## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

:

SHAQUILLE HOWARD, BROOKE

GOODE, JASON PORTER, KEISHA

COHEN and ALBERT CASTAPHANY, on their own behalf and on behalf of all others

similarly situated,

Case No. 20-cv-1389

**ELECTRONICALLY FILED** 

Plaintiffs,

.

v.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

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LAURA WILLIAMS, Chief Deputy Warden

of Healthcare Services; ORLANDO

HARPER, Warden of Allegheny County Jail;

MICHAEL BARFIELD, Mental Health

**Director; ALLEGHENY COUNTY;** 

:

Defendants.

## FINAL APPROVAL ORDER

This matter came before the Court on the Motion of Plaintiffs Shaquille Howard, Brooke Goode, Jason Porter, Keisha Cohen and Albert Castaphany (collectively "Plaintiffs") for an Order Approving the Parties' Proposed Settlement, filed May 20, 2024 (the "Motion"). This Court preliminarily approved the settlement on March 21, 2024, and directed that notice of the proposed settlement be provided to the Class. The Motion also seeks the appointment of an independent Monitor, as described in the Parties' proposed Consent Order and Judgment.

Based on the written submissions and evidence presented in connection with the above motions, after noting the lack of any objections to the proposed settlement from the Class and after a Final Fairness hearing conducted on July 30, 2024, the Court makes the following findings and determinations:

## IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED:

- 1. The class representatives and class counsel have adequately represented the class. The Class representatives and class counsel have been investigating and pursuing their claims since 2019, conducted substantial discovery, including ten depositions, and obtained extensive reports from three expert witnesses. They have obtained meaningful relief for the Class as a result of those efforts.
- 2. The Parties' proposed settlement was negotiated at arm's length. Negotiations lasted several years, involved two different facilitators, and dozens of meetings.
- 3. The Parties' proposed settlement provides adequate relief, taking into account the costs, risk and delay of trial and appeal, the effectiveness of distributing relief to the class, the terms of the proposed award of attorney's fees, including timing of payment, and the lack of any other agreements relating to the proposed settlement. The relief provided to class members through the proposed Consent Order and Judgment is substantial, and addresses much of the Plaintiffs' claims.
- 4. The Parties proposed settlement treats class members equitably relative to each other. In fact, all class members are treated identically, subject to any differences dictated by their individual clinical needs.
- 5. The Parties' proposed settlement is fair, just, equitable, reasonable, adequate, and in the best interest of the Class.
- 6. Notice of the settlement provided to the Class was consistent with the Court's prior order and is reasonable under the circumstances.
- 7. The settlement is hereby approved, and the Court will separately enter the proposed Consent Order and Judgment in order to implement the settlement.

- 8. As set forth in the Consent Order and Judgment (to be filed separately), the Court appoints Dr. Bandy X. Lee as Monitor.
- 9. The case will be marked administratively closed during the monitor period and either party may petition to have this case reopened to consider any compliance issues.

DATED: \_7/30/2024\_\_\_\_\_

s/Christopher B. Brown
United States Magistrate Judge