request?

8 MS. FOTI: I'll make a motion we approve the
9 request.

10 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Beverly's made a motion. Is
11 there a second?

12 MR. WHATLEY: I second.

13 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: All those in favor say, aye.

14 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

15 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: DCFS sustains.

18 Judy H.

19 MS. WALKER: I'm Shakea Walker, Resource Worker.
20 I'm here from Area 3, and I'm here with Judy.

21 MR. WHATLEY: I make a motion to approve the
22 request.

23 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: There's a motion to approve.
24 Is there a second?

25 MS. FOTI: I second.

1 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: All those in favor say, aye.

2 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

3 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: DCFS sustains.

6 Congratulations.

7 Next up is Exhibit A, Approval of
8 Special Considerations/Temporary Approvals
9 "Bundles "A." You have a copy of Exhibit A
10 in your agenda. Is there a motion to
11 accept?

12 MR. FLYNN: I make a motion to accept Exhibit A.

13 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Motion to approve Exhibit A.

14 Is there a second?

15 MS. DOHERTY: I second.

16 CHAIRMAN ATOM: Seconded by Sandi. Any
17 discussion? I will say that I'm -- I did not receive
18 it, because I was on vacation, and I did not fill it
19 out. So all of those in favor say, aye.

20 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

21 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: (Inaudible).

22 (THEREUPON, Exhibit A was marked and received
23 into evidence.)

24 MS. RUSS: Mr. Altom, for housekeeping purposes,
25 do we need a five minute break, or are y'all ready to

1 move forward?

2 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: You guys okay with pressing on?

3 MR. FLYNN: Yes.

4 MR. WHATLEY: Yes.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Would you guys like to
6 kind of move locations, so you can see the screen for
7 the next parts? We have people presenting, right,
8 Ebony?

9 MS. RUSS: Yeah, there may be some of them that
10 may need to ask some questions today --

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

12 MS. RUSS: -- so they can look at the screen.

13 MR. FLYNN: No, that'll be fine. Let's just
14 move on.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

16 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Next up is Angel's Choice
17 Adoption Agency.

18 MS. LITZSEY: Good afternoon. My name is Sharra
19 Litzsey, and I am the Program Manager for the
20 placement of residential licensing unit. At Angel's
21 Choice Adoption Agency, we are requesting a change of
22 address. The new address is 8808. This is Ms.
23 Holmes home address. It has -- this has been his
24 home, that is secure and dedicated to the adoption
25 agency. PRLU supports this request.

1 MR. FLYNN: I make a motion to approve this
2 request.

3 MR. WHATLEY: I'll second.

4 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Motion and second. Any
5 discussion?

6 (No response.)

7 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: All those in favor say, aye.

8 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

9 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Teen Challenge, a request for
12 an increase in capacity from 36 to 40 beds.

13 MR. CLOWERS: Good afternoon Board. I am Austin
14 Clowers. I am the Program Coordinator, here for
15 licensing. I'm presenting this Board action on
16 behalf of Teen Challenge. I also have CEO Justin
17 Smith with me. Teen Challenge Ranch in northwest
18 Arkansas is requesting an increase in capacity from
19 36 to 40. This is one of their 14 bed dorms that was
20 one of the oldest buildings on campus. This building
21 was for 18 students (inaudible). The facility was
22 visited by myself this past Thursday, October 22nd.
23 All fire and health inspections are in the file. Our
24 residential unit is in support of this change.

25 MR. FLYNN: I make a motion to approve this

1 request.

2 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Motion to approve the request.
3 Is there a second?

4 MS. DOHERTY: I second.

5 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: There's a second. Any
6 discussion?

7 (No response.)

8 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: All those in favor say, aye.

9 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

10 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: American Adoptions of KS, LLC,
13 d/b/a American Adoptions. 126, a request for name
14 change.

15 MS. LITZSEY: Good afternoon. My name is Sharra
16 Litzsey, and I'm a Program Manager for the PRLU,
17 unit. This is D.J. Barnes, here to answer any
18 questions that the Board may have. American
19 Adoptions is requesting a change of ownership, by
20 changing the owner from American Adoptions to
21 American Adoptions of Kansas, LLC. The change is for
22 all of the adoption agencies owned by American
23 Adoptions, Kansas, are all under one KC, LLC. PRLU
24 supports this request.

25 MR. WHATLEY: I'll make a motion to approve the

1 request.

2 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: We have a motion. Is there a
3 second?

