DOCKET NO. HHD-CV18-6093610-S : SUPERIOR COURT

.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT : JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF HARTFORD

AT HARTFORD

THE CENTER OF ATTENTION, LLC:

NO ONE LEFT BEHIND, and

v.

SELINA CHRISTIAN : JANUARY  $\mathcal{J}^{q}$  ,2020

#### PARTIES' JOINT MOTION FOR JUDGMENT UPON STIPULATION

The Plaintiff, the STATE OF CONNECTICUT, and the Defendants, THE CENTER OF ATTENTION, LLC: NO ONE LEFT BEHIND and SELINA CHRISTIAN, jointly move that judgment enter pursuant to, and in the form set forth, in the attached Stipulation for Judgment, without any further notice.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEFENDANT,

THE CENTER OF ATTENTION, LLC:

NO ONE LEFT BEHIND

/s/ Joshua L. Jackson /s/ Cody N. Guarnieri

WILLIAM TONG BY ITS ATTORNEY

ATTORNEY GENERAL Cody N. Guarnieri (Juris # 434005)

By: Joshua L. Jackson (Juris # 431455)

Assistant Attorney General

Brown, Paindiris & Scott, LLP

100 Pearl Street, 2nd Floor

165 Capitol Ave. Hartford, CT 06103

Hartford, CT 06106 Tel. (860) 522-3343 Tel: (860) 808-5040

ORAL ARGUMENT IS NOT REQUESTED TESTIMONY IS NOT REQUIRED

#### DEFENDANT, SELINA CHRISTIAN

/s/ Cody N. Guarnieri
BY HER ATTORNEY
Cody N. Guarnieri (Juris # 434005)
Brown, Paindiris & Scott, LLP
100 Pearl Street, 2nd Floor
Hartford, CT 06103
Tel. (860) 522-3343

#### **ORDER**

The Court having duly considered the Parties' Joint Motion For Judgment Upon Stipulation, hereby ORDERS as follows:

Judgment may enter in favor of the State of Connecticut and against The Center of Attention, LLC: No One Left Behind and Selina Christian pursuant to, and in the form set forth in, the attached Stipulation for Judgment.

SO ORDERED.	
	BY THE COURT
Date	Judge/ Clerk

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Joint Motion For Judgment Upon Stipulation was mailed and/or electronically delivered in accordance with Conn. Prac. Bk. §§ 10-12 and 10-13 on January 39, 2020, to all counsel and pro se parties of record, as follows:

Cody N. Guarnieri (Juris # 434005) Brown, Paindiris & Scott, LLP 100 Pearl Street, 2nd Floor Hartford, CT 06103

> /s/ Joshua L. Jackson Joshua L. Jackson

Assistant Attorney General

DOCKET NO. HHD- CV18-6093610-S : SUPERIOR COURT

STATE OF CONNECTICUT : JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF HARTFORD

AT HARTFORD

:

THE CENTER OF ATTENTION, LLC:

v.

NO ONE LEFT BEHIND, and

SELINA CHRISTIAN : JANUARY 29, 2020

#### PARTIES' STIPULATION FOR JUDGMENT

The Plaintiff, the STATE OF CONNECTICUT, and the Defendants, THE CENTER OF ATTENTION, LLC: NO ONE LEFT BEHIND and SELINA CHRISTIAN (collectively, "Parties") hereby stipulate and agree that judgment shall enter in this action as follows:

#### Jurisdiction

1. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action and all Parties.

#### Agreement

2. As described in its Complaint in this action, the Plaintiff STATE OF CONNECTICUT contends that it has certain claims against THE CENTER OF ATTENTION, LLC: NO ONE LEFT BEHIND and SELINA CHRISTIAN (collectively, "Defendants") for knowingly violating the Connecticut False Claims Act, Connecticut General Statutes §§ 4-274 through 4-289, during the period from January 2, 2013 through December 16, 2017, by: (a) submitting claims to the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program ("CMAP") for behavioral health services that were not rendered; and (b) making false records and statements to conceal and retain overpayments. That conduct by the Defendants is referred to hereafter as the "Covered Conduct."

