

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION**

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|--|---|------------------------|
| N.B., <i>et al.</i> , by and through their next friends, |) | |
| |) | |
| Plaintiffs, |) | |
| |) | No. 11-CV-6866 |
| vs. |) | |
| |) | Judge: Jorge L. Alonso |
| FELICIA NORWOOD , in her official capacity |) | |
| as Director of the Illinois Department of |) | |
| Healthcare and Family Services, |) | |
| |) | |
| Defendant. |) | |

ORDER APPROVING FINAL SETTLEMENT OF CLASS ACTION

This matter having come before the Court on December 19, 2017, for final approval of class action settlement, and the Court having heard argument and considered the submissions presented to it, the Court makes the following findings:

1. This class action was commenced in September, 2011 [1]. This matter was vigorously prosecuted and vigorously defended on behalf of all parties.
2. The parties engaged in settlement discussions from 2014 through 2017. During the course of this litigation some individual class members received interim relief.
3. The parties in this class action filed a joint motion for preliminary approval of the Consent Decree and for dissemination of notice pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)(1)(B) [229], and this Court granted preliminary approval as set forth in the Court's Order dated October 27, 2017 [239].
4. Due notice of the pendency of this litigation, the substance of the proposed Consent Decree, and the Fairness Hearing was ordered given in the form and manner approved and directed in the Court's Order dated October 27, 2017.

5. Defendant has shown, and this Court finds, that the Class Notice was timely provided in accordance with the Court's Order dated October 27, 2017. The dissemination of the Class Notice in this manner was the best notice to the Class practical under the circumstances, and satisfies the requirements of due process and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23.

6. Pursuant to the Class Notice, interested persons were given notice that the Court would hold a hearing on the joint motion for final approval on December 19, 2017 (the "Fairness Hearing").

7. On December 19, 2017, the Court conducted a Fairness Hearing pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)(2), affording the parties and all other interested persons the opportunity to be heard in support of and in opposition to the proposed Consent Decree. After reviewing and considering the papers filed in support of the Consent Decree and the evidence, argument, comments and objections submitted at the Fairness Hearing, the Court has made a finding that the Consent Decree is fair, reasonable and adequate to bind class members.

8. The parties agree to provide to the Office of the Cook County Public Guardian, the draft of the Implementation Plan and the draft of any updates or amendments to the Implementation Plan and a copy of any further drafts exchanged by the parties that contain any material revisions to proposed terms at least 10 days prior to any effective date. The Office of the Cook County Public Guardian may provide the parties with comments on the Implementation Plan and any updates or amendments.

The Court having fully considered the matter and good cause appearing, hereby
ORDERS, ADJUDGES AND DECREES as follows:

1. Judgment is entered pursuant to the terms of the Consent Decree incorporated herein. Consent Decree to issue by separate order.

2. In accordance with the terms of the Consent Decree, the Court retains jurisdiction to enforce the terms of the Consent Decree.

ENTER:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping loop on the left and a smaller, more defined signature on the right.

Date: 1/16/18

Jorge L. Alonso
United States District Judge