4 MS. FOTI: Second.

5 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Beverly seconds. All those in
6 favor say, aye.

7 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

8 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Motions to request to terminate
9 inactive licenses in accordance with Act 772. This
10 will be presented by the UFE?

11 MS. RUSS: Yes. For the record, I am Ebony
12 Russ, Program Manager for Residential licensing unit.
13 For the reason for the recommendation, for the
14 record, it will be the same for the six agencies
15 listed. I'll go ahead and read the first reason for
16 recommendation for terminating inactive licenses in
17 accordance with Act 772.

18 "The issuing of Act 772 (SB-466) was passed and
19 became effective on July 28th, 2021. This Act
20 requires the Child Welfare Agency Review Board to
21 close or terminate a license that has not been
22 operational for the past 12 months. DHS may
23 recommended to the Board, to revocation, suspension
24 or termination of a license for any basis provided by
25 law or rule, including without limitation, the

1 failure to be in operation or in substantial
2 compliance for a consecutive six month period."

3 Under A - We have Agape Child and Family
4 Services. Agape Child and Family Services,
5 Incorporated, has consistently requested to maintain
6 an inactive status for their agency, since 2014. The
7 licensing unit is making the recommendation to
8 terminate this license, in accordance to Act 772.

9 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Are there any questions or
10 concerns?

11 MR. WHATLEY: I'm just curious, in an attempt to
12 save time, can we go ahead and go through all of
13 these, and just vote on this as one, because this is
14 -- this is a law now, right? So I think you know
15 what the motion would be. Let's go ahead and get it
16 in the record.

17 MS. RUSS: Sure.

18 So B - We have Arbor House. They've been
19 inactive since May, of 2015, okay.

20 C - We have Arkansas Baptist Ranch. Records
21 indicate that they have been inactive -- in an
22 inactive status for one year.

23 D - We have Arkansas Baptist Home for Children,
24 Monticello Campus. Records indicate that this agency
25 has been in an inactive status for one year.

1 E - United Methodist Children's Homes, Searcy
2 Home. Our records indicate that this agency has been
3 in an inactive status for a year.

4 F - We have Winfred Polk Home, owned by United
5 Methodist Children's Homes. Our records indicate
6 that this agency has been in an inactive status,
7 since 2017.

8 MR. WHATLEY: Now, Mr. Chairman, just one
9 question for clarification. And we may be going over
10 that a little more when we talk about this -- the
11 appropriation, but these are requests that the
12 Licensing Board extended for (inaudible). It was
13 initiated by licensing. Does that constitute the --

14 MR. FLYNN: And my question is, if the law makes
15 them inactive, we don't have -- we can't approve
16 them. So is there even a need for action on these?
17 Can we vote anything besides --

18 MS. BRIDGES-BELL: You're correct. The way the
19 law reads though, is that you have to make a
20 decision, whether --

21 MR. FLYNN: -- yeah.

22 MS. BRIDGES-BELL -- we bring it to you, but
23 there still has to be a decision by the Board, to
24 enact the law.

25 MR. FLYNN: We don't have a choice, but we --

1 MS. BRIDGES-BELL - Exactly.

2 MR. FLYNN: -- have to vote yes, yeah.

3 MR. WHATLEY: And the only thing I'd add, it --

4 MR. FLYNN: Go ahead.

5 MR. WHATLEY -- I did email Ebony, because for
6 me, for historical reasons, if somebody just picks
7 this up and reads it, my agency lost their license.
8 I had sent her an email, explaining that if we kept a
9 -- we kept this license inactive for a year, while we
10 transitioned to placement, our plan was to come back,
11 whether the law was here or not, and request that it
12 be terminated, but now that we're in that new role --
13 but I don't want somebody, somewhere to pick this up,
14 and just see that Arkansas Baptist Children's Home
15 lost a license, without any other explanation. And
16 so I really -- I had sent the email, because I want
17 that to be a part of the record, is that this
18 actually was a request for me to do this, because we
19 have moved to a different type of care. It's just a
20 small thing, but I know how easily somebody picks up
21 on something. And I read earlier in the paper -- in
22 the Little Rock paper, something happening; a city in
23 the south part of the state that information was
24 wrong, so I don't want things to be confused, for
25 historical reasons.