- 3. The Parties are represented by counsel and have agreed to settle this action and all civil and certain administrative causes of action arising from the Covered Conduct. The Parties agree to entry of final judgment pursuant to, and in the form set forth in, this Stipulation for Judgment, without any further notice, and without the need for discovery, adjudication of any issue of law or fact, or trial in this action.
- 4. The Defendants enter into this Stipulation for Judgment freely and without coercion, and without admitting any wrongdoing or violation of law. The Parties agree that neither the execution of this Stipulation for Judgment nor the payment of any money or the delivery of other documents pursuant thereto, is intended as or shall be construed or treated as an admission or other evidence of liability of any kind by the Defendants, which liability the Defendants neither admit nor deny, or a concession by the STATE OF CONNECTICUT that its claims are not well founded. To avoid the delay, uncertainty, and expense of protracted litigation, and in consideration of the mutual promises and obligations of this Stipulation for Judgment, the Parties stipulate and agree that judgment shall enter in this action as follows.

#### **Monetary Relief**

- 5. Judgment shall enter in favor of the Plaintiff STATE OF CONNECTICUT and against the Defendants THE CENTER OF ATTENTION, LLC: NO ONE LEFT BEHIND and SELINA CHRISTIAN.
- 6. Defendant THE CENTER OF ATTENTION, LLC: NO ONE LEFT BEHIND and Defendant SELINA CHRISTIAN have each provided sworn financial statements ("Financial Statements") to the Plaintiff STATE OF CONNECTICUT. The Plaintiff STATE OF CONNECTICUT has relied on the accuracy and completeness of the Financial Statements in reaching this Stipulation for Judgment. The Defendants warrant that at the time they provided them, the Financial Statements were complete and accurate. If the STATE OF CONNECTICUT reasonably

determines that either Defendant materially misrepresented the amount of its or her income or assets in their respective Financial Statement, the STATE OF CONNECTICUT may pursue any and all available remedies in satisfaction of the judgment, including rescinding the release in paragraph 21 below and reinstating its lawsuit based on the Covered Conduct against that Defendant.

- 7. In consideration of the Defendants' financial circumstances as reflected in the their respective Financial Statements, as defined in paragraph 6 above, the Plaintiff STATE OF CONNECTICUT agrees to accept the sum of \$200,000.00 to settle this matter with Defendant THE CENTER OF ATTENTION, LLC: NO ONE LEFT BEHIND and Defendant SELINA CHRISTIAN ("Entire Settlement Amount"), and Defendant SELINA CHRISTIAN agrees to pay the Entire Settlement Amount to the Plaintiff STATE OF CONNECTICUT.
- 8. Defendant Selina Christian shall pay the State of Connecticut the sum of \$15,000.00 ("Initial Settlement Amount") within fourteen (14) days of the effective date of this Stipulation for Judgment.
- 9. Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 455.23(a), the Connecticut Department of Social Services

  ("Department" or "DSS") withheld \$149,739.47 from Defendant THE CENTER OF ATTENTION,

  LLC: NO ONE LEFT BEHIND in suspended Medicaid payments ("Suspended Amount"). The

  Suspended Amount will be deducted from the Entire Settlement Amount on the effective date of this Stipulation for Judgment.
- 10. Defendant Selina Christian will pay the State of Connecticut an additional sum of \$35,260.53 ("Remaining Settlement Amount"), plus simple interest on the Remaining Settlement Amount at a rate of 2% per annum (the Medicare Trust Fund Rate applicable on the effective date of this Stipulated Judgment), on the unpaid balance of the Entire Settlement

- Amount, accruing from the effective date of this Stipulation for Judgment until the Remaining Settlement Amount is paid in full.
- 11. Defendant SELINA CHRISTIAN agrees that her financial condition allows her to pay the State of Connecticut the Remaining Settlement Amount in the form and manner and under the terms set forth below:
  - a. Beginning on March 1, 2020, Defendant SELINA CHRISTIAN shall pay \$980.00.
    Subsequent payments of \$980.00 shall be made on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month thereafter until the Entire Settlement Amount plus interest has been paid in full.
  - b. The STATE OF CONNECTICUT may secure the sum owed under this Stipulation for Judgment and in the judgment entered pursuant thereto by recording judgment liens against any real property owned, in whole or in part, by Defendant Selina Christian. Defendant Selina Christian agrees to act in good-faith to assist the State of Connecticut in securing judgment liens against her properties.
  - c. Any payments shall be by a bank teller check (e.g., cashier's check) made payable to "Treasurer of the State of Connecticut" and delivered to: Assistant Attorney General Michael E. Cole, Antitrust & Government Program Fraud Department, State of Connecticut Plaintiff, 165 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106, or such other address as the STATE OF CONNECTICUT provides notice of to the Defendants or, alternatively, and at the STATE's sole discretion, by electronic funds transfer pursuant to written instructions to be provided by the State of Connecticut.
- 12. Defendant Selina Christian warrants that she has reviewed her financial situation, and that she is currently solvent within the meaning of 11 U.S.C. §§ 547(b)(3) and 548(a)(1)(B)(ii)(I). Further, the Parties to this Stipulation for Judgment warrant that, in evaluating whether to

