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SC Court of Appeals

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM SPARTANBURG COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas

J. Mark Hayes, II, Circuit Court Judge

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

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.

JOINT STATUS REPORT

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 last Joint Status Report, dated September 21, 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 has provided actual notice and notice by publication to the Settlement Class pursuant to the Preliminary Approval Order, in which the circuit court determined that the form and manner of notice meet the requirements of due process and Rule 23, SCRCP. The Claims Administrator mailed the notice of the proposed settlement and claim form to the Settlement Class Members on July 15, 2026, and the Claims Administrator has established a dedicated website for the settlement with the relevant documents and information, as well as a toll-free telephone line for information on the settlement. The Claims Administrator is continuing to oversee and administer the claim submission and review process.

Additionally, the circuit court has scheduled a final fairness hearing for October 27, 2026, and the deadline for Settlement Class Members to submit any requests to speak at the fairness hearing was October 17, 2026. As of the date of this report, the Claims Administrator has not received any requests for exclusion from the settlement or any objections to the settlement. 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.

s/ Katon E. Dawson, Jr.

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October 21, 2026