

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

ALEXANDER, *et al.*, Plaintiffs

v.

UNITED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
(operating as OPTUMHEALTH  
BEHAVIORAL SOLUTIONS), Defendant

Civil Action No. 3:14-cv-05337-JCS

**NOTICE OF PARTIAL DECERTIFICATION OF CLASS ACTION**

**TO:** Any member of a health benefit plan governed by ERISA whose request for coverage of outpatient treatment or intensive outpatient treatment services for a mental illness or substance disorder was initially denied by UBH, in whole or in part, between December 4, 2011 and June 1, 2017, based upon UBH's Level of Care Guidelines or UBH's Coverage Determination Guidelines; who filed an administrative appeal of such denial or on whose behalf an administrative appeal was filed; and who, after such appeal, was granted all of the benefits that they sought.

***A federal court authorized this notice. This is not a solicitation from a lawyer.***

**PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY AND IN ITS ENTIRETY**

**1. Purpose of this Notice**

The Court has ordered this Notice to be published to let affected individuals know about a recent change in the definition of the Classes certified in the above-captioned lawsuit, which may affect their legal rights.

**2. About the Lawsuit**

This is a civil lawsuit filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, alleging that defendant United Behavioral Health, or "UBH" (operating as OptumHealth Behavioral Solutions), violated ERISA and certain state laws by developing and applying internal guidelines that were inconsistent with the terms of the class members' health insurance plans.

On September 19, 2016, the Court ruled that the case should be maintained as a class action under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and certified a class (the "Alexander Guidelines Class"). Following a trial in October 2017, the Court ruled in Plaintiffs' favor on March 5, 2019. The Court's merits ruling defined the *Alexander* Guidelines Class as follows:

Any member of a health benefit plan governed by ERISA whose request for coverage of outpatient or intensive outpatient services for a mental illness or substance use disorder was denied by UBH, in whole or in part, between December 4, 2011 and June 1, 2017, based upon UBH's Level of Care Guidelines or UBH's Coverage Determination Guidelines. The Alexander Guideline Class excludes any member of a fully insured plan governed by both ERISA and the state law of Connecticut, Illinois, Rhode Island or Texas, whose request for coverage of intensive outpatient treatment or outpatient treatment was related to a substance use disorder, except that the Alexander Guideline Class includes members of plans governed by the state law of Texas who were denied coverage of substance use disorder services sought or provided outside of Texas.

**3. Partial Decertification of the Class and How your Legal Rights Are Affected**

On November 3, 2020, the Court amended the Class definition set forth above by adding the phrase, "and was not subsequently approved, in full, following an administrative appeal." As a result of that ruling, the Court decertified the

Class as to any member whose request for coverage was granted in full as the result of an administrative appeal (the "Successful Appeal Exclusion"). Therefore, members to whom the Successful Appeal Exclusion applies are no longer class members in this lawsuit and their individual rights and claims are no longer being addressed or represented in this lawsuit.

Nothing in this Notice is an expression by the Court as to the merits of any claim(s) which a member to whom the Successful Appeal Exclusion applies may assert. This notice is intended merely to advise you of the partial decertification of the Classes.

If the Successful Appeal Exclusion applies to you, and you believe that UBH violated the law by issuing its initial denial pursuant to its Guidelines, you may still file an individual claim or lawsuit against United Behavioral Health on your own. You should be aware that you may have a limited amount of time in which to do so before the statute of limitations bars your claim.

The Court stayed its decertification ruling until **120 days** after this Notice is published. This means that, 120 days after this Notice is published, the statute of limitations as to your individual claim(s), if any, will begin to run.

#### **4. Additional Information and Inquiries**

Additional information about the Action, including copies of the Court's merits ruling, and decertification order, is available on the internet at: [www.UBHGuidelinesClassAction.com](http://www.UBHGuidelinesClassAction.com).

The pleadings and other papers filed in the lawsuit are also available for inspection during business hours at the United States District Court, 450 Golden Gate Ave., 16th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94102.

Any questions you have concerning the matters contained in this Notice should be directed to Plaintiffs' Counsel or the Notice Administrator. **DO NOT CALL THE COURT OR UNITED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH.**

##### **Plaintiffs' Counsel:**

Caroline E. Reynolds  
D. Brian Hufford  
Jason S. Cowart  
ZUCKERMAN SPAEDER LLP  
1800 M Street, NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20036  
Tel: (202) 778-1800

Meiram Bendat  
PSYCH-APPEAL, INC.  
8560 West Sunset Boulevard, Suite 500  
West Hollywood, CA 90069  
Tel: (310) 598-3690

##### **Class Administrator:**

*UBH Guideline Class Litigation*  
c/o A.B. DATA, LTD.  
P.O. Box 173005  
Milwaukee, WI 53217  
Tel: (800) 985-7155