execute this Stipulation for Judgment, they: (a) have intended that the mutual promises, covenants, and obligations set forth constitute a contemporaneous exchange for new value given to the Defendants, within the meaning of 11 U.S.C. §§ 547(c)(1); and (b) conclude that these mutual promises, covenants, and obligations do, in fact, constitute such a contemporaneous exchange. Further, the Parties to this Stipulation for Judgment warrant that the mutual promises, covenants, and obligations set forth herein are intended and do, in fact, represent a reasonably equivalent exchange of value which is not intended to hinder, delay, or defraud any entity to which the Defendants were or became indebted to on or after the date of this Stipulation for Judgment, within the meaning of 11 U.S.C. § 548(a)(1).

- 13. If within 91 days of the effective date of this Stipulation for Judgment or of any payment made hereunder, the Defendants commence, or a third party commences, any case, proceeding, or other action under any law relating to bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, or relief of debtors, (a) seeking to have any order for relief of the Defendants' debts, or seeking to adjudicate the Defendant(s) as bankrupt or insolvent; or (b) seeking appointment of a receiver, trustee, custodian, or other similar officials for the Defendant(s), or for all or any substantial part of the assets of the Defendant(s), the Defendants agree as follows:
  - a. The obligations of the Defendants shall not be avoided pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 547, and the Defendants shall not argue or otherwise take the position in any such case, proceeding, or action that: (i) the Defendants' obligations under this Stipulation for Judgment may be avoided under 11 U.S.C. § 547; (ii) the Defendants were insolvent at the time this Judgment was entered, or became insolvent as a result of any payment made to the STATE OF CONNECTICUT; or (iii) the mutual promises, covenants and obligations set forth in this Stipulation for

- Judgment do not constitute a contemporaneous exchange for new value given to the Defendants.
- b. If the obligations of the Defendants under this Stipulation for Judgment are avoided for any reason, including, but not limited to, through the exercise of a trustee's avoidance powers under the Bankruptcy Code, the STATEOF CONNECTICUT, at its sole option, may rescind its consent to this Stipulation for Judgment, and bring any civil and/or administrative claim, action, or proceeding against the Defendants for the claims that would otherwise be covered by the provisions of the Complaint in this action. The Defendants agree that: (i) any such claims, actions, or proceedings brought by the STATE OF CONNECTICUT are not subject to an "automatic stay" pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 362(a) as a result of the action, case, or proceeding described in the first clause of this paragraph, and that the Defendants will not argue or otherwise contend that the STATEOF CONNECTICUT's claims, actions, or proceedings are subject to an automatic stay; (ii) the Defendants shall not plead, argue, or otherwise raise any defenses under the theories of statute of limitations, laches, estoppel, or similar theories, to any such civil or administrative claims, actions, or proceeding which are brought by the STATE OF CONNECTICUT within 120 calendar days of written notification to the Defendants that any consent to enter into this Stipulation for Judgment has been rescinded pursuant to this paragraph, except to the extent such defenses were available on the effective date of this Stipulation for Judgment; (iii) the STATEOF CONNECTICUT has a valid claim against Defendant THE CENTER OF ATTENTION, LLC: NO ONE LEFT BEHIND and Defendant SELINA CHRISTIAN in the amount of

- \$200,000.00 pursuant to this Stipulation for Judgment, and the STATEOF CONNECTICUT may pursue its claim in this case, action, or proceeding referenced in the first clause of this paragraph, as well as in any other case, action, or proceeding.
- c. The Defendants acknowledge that their agreements in this paragraph are
  provided in exchange for valuable consideration provided in this
  Stipulation for Judgment.
- 14. Defendant THE CENTER OF ATTENTION, LLC: No ONE LEFT BEHIND and Defendant SELINA CHRISTIAN's debt to the STATE OF CONNECTICUT in the amount of \$200,000.00 constitutes a non-dischargeable debt under 11 U.S.C. §§ 523(a)(2)(A), and/or 523(a)(2)(B), and/or 523(a)(4), and neither Defendant THE CENTER OF ATTENTION, LLC: No ONE LEFT BEHIND nor Defendant SELINA CHRISTIAN shall argue, dispute or otherwise take any contrary position in any case, proceeding, or action. Neither Defendant THE CENTER OF ATTENTION, LLC: No ONE LEFT BEHIND nor Defendant SELINA CHRISTIAN will not oppose the entry of judgment ordering that the debt in the amount of \$200,000.00 to the STATE OF CONNECTICUT constitutes a non-dischargeable debt under 11 U.S.C. §§ 523(a)(2)(A), and/or 523(a)(2)(B), and/or 523(a)(4) in any case, proceeding, or action.
- 15. Contemporaneous with executing this Stipulation for Judgment, Defendant THE CENTER OF ATTENTION, LLC: NO ONE LEFT BEHIND and Defendant SELINA CHRISTIAN shall execute the DSS Suspension Agreement, attached hereto as **Exhibit A** ("DSS Agreement"), which consents to the Connecticut Commissioner of Social Services suspending Defendant THE CENTER OF ATTENTION, LLC: NO ONE LEFT BEHIND and Defendant SELINA CHRISTIAN from participating in the CMAP for a period of five (5) years.