1 MS. BRIDGES-BELL: I appreciate the
2 clarification.

3 MR. FLYNN: Yeah.

4 MR. WHATLEY: I have an additional question. So
5 if they're checking on licensing, you can see that it
6 has multiple licenses. So primarily, license is
7 residential, but there's also emergency. And that
8 emergency license gets used on occasions, but it
9 could possibly lapse over a year, before then. I
10 mean, is this something that we should make note of,
11 and we should make -- draw to the attention of the
12 licensing people, if we note that it's been inactive
13 for over a year, but yet, their intention is to keep
14 that, and good reasons for keeping that license.

15 MR. FLYNN: So you -- you -- everything else is
16 in correct order?

17 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Correct. So they can accept
18 children.

19 MR. FLYNN: Right.

20 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: So your license should still be
21 active. You just have not placed children under
22 emergency.

23 MR. WHATLEY: Children that's placed under
24 residential, but not under emergency.

25 MR. FLYNN: But it's good, to have the emergency

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MR. WHATLEY: Exactly, in case --

MR. FLYNN: -- it's necessary to --

MR. WHATLEY: -- let licensing come out and check your records.

MR. FLYNN: Yes, yes.

CHAIRMAN ALTOM: So you're talking about in one facility, where your license is a dual license?

MR. WHATLEY: You have multiple license --

CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Right. I've got it; I've got it.

MR. FLYNN: Okay. You understand, we're talking about where we have a group home, a residential license, then we might use one of those beds as an emergency shelter bed, because the standards are very similar, and if you -- and it helps from disrupting the placement of the child, if you would take the child in on emergency shelter --

MR. WHATLEY: -- exactly. I'm sure it would be appropriate to make an emergency placement.

MR. FLYNN: -- I think we're 90 days, so I think what we've done with adoption agencies that have not placed children, they've come and made a request to keep their license active. So it may be that you just need to make a request to keep that license

1 active, if you've not placed children. That's what
2 we've done with adoption agencies, that have not
3 placed children.

4 MR. WHATLEY: Yeah.

5 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Is that what -- how you --

6 MR. FLYNN: That's inactive licenses. That --
7 this is specifically for an inactive license. His is
8 not inactive, as long as he keeps it active.

9 MS. DOHERTY: Not inactive yet.

10 MS. BRIDGES-BELL: Inactive, as they have not
11 been in use for 12 months or more. That's the way
12 the law reads.

13 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Anyone have any questions?

14 MR. FLYNN: So we requested to have those
15 licenses made inactive, a year ago.

16 MS. BRIDGES-BELL: If they have not been active
17 for the last 12 months, they will be terminated.
18 That's the only way that Act reads.

19 MS. RUSS: So I do have a question. When
20 they're dual licenses, so we have residential and
21 emergency license, and they're not using the
22 emergency shelter part of this license over for a
23 year, so do we create a new license and terminate --

24 MS. BRIDGES-BELL: A point of discussion today,
25 table that for the time being, and let's just discuss

1 it afterwards. We'll stick to the agenda, if that's
2 appropriate. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Do we need Gene? I don't
4 believe we've got Gene or Rebecca. Fort Smith
5 Children's Emergency Shelter.

6 MS. RUSS: -- this was newly added to the
7 agenda. So Sharra Litzsey will discuss it.

8 MS. LITZSEY: Good afternoon again. I'm Sharra
9 Litzsey, with the placement of Residential Licensing
10 Board. Fort Smith Children's Emergency -- I'm sorry,
11 available via Zoom, is Amy Curry, and the applicant,
12 to answer any questions that the Board may have.
13 Fort Smith's Children's Emergency Shelter is
14 requesting a special consideration for regulation
15 105.1. Childcare and staff shall be at least 21
16 years of age, and hold a highschool diploma, or
17 equivalent, to allow M.P. to work as a direct care
18 staff, while obtaining a GED. M.P. has begun the
19 classes at Fort Smith Adult Education Center, and
20 plans to have the program completed in six months.
21 PRLU supports this request.

22 MS. DOHERTY: I have a question. So it's not
23 because it's an inactive license; right?

24 MS. LITZSEY: That's right, it was just --
25 submitted. We needed to add it to the record.

1 (Inaudible). Several Board Members talking over each
2 other.

3 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: We need to have it read into
4 the record, before we -- before we --

5 MR. FLYNN: If we vote, it's on --

6 (Inaudible). Board Members talking over each
7 other.

8 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: We need to go ahead and add
9 this, before we --

10 MS. RUSS: Oh, okay.

11 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: -- before we have a discussion.
12 Let's table your issue right now, and let's move to
13 the previous. It's my understanding, is we have a --
14 we put this into the record. Is there a motion to
15 accept the licensing request to terminate the
16 inactive licenses, in accordance with Act 772?

