

U.S. v. GEORGIA SETTLEMENT UPDATE

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Roslyn Carter Mental Health Forum

- Original settlement agreement signed Oct. 2010 following 2007 Hidden Shame series in AJC.
- Two populations:
 - People with **Developmental Disabilities** (primarily those moving out of state institutions) and
 - People with **Mental Illness** (target population = approx. 9,000 people with SPMI currently in or frequently readmitted to State Hospitals, frequently in ERs, chronically homeless, and/or being released from jails and prisons. People with co-occurring conditions; Forensic patients included if court says OK.)

An Independent reviewer was selected by DOJ and Georgia to conduct factual investigations to determine compliance.

- ***Community Mental Health Services developed:** Assertive Community Treatment Teams, Case management, Crisis Service Centers, Community Support Teams, Crisis Apartments, supported employment, peer support, and Georgia Housing Voucher Program.
- **People with Developmental Disabilities** started to be transitioned into community homes from state hospitals

- Between 2011-2015: Independent reviewer filed reports with the court. Many areas of progress, but problems in some areas, including:
 - **DD:** People with developmental disabilities languishing in DD hospitals, problems with community services, problems with quality management.
 - **Mental Health:** State did not meet Agreement's requirement to have capacity to provide supported housing to any of the 9000 in the target population.
 - Extension Agreement signed **May 2016**
 - Same Target population, same independent reviewer

- Extension Agreement stated the parties “**anticipate**” the state will have substantially complied with all provisions of extension agreement by June 30, 2018.
- Since the signing of Extension Agreement, Independent reviewer continued fact finding. Issued reports, finding **compliance** with many provisions; **continued concerns** with supported housing.

- Reviewer noted in most recent report, Sept. 2018:
 - Commitment of Georgia's leadership is a strength
 - Over last 8 years: State estimated it devoted **\$263.5** million dollars in state funds alone for community services.
 - “The State has developed the **major building blocks** of a community-based system of support for adults with SPMI and those with DD.”
 - Many areas of “substantial compliance.”

- **DD** -- Independent Reviewer's Recommended Findings of Noncompliance, Sept. 2018 :
 - Post-transition monitoring
 - Support coordination issues
 - Serving individuals with complex support needs, including behavioral
 - Investigations and mortality reviews

- **Mental Health -- Independent Reviewer's Recommended Findings of Noncompliance, Sept. 2018: Supported Housing**
 - “State has not yet achieved capacity to serve the approx. 9000 people in the Target Population who need Supported Housing.”
 - Ineffective “linkage” of people to Supported Housing (esp. people being released from jails, prisons, ERs)
 - Unified referral process not available to anyone in the Target Population
 - Determination of need is not statewide.

Thank you!

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