#### De fault

- 16. Defendant SELINA CHRISTIAN is in default of this Stipulation for Judgment if she fails to pay any amount provided in paragraphs 8, 10, and 11 of this Stipulation for Judgment when such payment is more than ten (10) days late (hereafter referred to as "Default").
- 17. In the event of Default as defined in paragraph 16 above, the STATE OF CONNECTICUT will provide written notice of the Default, and Defendant SELINA CHRISTIAN shall have an opportunity to cure such Default within fourteen (14) days from the date of written notice.

  Notice of Default will be delivered to counsel for Defendant SELINA CHRISTIAN, or to such other representative as Defendant SELINA CHRISTIAN shall designate in advance in writing.
- 18. In the event a Default as defined in paragraph 16 above is not cured within the fourteen (14) day period specified in paragraph 17 above, the STATE OF CONNECTICUT may exercise, in its sole discretion, one or more of the following, as applicable: (a) declare this Stipulation for Judgment breached and proceed against the Defendants for any claims released by this Stipulation for Judgment; or (b) notify the DSS of the Default, in which case the DSS may suspend Defendant The Center of Attention, LLC: No One Left Behind and/or Defendant Selina Christian indefinitely from providing goods or services or otherwise participating in the CMAP.

#### Releases

19. The Defendants hereby fully and finally release, waive, and discharge the STATEOF

CONNECTICUT, as well as any and all of its agencies, officials, employees, attorneys, servants, and/or agents, from any and all claims, causes of action, and/or liability of any sort (including attorneys' fees, costs and expenses of every kind and however denominated) that the

Defendants have asserted, could have asserted, or may in the future assert against the STATE OF CONNECTICUT, as well as any and all of its agencies, officials, employees, attorneys, servants, and/or agents, arising, concerning, or connected in any way to the STATE OF CONNECTICUT's investigation and prosecution of the Covered Conduct and this action, the conduct underlying the claims in this action, and related conduct of any and all persons and entities of any sort whether or not named as Defendants in this case or other cases, now or in the future.

- 20. The Defendants waive any legal interest of any sort in any claims for payment of any sort by the Connecticut Department of Social Services and the CMAP, to any providers in which the Defendants have an interest of any sort, including but not limited to the suspended payments referenced in paragraph 9 of this Stipulation for Judgment and any pending claims for Defendant The Center of Attention, LLC: No One Left Behind and/or Defendant Selina Christian.
- 21. Subject to the exceptions in paragraph 22 below, and in consideration of the obligations of Defendant The Center of Attention, LLC: No One Left Behind and Defendant Selina Christian set forth in this Stipulation for Judgment, and conditioned upon receipt by the State of Connecticut of the full Initial Settlement Amount and the full Remaining Settlement Amount as provided for by this Stipulation for Judgment, the State of Connecticut hereby releases, waives, and discharges Defendant The Center of Attention, LLC: No One Left Behind and Defendant Selina Christian from any and all civil and administrative causes of action and/or liability of any sort (including attorneys' fees, costs and expenses of every kind and however denominated) which the State of Connecticut has asserted, could have asserted, or may in the future assert against

