

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**WILLIAM DIXON, *et al.*,**

**Plaintiffs,**

**v.**

**VINCENT C. GRAY, *et al.*,**

**Defendants.**

**Civil Action No. 74-00285 (TFH)**

**ORDER**

On September 20, 2011, the Court issued an order granting preliminary approval of a Settlement Agreement dated September 8, 2011, which was proposed by the parties to resolve this historic class-action lawsuit. Accordingly, the Court directed the parties to proceed with the settlement pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement and to effectuate notice of the settlement to the Class Members substantially in the manner specified by paragraph 32 of the Settlement Agreement and Exhibit 1 thereto. Before granting final approval of the Settlement Agreement, however, the Court must hold a hearing, referred to as a “Fairness Hearing,” and determine that the settlement is fair, reasonable and adequate. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)(2). **The Fairness Hearing in this case is scheduled to take place on February 16, 2012, at 10:00 a.m., in Courtroom 20, which is the Ceremonial Courtroom located on the Sixth Floor of the main courthouse at 333 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.** Please note that this is a change from the original courtroom location.

### **OBJECTIONS AND REQUESTS TO BE HEARD**

In accordance with the order dated September 20, 2011, Class Members who wish to appear and make a statement at the Fairness Hearing in person, through counsel, or through a duly authorized guardian or representative were required to file a letter with the Court that included a notice of intent to appear, a statement providing the basis for their opposition to the terms of the Settlement Agreement, and a statement demonstrating that they are Class Members. Such letters from Class Members were due to be filed on or before December 31, 2011. Accordingly, letters were received from the following individuals: Daud Holiday, Gillan McGuire, Greshawn Perry, James Crowder, Michael Hinnant, Richard Paul, Pandora Jones, Bruce Cureton, Sharell Dickerson, Anne Alatishe, Dwight Riddick, Paul Daniel, Eric Exum, Peggy Williams on behalf of Louise Kinard, Abeba Tekle, Jacqueline Young, Ellen Houseal, Yvette McKay, Dorothy Thomas, C.G. Woodard, CRF Independent Consumers, Nicole Dixon, Michael Sindram, and Dorothy Curry.

Only Class Members who provided timely notice of their intent to appear at the Fairness Hearing will be permitted to make statements during the hearing. Abeba Tekle and Michael Sindram were the only individuals who requested the opportunity to appear and be heard during the Fairness Hearing. Neither Ms. Tekle nor Mr. Sindram provided a statement indicating the bases for their objections to the Settlement Agreement; instead, both Ms. Tekle and Mr. Sindram voiced concerns or complaints about being denied services to which they feel they are entitled. Because the purpose of the Fairness Hearing is to determine whether the specific terms of the Settlement Agreement are fair, reasonable and adequate, all remarks shall be confined to a discussion about the Settlement Agreement itself and not to other grievances

that are unrelated to the question of whether the Settlement Agreement should be finally approved.

**PROCEDURES FOR THE FAIRNESS HEARING**

The Fairness Hearing shall proceed as follows: counsel for the Class Members and counsel for the District will each present arguments explaining why they believe the Settlement Agreement is fair, reasonable and adequate. Afterwards, Abeba Tekle and Michael Sindram will have the opportunity to make a brief statement, no longer than seven minutes each, that is limited to identifying and explaining the objections they have to the terms of the Settlement Agreement. Counsel for the Class Members and counsel for the District will then have the opportunity to respond to Ms. Tekle's and Mr. Sindram's comments before the Court issues any ruling.

Although the hearing will be held in open court so that anyone from the public may attend, the Court's security policies mandate that any person who seeks to enter the courthouse must present a government-issued photographic identification, for example a driver's license.

**SO ORDERED.**

January 30, 2012

Thomas F. Hogan  
Thomas F. Hogan  
United States District Judge