

Eli's Hospice Insider

Hospice News: Hospice Chain Acquired By Humana Settles Whistleblower Charges For \$5.9 Million

Former clinical director is one of the qui tam relators.

Two former hospice employees will rake in \$1.1 million of the \$5.9 million settlement nine state hospice chain **SouthernCare Inc.** has agreed to.

In separate lawsuits, qui tam relators **Dawn Hamrock** and **Patricia Beegle** alleged that SouthernCare "admitted patients into hospice who were not terminally ill and lacked appropriate medical documentation showing such an illness," according to a **Department of Justice** release. "The company allegedly treated some patients for many years."

RN Hamrock, who was a former clinical director for a Newcastle, Pennsylvania, location, raised the issues involved in her 2013 whistleblower suit before leaving the company, says the law firm that represented her, **The Employment Law Group**. Beegle worked in the Atlanta-based company's Altoona location and filed her suit after Hamrock, according to a release from the Washington, D.C.-based firm.

SouthernCare parent **Curo Health Services**, itself acquired by **Humana** and private equity partners earlier this year to combine with **Kindred at Home's** hospice unit, bought SouthernCare in 2014.