- Defendant THE CENTER OF ATTENTION, LLC: NO ONE LEFT BEHIND and/or Defendant SELINA CHRISTIAN arising from the Covered Conduct.
- 22. This Stipulation for Judgment has no bearing on any criminal liability or federal liability the Defendants may have. Notwithstanding any term of this Stipulation for Judgment, the STATE OF CONNECTICUT does not release the Defendants from any of the following liabilities:
  - a. any criminal, civil, or administrative liability arising under revenue and taxation statutes and regulations enforced by the State Department of Revenue Services;
  - b. any criminal, civil, or administrative liability arising under statutes and regulations enforced by the State Department of Public Health;
  - c. any civil or administrative liability the Defendants have, or may have, to the STATE OF CONNECTICUT not expressly covered by the releases in paragraph 21 above;
  - d. any liability to the STATE OF CONNECTICUT (or its agencies) for any conduct other than the Covered Conduct;
  - e. subject to the terms and conditions of the DSS Agreement, any administrative sanction, including suspension from the CMAP;
  - f. any liability based upon obligations created by this Agreement; and
  - g. any liability for personal injury or for other consequential damages arising from the Covered Conduct.
- 23. This Stipulation for Judgment is intended to be for the benefit of the Parties only, and the Parties do not release any liability against any other person or entity. Nothing in the Stipulation for Judgment shall be construed as a waiver or release of any private rights, causes of action, or remedies of any person against the Defendants with respect to the

Covered Conduct. This Stipulation for Judgment shall neither create nor affect any rights of persons who are not parties to this Judgment.

#### **Notices**

24. Any notification, demand, or communication from one party to another party relative to this Stipulation for Judgment shall be in writing and delivered by e-mail or certified mail, return receipt requested. Such notice shall be effective upon receipt. Notice shall be addressed to the State of Connecticut as follows:

Michael E. Cole, Assistant Attorney General Antitrust & Government Program Fraud Department Office of the Attorney General 165 Capitol Ave. Hartford, CT 06106 michael.cole@ct.gov

Notice shall be addressed to the Defendants as follows:

Selina Christian 1092 Thorndike Street Palmer, MA 01069 schristian.coallc@gmail.com

#### **Additional Terms**

- 25. Nothing in this Stipulation for Judgment shall relieve the Defendants of their other obligations under applicable federal, state and local law.
- 26. Nothing in this Stipulation for Judgment shall be construed to create a waiver of the STATE OF CONNECTICUT's sovereign immunity.
- 27. Nothing in this Stipulation for Judgment precludes the STATE OF CONNECTICUT from enforcing this Judgment, or from pursuing any law enforcement action with respect to the acts or practices of the Defendants not covered by this Judgment or any acts or practices of the Defendants conducted after the entry of this Judgment. The fact that such conduct is not

- expressly prohibited by the Judgment shall not be a defense to any such enforcement action.
- 28. This Stipulation for Judgment shall be governed by the laws of the STATE OF CONNECTICUT.
- 29. The exclusive forum for resolving any disputes under this Stipulation for Judgment shall be the Superior Court of the State of Connecticut for the Hartford Judicial District.
- 30. The Court shall retain jurisdiction over this matter to enforce the terms of the Stipulation for Judgment.
- 31. The STATE OF CONNECTICUT expressly reserves its right to seek from the Court any and all post-judgment remedies afforded by law in the event the Defendants violate their obligations under this Stipulation for Judgment.
- 32. This Stipulation for Judgment constitutes the complete agreement between the STATEOF CONNECTICUT and the Defendants, and may not be amended or modified except by written consent of the Parties and approval of the Court.
- 33. If any clause, provision, or section of this Stipulation for Judgment shall, for any reason, be held illegal, invalid, or unenforceable, such illegality, invalidity, or unenforceability shall not affect any other clause, provision, or section of this Stipulation for Judgment, and this Stipulation for Judgment shall be construed and enforced as if such illegal, invalid, or unenforceable clause, section, or other provision had not been contained herein.
- 34. Time is of the essence with respect to each provision of this Stipulation for Judgment that requires action to be taken by the Defendants within a stated time period or upon a specified date or event.
- 35. This Stipulation for Judgment may be executed in any number of counterparts and by different signatories on separate counterparts, each of which shall constitute an original counterpart hereof and all of which together shall constitute one and the same document. One

or more counterparts of this Stipulation for Judgment may be delivered by facsimile or electronic transmission with the intent that it or they shall constitute an original counterpart thereof.

- 36. This Stipulation for Judgment may be disclosed to the public.
- 37. This Stipulation for Judgment shall be effective immediately upon entry by the Superior Court.

#### STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEFENDANT
THE CENTER OF ATTENTION, LLC:
NO ONE LEFT BEHIND

WILLIAM TONG

ATTORNEY GENERAL

By: Joshua L. Jackson (Juris # 431455)

Assistant Attorney General

165 Capitol Ave.

Hartford, CT 06106

Tel: (860) 808-5040

BY ITS ATTORNEY

Cody N. Guarnieri (Juris # 434005)

Brown, Paindiris & Scott, LLP

100 Pearl Street, 2nd Floor

Hartford, CT 06103

Tel. (860) 522-3343

The Center of Attention, LLC: No One Left

Behind

By: Selina Christian, Owner

Then and there personally appeared before me the above identified Selina Christian,

Owner, who executed the foregoing and who acknowledged its execution to be her free act and deed for the purposes stated herein before me, the undersigned authority, on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of

Jenuary, 2020.

Commissioner of the Superior Court

Notary Public

My commission expires on:

Cody N. Guarnier, Eso

#### STATE OF CONNECTICUT

**DEFENDANT** SELINA CHRISTIAN

WILLIAM TONG

ATTORNEY GENERAL

By: Joshua L. Jackson (Juris # 431455)

Assistant Attorney General

165 Capitol Ave.

Hartford, CT 06106

Tel: (860) 808-5040

BY HER ATTORNEY

Cody N. Guarnieri (Juris # 434005)

Brown, Paindiris & Scott, LLP

100 Pearl Street, 2nd Floor

Hartford, CT 06103

Tel. (860) 522-3343

Selina Christian

Then and there personally appeared before me the above identified Selina Christian, who executed the foregoing and who acknowledged its execution to be her free act and deed for the purposes stated herein before me, the undersigned authority, on the 28th day of

Commissioner of the Superior Court's

**Notary Public** 

My commission expires on: Cody N. Guarnierij Esq.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Joint Motion For Judgment Upon Stipulation was mailed and/or electronically delivered in accordance with Conn. Prac. Bk. §§ 10-12 and 10-13 on January 39, 2020, to all counsel and pro se parties of record, as follows:

Cody N. Guarnieri (Juris # 434005) Brown, Paindiris & Scott, LLP 100 Pearl Street, 2nd Floor Hartford, CT 06103 Tel. (860) 522-3343

/s/ Joshua L. Jackson
Joshua L. Jackson
Assistant Attorney General

# Exhibit A

## STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

RE: The Center of Attention, LLC: No One Left Behind Selina Christian, LCSW

#### **SUSPENSION AGREEMENT**

The Center of Attention, LLC: No One Left Behind, Selina Christian, and the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services (collectively, "the Parties"), enter into this Suspension Agreement ("Agreement") and hereby mutually agree to settle all claims, liabilities, and obligations arising from the matters described below without further controversy, trial, or adjudication.

#### **RECITALS**

- A. The State of Connecticut Department of Social Services ("DSS") is the single state agency responsible for administering the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program ("CMAP"), which includes the Medicaid Program, pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 17b-2 (8).
- B. Selina Christian is a clinical social worker licensed by the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Selina Christian was enrolled in the CMAP as a licensed clinical social worker from September 2008 to May 2018. As a CMAP behavioral health services provider, Selina Christian was subject to all CMAP requirements established by applicable state and federal rules, regulations, standards, and laws.
- C. The Center of Attention, LLC: No One Left Behind ("The Center of Attention, LLC") is a Connecticut corporation that was enrolled in the CMAP as a behavioral health group provider from December 2013 to September 2018. As a CMAP group provider, The

- Center of Attention, LLC was subject to all CMAP requirements established by applicable state and federal rules, regulations, standards, and laws.
- D. Selina Christian is the owner of The Center of Attention, LLC. Selina Christian exercised all management authority and control over the operation of The Center of Attention, LLC, including exercising all management authority and control over the submission of claims for reimbursement on behalf of The Center of Attention, LLC for behavioral health services allegedly rendered to CMAP recipients. Hereinafter, Selina Christian and The Center of Attention, LLC will be collectively referred to as the "Respondents."
- E. The Respondents are Defendants in the state civil matter of *State of Connecticut v. The Center of Attention, LLC: No One Left Behind, and Selina Christian*, pending in the Connecticut Superior Court ("Civil Matter"). The allegations in the Civil Matter involve, among other things, that the Respondents submitted, or caused to be submitted, false claims for behavioral health services to the CMAP in violation of the Connecticut False Claims Act (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 4-275, *et. seq.*). The Respondents neither admit nor deny that they violated the Connecticut False Claims Act.
- F. In the Civil Matter, the Respondents have knowingly and voluntarily agreed to enter into a Stipulation for Judgment with the State of Connecticut. An express condition of the Stipulation for Judgment is that the Respondents execute this Agreement, and this Agreement will be attached to the Stipulation for Judgment as **Exhibit A**.
- G. Pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 17b-99 and Regs., Conn. State Agencies §§ 17-83k-1 through 17-83k-9, the DSS may bring an administrative Notice of Regulatory Violations and Proposed Sanctions against the Respondents to suspend the Respondents from providing goods or services under the CMAP or any other program administered by the

- DSS for the conduct alleged in the Civil Matter.
- H. This Agreement is neither an admission of liability by the Respondents, nor a concession by the DSS that its claims are not well-founded.
- I. This Agreement is being entered into to avoid the delay, uncertainty, and expense of an administrative action.