17 MS. DOHERTY: I make a motion to accept the
18 terminations of inactive licenses.

19 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: I'll second it. Is there any
20 discussion?

21 (No response.)

22 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: This will be the time for
23 discussion now.

24 MR. FLYNN: I do have a question, then. How
25 many more are there?

1 MS. RUSS: None.

2 MR. FLYNN: Okay, last meeting, we talked about
3 this, so this wraps it up.

4 MR. WHATLEY: And I think -- I know I got an
5 email, so I'm assuming everyone on here got an email,
6 in case there was some reason they wanted to -- to
7 reverse this.

8 MS. BRIDGE-BELL: Yes, it's reversible.

9 MR. WHATLEY: I don't know it is, but if they
10 wanted to apply for a license, that they did have
11 other chances.

12 MS. RUSS: So like Michelle indicated, there may
13 be some duly licensed agencies that may not be using
14 their second license.

15 MR. FLYNN: I just -- it's just nice to know, in
16 advance.

17 MS. RUSS: Okay.

18 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: I'd like to amend my motion.
19 There may be a possibility to amend the motion, to
20 remove these. That would also address the dual
21 licensed facility, and you guys look at that and tell
22 us what's an -- you're talking about a bed that's
23 used for residential, that might -- becomes vacant,
24 they may need to use it as an emergency shelter --

25 MR. WHATLEY: That's -- exactly.

1 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: -- exactly. And so if that's
2 the -- that opportunity is taken away from a duly
3 licensed facility, that would -- that defeats the
4 whole purpose of why you're duly licensed --

5 MR. WHATLEY: Also --

6 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: -- for the continuity of care
7 for children.

8 MR. WHATLEY: -- also, I think you're going to
9 have some of those that are duly licensed, coming
10 back fairly often, to be licensed again, you're --
11 you're -- once your license has been removed, and
12 then two months after that, you need to make
13 arrangements, and so then you're needing to be
14 licensed again.

15 MS. DOHERTY: (Inaudible).

16 MR. FLYNN: But is it possible to request and
17 keep your license active, even though you did not --
18 we do that with adoptions. If -- a lot of people --
19 there's not a whole lot of adoptions nowadays. Some
20 people go a year, without having adoptions. Are we
21 going to close all of the adoption agencies that
22 don't have an adoption?

23 MS. BRIDGES-BELL: No.

24 MR. WHATLEY: I'll make another point on that,
25 also. Not only like the (inaudible) facility, but

1 those initial emergency transitional living --
2 transitional living comes in, if we have a child that
3 has been with us for a number of years, and then he's
4 ready to move on to transition. That doesn't happen
5 all the time, so we don't always have the child in
6 transitional. But we need to have this available,
7 when that happens, or the child is over 18.

8 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: What say the legal?

9 MS. BRIDGES-BELL: As Ebony said, they are on --
10 those that are being closed, is because they haven't
11 been operating for the last six months. It's not the
12 dual licenses that were even close at the time. That
13 is something we will look into, and we will make sure
14 to leave that at the foregrounds of what we are
15 doing. That is not our intent. We want to make sure
16 that we are serving all children as much as we can,
17 and keep everything as (inaudible) as much as
18 possible. We just don't want people holding onto
19 licenses for multiple years, without placing
20 children. That's the goal, for people to not hold
21 onto licenses (inaudible). So that's what we are
22 going to move forward on, and that's what we've been
23 doing.

24 MR. WHATLEY: Appreciate the explanation and the
25 intent, but there will be numerous agencies that

1 would be affected. And the program -- and the intent
2 of the program such as ours, is to be able to serve
3 all these people. But it's active, it's always
4 active. It's just that there could be a lot of
5 (inaudible). One of those license could lapse over a
6 year. It wouldn't be long over that period of time,
7 as part of the overall program.

8 MS. BRIDGES-BELL: And I understand that, and I
9 would eventually say though, to just contact your
10 legislator and --

11 MR. FLYNN: I have --

12 MS. BRIDGES-BELL: -- and (inaudible). Members
13 talking over each other.

14 MR. FLYNN -- I have a question.

15 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any other discussion?

16 (No response.)

17 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: All those in favor of
18 terminating the licenses that were read into the
19 record, vote by saying, aye.

20 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

21 MR. FLYNN: My question is, where did this act
22 originate? Was it -- did the unit request this? I
23 -- I just -- I have no idea, and I try to keep up
24 with these things. It's a strange thing for this --
25 it (inaudible). I guess not.

