

From: [Reagan Stanford](#)
To: [Ebony Russ](#)
Cc: [com.lahits.OLTC@ar.ansas.gov](#); [Tonya Williams \(DHHS DCECE\)](#); [Da. Id Griffin](#); [Cecilia Vinson](#); [Sharra Singleton-Litzsey](#)
Subject: Re: Piney Ridge Treatment Center Concerns
Date: Friday, October 4, 2019 11:11:39 AM

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Thank you for your responsiveness. Please let us know if you need and additional information.

On Oct 3, 2019, at 4 42 PM, Ebony Russ <Ebony.Russ@dhs.arkansas.gov> wrote

Good afternoon Ms. Stanford

PRLU has reviewed the complaints and is working to develop a plan to address the concerns at the facility. Please continue to share your concerns with PRLU so that they are addressed.

Thank you

Ebony Russ
Quality Assurance Coordinator/Program Manager
Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education
700 S. Main St.
Little Rock, AR 72204
Main line: 501.682.8590
Direct line: 501.320.3971
Fax: 501.682.2317

Ebony.Russ@dhs.arkansas.gov

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From: Reagan Stanford <RStanford@disabilityrightsar.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 5:08 PM
To: complaints.OLTC@arkansas.gov
Cc: Tonya Williams (DHHS DCECE) <Tonya.L.Williams@dhs.arkansas.gov>; David Griffin <david.griffin@dhs.arkansas.gov>; Cecilia Vinson <Cecilia.Vinson@dhs.arkansas.gov>; Sharra Singleton-Litzsey <Sharra.Singleton-Litzsey@dhs.arkansas.gov>; Ebony Russ <Ebony.Russ@dhs.arkansas.gov>
Subject: Piney Ridge Treatment Center Concerns

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Facility: Piney Ridge Treatment Center
Address: 2805 E. Zion Rd., Fayetteville, AR 72703
Facility Administrator: Adrienne Catalina

We received concerning information regarding Piney Ridge Treatment Center in Fayetteville recently. Prompted by the allegations made we visited the facility on September 19th and 20th and have been looking into specific allegations. The allegations and observations include:

- Lack of supervision, leading to frequent "consensual" sexual contact among youth. *Standards 902, 913, and 1007.2*
- Forced youth to youth sexual contact. *Standards 902, 913 and 1007.2*
- 4-6 youth per bedroom, all of whom have been placed based on the commission of sexual offenses or exhibiting sexually maladaptive behaviors. Youth are placed in shared rooms by default and not based on individual determinations that are specifically noted in their treatment plan as required. *Standards 902, 913, 1013.2, 1013.3*
- Up to 24 youth housed on a unit together with little structured or off-unit time. *Standard 1009*
- Excessive use of restraints. *Standard 1005*
- Excessive use of chemical restraints, clinical director confirmed they are used "most days," complaints indicate they are used 30-40 times per month.
- High rate of Staph infections as a result of the uncleanness of the facility. *Standards 1010.1 and 1011.7*
- Children's clothing is not cleaned and some wear the same clothing multiple days in a row. *Standard 1009.8*
- Failure to conduct psychosexual evaluations. Record reviews for 5 juveniles did not find any psychosexual evaluations and the most recent psychological evaluation was completed more than 2 years ago. *Standard 1003.6*
- Housing a large population of youth who are lower functioning and youth with autism indiscriminately with all other youth and subjecting them to the same chaotic environment and "programming" as all other youth. *Standard 1002.4*
- Meals on Unit (MOUs) used as punishment, youth receive cold meals consisting of sandwich, carrots, and pretzels for several days to several weeks.
- Failure to adequately train direct care staff.
- Relying on a tablet to communicate with non-English speaking youth and denying access to tablet as punishment.
- Educational neglect, failure to provide FAPE.

The facility is in disrepair and very dirty. The general environment is loud and chaotic, and in no way therapeutic. I have attached a few photos and included a link to a google album below. The state of the physical facilities is representative of the care and attention put into all aspects of the program.

We have been informed by residents and staff that the facility is generally alerted to visits from agencies and responds accordingly.

Reagan Stanford
Staff Attorney

<image001.jpg>

Disability Rights Arkansas, Inc.
400 W. Capitol Ave., Suite 1200
Little Rock, AR 72201
Phone: 501.296.1775 x117
Direct: 501.492.5753

Facebook: Disability Rights Arkansas
Twitter: @DRArkansas

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