**NOW THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual promises contained herein, the Parties agree as follows:

#### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- 1. Pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 17b-99 and Regs., of Conn. State Agencies §§ 17-83k-1 through 17-83k-7, inclusive, and the Consent Order, below, the Respondents knowingly and voluntarily agree to be excluded and suspended from providing any goods or services or otherwise participating in the CMAP, the Medicaid Program, and/or any and all other programs administered by the DSS for a period of five (5) years (hereinafter, the "Suspension"). The Suspension shall become effective upon execution of this Agreement.
- 2. The Respondents understand this Suspension may result in an exclusion that shall have national effect and apply to Medicare, Medicaid, and all other federal health care programs providing health care benefits, whether directly through insurance or otherwise, that is funded directly, in whole or part, by the United States Government, and any State health care program including, but not limited to, Medicaid, the Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant program, and Block Grants to States for Social Services.
- 3. The Respondents acknowledge that pursuant to this Suspension, the DSS shall not reimburse any enrolled provider for goods or services, including administrative and

management services, furnished, ordered, or prescribed by the Respondents in any capacity. The prohibition against payment for administrative and management services extends to all services directly related, or indirectly related, to patient care, but that are a necessary component of providing goods and services to program beneficiaries including, but not limited to, services related to treatment plan reviews, data entry, claims processing, preparation for providing goods or services, transportation, delivery, or providing equipment, goods, or services used to provide goods and services to program beneficiaries. This payment prohibition applies to the Respondents and all other individuals and entities (including, for example, anyone who employs or contracts with the Respondents). The Suspension applies regardless of who submits the claim or other request for payment.

- 4. The Respondents shall not submit or cause to be submitted to any program administered by the DSS any claim or request for payment for goods or services, including administrative and management services, furnished, ordered, or prescribed by the Respondents or otherwise during the Suspension.
- 5. The Respondents agree to not operate, have or acquire any ownership interest in, share in the profits of, receive any payments from, or loan any money to, any person or entity that applies for reimbursement for goods or services from any program administered by the DSS during the Suspension. The Respondents shall not apply directly or indirectly for reimbursement for goods or services from any program administered by the DSS during the Suspension.
- 6. Reinstatement to program participation is not automatic. If either or both of the Respondents wish to be reinstated, each Respondent must submit a written request for

reinstatement to the DSS in accordance with the provisions of Regs. Conn. State Agencies §17-83k-7. Such request for reinstatement may be made to the DSS no earlier than 120 days prior to the expiration of the five (5) year period of suspension. Reinstatement becomes effective upon application by the Respondents, approval of the application by the DSS, and notice of reinstatement by DSS. Reinstatement to program eligibility only means that the Respondents submitted a request for reinstatement that has been approved by the DSS under Regs. Conn. State Agencies §17-83k-7. The decision whether to re-enroll the Respondents as CMAP providers following DSS's approval of their written request for reinstatement remains within the sole discretion of the DSS. In the event that either or both Respondents elect to apply for re-enrollment as a provider in the CMAP, the Respondents must follow the CMAP provider enrollment steps as required by the DSS.

- 7. Obtaining another license, moving to another state, or obtaining a provider number from a Medicare contractor, any non-Connecticut state agency, or a Federal health care program does not reinstate either Respondents' eligibility to apply to re-enroll in the Connecticut Medicaid program or any other Connecticut health care programs.
- 8. The Respondents understand that violation of the conditions of this Suspension may result in, among other things, criminal prosecution, civil prosecution, and the imposition of civil penalties including, but not limited to, monetary penalties and assessments.
- 9. The Respondents agree to hold any and all programs administered by the DSS, and all recipients and/or beneficiaries, harmless from any financial responsibility for goods or services furnished, ordered, or prescribed to such beneficiaries or sponsors by the