1 MS. BRIDGES-BELL: The best that I can tell you,
2 is that it originated by Sandra Hester, and represent
3 -- Representative (inaudible).

4 MR. FLYNN: Yeah, but there should be a reason
5 why the law was passed, and I'm just curious what
6 brought that to their attention, that this was a --
7 was a problem. Because I think we could have helped
8 them think about these things, before they had
9 written it out, if they'd consulted the Board or some
10 providers. So if y'all become aware of this in two
11 years, at least let us know, you know, the one about
12 corporal punishment, nobody has a problem with that.
13 But, it's just nice to find out about it, before I
14 actually hear it online or something (inaudible).
15 Actually, I get Google News, whenever our -- our
16 reports shows up in the news. And sometimes, I find
17 out things that way. So -- but it is nice to be
18 aware of these things, because we might could have
19 helped write this in a way that it would meet their
20 expectations, but not endanger someone else that's
21 trying to help children. So is it active here?

22 MS. JEFFREY: Yes.

23 MR. FLYNN: Okay. I thought I saw it. I wasn't
24 -- I would like to read it again, and make sure that
25 we are --

1 MS. RUSS: You should have both Acts --

2 MR. FLYNN: -- yeah, I --

3 MS. RUSS: -- 73 and (inaudible).

4 MR. FLYNN: -- I'm not worried about the other
5 one. I'm just --

6 MS. RUSS: Okay.

7 MR. FLYNN: -- just this one. It's all in how
8 you read this (inaudible). "In addition to any other
9 basis provided by law or rule, the Board shall
10 terminate the license of a licensee that has not been
11 in operation for a consecutive 12 month period." So
12 you're the licensee, David. You're (inaudible).
13 You're the licensee. We're in business. It's just
14 -- I don't know.

15 MS. DOHERTY: (Inaudible).

16 MR. WHATLEY: I'm not sure.

17 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Does the Board temporarily
18 approve this?

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible).

20 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: All those --

21 MS. DOHERTY: Just got this, this morning.

22 MR. FLYNN: Yes.

23 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: -- Fort Smith Emergency
24 Shelter.

25 MS. LITZSEY: I'm Sharra Litzsey, with placement

1 of Residential Licensing Unit, here to present our
2 request for Fort Smith Children's Emergency Shelter.
3 Available will be Amy Curry and Mrs. P., to answer
4 any questions that you may have.

5 Fort Smith Emergency Shelter is requesting a
6 special consideration for regulation 105.1.
7 Childcare and staff shall be at least 21 years
8 totaled, and have a highschool or the equivalent.
9 This request would allow Mrs. P. to work as a direct
10 care staff, while obtaining a GED. Mrs. P. has begun
11 her classes at Fort Smith Adult Education Center, and
12 plans to have this program completed in the next six
13 months. PRLU supports this request.

14 MR. WHATLEY: She's -- she's at least 21, isn't
15 she?

16 MS. LITZSEY: Yes, just that she doesn't have a
17 GED.

18 MR. FLYNN: I make a motion to approve this
19 request.

20 MS. DOHERTY: I second.

21 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: I have a motion and a second.
22 All those in favor say, aye.

23 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

24 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

25 (No response.)

1 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Congratulations.

2 MS. P.: Thank you.

3 MS. CURRY: Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: We have a Report of Temporary
5 Approvals/Actions Log; Other Business.

6 MS. LITZSEY: Hello. I'm Sharra Litzsey,
7 Program Manager for PRLU. I want to provide some
8 updates on some PRTF programs. Elizabeth Mitress --
9 Elizabeth Mitchell Centers continues to be on a six
10 month corrective action agreement, and they are in
11 compliance. That agreement is set to expire in
12 November of 2021.

13 United Methodist Children's Home, Little Rock
14 Campus has been placed on a corrective action
15 agreement, as of 9/30/2021. That agreement is for
16 six months, as well.

17 Little Creek Behavioral Hospital has been placed
18 on a corrective action agreement on September 29th,
19 2021, for a six month period.

20 Perimeter of Forrest City continues on their
21 corrective action agreement, and it is in place for
22 six months, as well.

23 Piney Ridge is recommending -- I'm sorry --
24 Piney Ridge would like to have their letter of
25 reprimand released, and that are -- they have done

1 well on their corrective action agreement. They are
2 just requesting that the Board allow that letter of
3 reprimand to be lifted.

