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**Jul 22 2026**

**SC Court of Appeals**

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
In The Court of Appeals

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APPEAL FROM SPARTANBURG COUNTY  
Court of Common Pleas

J. Mark Hayes, II, Circuit Court Judge

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Case No. 2017-CP-42-00219  
Appellate Case No. 2024-001546

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Jo Ann Blackwell, Michelene Brooks, and Samuel H. Owens, Jr., individually and on behalf of all  
others similarly situated, ..... Respondents,

v.

Mary Black Health System, LLC, d/b/a Mary Black Memorial Hospital; CHSPSC, LLC; and  
Professional Account Services, Inc., ..... Appellants.

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**JOINT STATUS REPORT**

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Appellants Mary Black Health System, LLC, d/b/a Mary Black Memorial Hospital;  
CHSPSC, LLC; and Professional Account Services, Inc. (collectively, “Appellants” or  
“Defendants”) and Respondents Jo Ann Blackwell, Michelene Brooks, and Samuel H. Owens, Jr.  
(collectively, “Respondents” or “Plaintiffs”) respectfully submit this Joint Status Report in  
compliance with the Court’s March 23, 2026 Order and June 25, 2026 correspondence.

As the Parties reported in their Joint Status Report Regarding Remand of the Appeal, dated  
June 22, 2026, the circuit court entered an order granting the Parties’ Joint Motion for Preliminary  
Approval of the Class Action Settlement Agreement on June 15, 2026 (the “Preliminary Approval  
Order”). The circuit court’s Preliminary Approval Order certified the Settlement Class, appointed

class representatives and class counsel for the Settlement Class, made findings in support of preliminary approval of the proposed class action settlement agreement, and appointed The Notice Company as the Claims Administrator. Additionally, the Preliminary Approval Order established a procedure for judicial review and approval, including establishing deadlines for future activities in the approval process.

The Claims Administrator is currently in the process of providing notice to the Settlement Class pursuant to the Preliminary Approval Order. This includes actual notice and notice by publication, and the circuit court has found that the form and manner of notice meet the requirements of due process and Rule 23, SCRCP. Additionally, the circuit court has scheduled a final fairness hearing for October 27, 2026, and the Parties continue to anticipate that they will obtain final approval and dismissal of this action in 2026.

The parties will continue to provide this Court with status updates every 30 days—or sooner if events warrant.

Respectfully submitted,

*s/Katon E. Dawson, Jr.*

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James Lynn Werner, (SC Bar No. 6029)  
Katon E. Dawson, Jr. (SC Bar No. 101167)  
Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP  
1221 Main Street, Suite 1100  
Columbia, SC 29201  
(803) 255-8000  
jimwerner@parkerpoe.com  
katondawson@parkerpoe.com

*Attorneys for Appellants Mary Black Health System, LLC,  
d/b/a Mary Black Memorial Hospital; CHSPSC, LLC; and  
Professional Account Services, Inc.*

*s/Marghretta H. Shisko*

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John B. White, Jr. (S.C. Bar No. 5996)  
Marghretta H. Shisko (S.C. Bar No. 100106)  
Griffin L. Lynch (S.C. Bar No. 72518)  
John B. White, Jr. P.A.  
291 S. Pine Street  
P.O. Box 2465 (29304)  
Spartanburg, SC 29302  
jwhite@johnbwhitelaw.com  
mshisko@johnbwhitelaw.com  
glynch@johnbwhitelaw.com

John S. Simmons (S.C. Bar No. 10260)  
Rachel G. Peavy (S.C. Bar No. 69397)  
Simmons Law Firm, LLC  
1711 Pickens Street  
Columbia, SC 29201  
(803) 779-4600  
jsimmons@simmonsfirm.com  
rpeavy@simmonsfirm.com

*Attorneys for Respondents Jo Ann Blackwell, Michelene  
Brooks, and Samuel H. Owens, Jr.*

July 22, 2026