

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

THE STATE OF GEORGIA, et. al.,

Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION
NO. 1:09-CV-119-CAP

O R D E R

This matter is currently pending before the court on the parties' joint motion for entry of settlement agreement [Doc. No. 2].

The parties filed a joint status report [Doc. No. 26], which updated the court on the agreements reached between and progress made by the parties, including the coalition of advocacy groups (appearing in this case as *amici curiae*). In the conclusion paragraph of the status report, the State of Georgia specifically requested this court to approve the parties' joint motion that the court enter the parties' negotiated settlement agreement [Doc. No. 2]. On the other hand, the Department of Justice ("DOJ"), on behalf of the United States, requested that this court take no further action prior to conducting a status conference sometime after October 1, 2009. The DOJ's request is based upon its desire to submit a status report, along with the coalition of advocacy

groups, to the court regarding community based services in the Georgia Mental Health System before September 30, 2009.

The court applauds the initiative and cooperation displayed thus far amongst all of the involved parties. The court specifically commends the named parties to this lawsuit for permitting the coalition of advocacy groups to become involved in the pursuit of a solution to the issues and deficiencies in the Georgia Mental Health System. The court strongly encourages all of the parties involved to maintain their level of commitment and effort as they work towards a better mental health system in Georgia. The court directs the parties to continue working together in the development of the implementation plan for the State of Georgia. Further, the parties should continue to meet, as agreed, every six months to update/monitor progress and to provide feedback.

With regard to the parties' joint motion for entry of settlement agreement [Doc. No. 2], the court hereby DISMISSES the motion because the DOJ has indicated that it no longer agrees with the motion. Upon the court's receipt of the joint status report filed by the DOJ and the coalition of advocacy groups, the court will determine whether a status conference is necessary. Moreover, the State of Georgia will be permitted an opportunity to respond to such report if necessary. Finally, the named parties may also

resubmit a motion for the court to permanently adopt the settlement agreement.

SO ORDERED, this 30th day of September, 2009.

/s/ Charles A. Pannell, Jr.
CHARLES A. PANNELL JR.
United States District Judge