4 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Is there a motion to approve
5 the request to lift the letter of reprimand?

6 MR. FLYNN: (Inaudible). This is a request for
7 us, so I've never had this request before, so...

8 MR. WEST: On this particular situation, or --
9 because I know y'all -- have y'all not done letters
10 of reprimand before?

11 MS. FOTI: This is a first.

12 MR. WEST: Oh, on this -- I have done -- I know
13 what to put on it.

14 MS. RUSS: So previously, the Board requested
15 earlier this year, to monitor Piney Ridge until the
16 end of the year, December. But reports from
17 (inaudible) team has indicated that Piney Ridge is
18 doing well. As of now, they've made significant
19 changes to their agency, and now they are requesting
20 that they have the letter of reprimand lifted. They
21 have previously completed their corrective action
22 agreement, a few months prior to them being placed on
23 the letter of reprimand.

24 MR. FLYNN: Does the licensing unit support the
25 request?

1 MS. RUSS: Yes.

2 MR. WHATLEY: And you continue to monitor --

3 MS. RUSS: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: I make a motion to approve the
5 request.

6 MR. FLYNN: I'll second it.

7 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: A motion and second. Any
8 discussion?

9 (No response.)

10 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: All those in favor say, aye.

11 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

12 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 MR. HOOVER: This is Justin here, for Piney
15 Ridge Treatment Center. Thank you.

16 MS. LITZSEY: Thank you. That concludes my --
17 that concludes my updates on the psychiatric living
18 departments.

19 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Promulgation -
20 Residential/Placement, Ebony.

21 MS. RUSS: Ebony Russ, Program Director. So now
22 to promulgation. It's my understanding, that the
23 Board would need to give approval for already
24 approved standards to be added to the minimum
25 licensing status. So I believe a couple of years

1 ago, you guys made an approval on those. As -- as a
2 part of an Act and new laws from the legislative
3 session, PRAU has updated the rules to reflect the
4 changes that were made in the (inaudible). So we
5 want to let you know, that no other changes have been
6 made to what you had already approved, except that we
7 added the new laws, and they came out of the
8 legislative sessions. Those changes were made and
9 went into effect, July 28th, of 2021. They involved
10 Act 673, corporal punishment is now prohibited for
11 all placement of residential licenses. Act 772;
12 there are actually three parts to this Act, and you
13 have it in front of you, as well.

14 1. Requires all newly licensed providers to
15 obtain and permit Health Services Permit Agency,
16 regardless of in-state or out-of-state clients.

17 2. Would also require existing licensees to
18 obtain a permit from Health Services Permit Agency,
19 for a capacity beyond the currently approved capacity
20 for both in and out-of-state clients, with a specific
21 to psychiatric treatment facilities.

22 3. Allows the Child Welfare Agency Review Board
23 to close and terminate the license that has not been
24 in operation for the past 12 months.

25 So it's my understanding, that you would need to

1 make an approval on those. Previously, I did send
2 you a mark-up of those rules, (inaudible). I do
3 apologize for that. But we did have our Assistant
4 Director, Dawn Jeffrey, send you the proposals.

5 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Everybody have those?

6 BOARD MEMBERS: Yes.

7 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: I'll entertain a motion to
8 approve the residential and placement regulations
9 together, and I (inaudible) to do the same.

10 MR. FLYNN: I make a motion that we approve
11 these together.

12 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: There's a motion to approve.
13 I'll second. Any discussion?

14 (No response.)

15 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: All those in favor say, aye.

16 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

17 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Any opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Is that it, Ebony?

20 MS. RUSS: Yes. Our next Board meeting is
21 scheduled for December the 8th.

22 CHAIRMAN ALTOM: Thank you guys.

23 THEREUPON,

24 The meeting was concluded at 3:37 p.m.
25

COURT REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF ARKANSAS)
)
 COUNTY OF PULASKI)

I, GLORIA F. NICKLES, CCR, Court Reporter for the State of Arkansas, do hereby certify the proceedings which appear in the foregoing pages are the proceedings taken by me by Stenomask at 1:30 p.m., and that the same were thereafter reduced to typewritten form by me or under my direction and supervision, and that the foregoing pages contain a true and correct transcription of the proceedings held to the best of my ability, along with all items of evidence admitted into evidence.

WITNESS my hand and seal as such Official Court Reporter on this the 12th day of November, 2021.

GLORIA F. NICKLES, CCR
CERTIFICATE NUMBER 294

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(EXHIBIT A)