- Respondents during the period of the Suspension.
- 10. The Respondents waive and shall not assert any defenses to this Suspension.
- 11. The Respondents waive any further notice of this Suspension and agree not to contest the Suspension, under Conn. Gen. Stat. § 17b-99 and Regs., Conn. State Agencies §§ 17-83k-1 through 17-83k-7, inclusive, either administratively or in any state or federal court.
- 12. The Respondents are expected to fully and timely comply with all of their obligations under this Agreement. A "Default" of this Agreement means any material violation of the Respondents' obligations under this Agreement that occurs after the effective date of this Agreement.
- In the event of a Default as defined in paragraph 12 above, the DSS may suspend the Respondents indefinitely from providing goods or services or otherwise participating in the CMAP, and/or any and all other programs administered by the DSS. The Respondents agree that a Default of this Agreement is an independent basis for an indefinite suspension from providing goods or services or otherwise participating in the CMAP, and/or any and all other programs administered by the DSS.
- 14. Any notice necessary under this Agreement shall be in writing and delivered by email or certified mail return receipt requested. Such notice shall be effective upon receipt. The Respondents agree that their counsel identified in this paragraph, or other counsel identified, shall accept service of a Notice of Default and Suspension on their behalf. Notice shall be addressed to the DSS as follows:

John F. McCormick, Director Office of Quality Assurance Department of Social Services 55 Farmington Avenue Hartford, CT 06105-3730 john.mccormick@ct.gov

and

Michael E. Cole, Assistant Attorney General Antitrust & Government Program Fraud Department Office of the Attorney General 165 Capitol Ave. Hartford, CT 06106 michael.cole@ct.gov

Notice shall be addressed to either Respondent as follows:

Selina Christian 1092 Thorndike Street Palmer, MA 01069 schristian.coallc@gmail.com

The Parties may designate a different address or addressee for notice or submissions by serving the other party with written notice of the new address or addressee.

15. The Respondents admit all jurisdiction of the DSS to enter into this Agreement. The Respondents understand this Agreement shall have no force or effect, nor shall it become a part of the official record, unless or until it is accepted in writing by the DSS. The effective date of this Agreement is the date the DSS signs the Agreement. Upon written acceptance by the DSS, the Agreement shall become final without further notice to the Respondents. The Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Connecticut. The Parties agree that exclusive jurisdiction and venue for any dispute arising under the Agreement shall be the Superior Court for the Hartford Judicial District. All applicable statutes of limitation shall be tolled from the date of the acceptance and approval of this Agreement. Except as explicitly stated, this Agreement shall not create or extinguish any of the Parties' rights or obligations.

- Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to create a waiver of the State of Connecticut's sovereign immunity. This Agreement shall neither create nor affect any rights of persons who are not parties to this Agreement.
- 16. This Agreement shall have no precedential effect whatsoever adverse to the Parties, and is based upon the unique circumstances surrounding this case. If any provision of this Agreement shall be determined to be void, invalid, unenforceable or illegal for any reason, it shall be ineffective only to the extent of such prohibition and the validity and enforceability of all the remaining provisions shall not be affected thereby. This Agreement constitutes the complete agreement between the Parties.

  This Agreement may not be amended except by written consent of the Parties.
- 17. The Respondents warrant they have full power and authority to enter into this Agreement. The Parties consent to the disclosure of this Agreement to the public. The Respondents have read this Agreement, discussed it with their counsel, understand it, and agree to be bound by it. The Respondents are knowingly and voluntarily signing this Agreement. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which constitutes an original and all of which constitute one and the same Agreement. Facsimiles of signatures shall constitute acceptable, binding signatures for purposes of this Agreement. This Agreement is binding on the Parties' successors, transferees, heirs, and assigns.

### THE CENTER OF ATTENTION, LLC: NO ONE LEFT BEHIND

Date: 1/28/2020	By: Seligia Christian, Owner
	Acknowledged before me on 1/28/2020  Notary Public / Commissioner of the Superior Court  Cody N. Guarnier', E 39.
	My Commission Expires On  SELINA CHRISTIAN
Date: 1/28/2020	Selina Christian  Acknowledged before me on 1/28/2020
	Notary Public / Commissioner of the Superior Court  Cody N. Guarnieri, Ege  My Commission Expires On

STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Date: 1/14/202

John F. McCormick, Director Office of Quality Assurance Department of Social Services

### **CONSENT ORDER**

The provisions of the Settlement Agreement between The Center of Attention, LLC: No One Left Behind, Selina Christian, and the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services, set forth in paragraphs A through I, and paragraphs 1 through 17, above, are hereby incorporated by reference and accepted as an order of the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services.

Accepted and approved and Consent Order entered by the Commissioner on the

17th day of <u>Chamary</u>, 2020

Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH

Commissioner

**Department of Social Services**