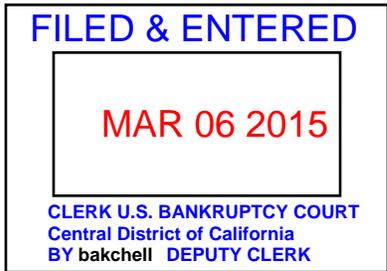


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**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
LOS ANGELES DIVISION**

In re:  
**CORONA CARE CONVALESCENT CORPORATION,**  
Debtor.

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In re:  
**CORONA CARE RETIREMENT, INC.,**  
Debtor.

Case No. 2:13-bk-28497-RK  
Jointly Administered with Case No. 2:13-bk-28519-RK  
Chapter 11

**MEMORANDUM DECISION ON: (1) MOTION OF UNITED STATES TRUSTEE UNDER 11 U.S.C. § 1112(b)(1) TO CONVERT, DISMISS OR APPOINT A CHAPTER 11 TRUSTEE; AND (2) MOTION OF CREDITORS' COMMITTEE TO APPOINT A CHAPTER 11 TRUSTEE UNDER 11 U.S.C. § 1104(a)**

Pending before the court in the jointly administered cases of bankruptcy debtors Corona Care Convalescent Corporation and Corona Care Retirement, Inc. are: (1) the Motion of the United States Trustee under 11 U.S.C. §1112(b)(1) to Convert, Dismiss, or Appoint a Chapter 11 Trustee with an Order Directing Payment of Quarterly Fees (“UST Motion”), ECF 35; and (2) the Emergency Motion of Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors to Appoint a Chapter 11 Trustee (“Committee Motion”), 2:13-bk-28484, ECF

1 132.<sup>1</sup> These motions were filed in the jointly administered cases in the lead bankruptcy  
2 case of bankruptcy debtor, Pasadena Adult Residential Care, Inc., which case has now  
3 been dismissed. The hearings on these motions, originally filed in 2013, have been  
4 continued from time to time, mostly by consent of the parties, to allow time for the parties  
5 to negotiate a consensual resolution of their various disputes leading to a confirmable  
6 plan of reorganization.

7 The parties had reached a settlement between the debtors, their insiders,  
8 Felicidad and Renato Ferrer, the creditors' committee, and creditor HCF Insurance  
9 Agency, which was memorialized in a stipulation and order in the jointly administered  
10 cases formally entered in the lead bankruptcy case of Pasadena Adult Residential Care,  
11 Inc., which resulted in the dismissal of the four Pasadena facility bankruptcy cases and  
12 the continuation of the two Corona facility cases. However, the parties are unable to  
13 consummate the settlement, as the remaining debtors, Corona Care Convalescent  
14 Corporation and Corona Care Retirement, Inc., have defaulted on settlement provisions  
15 requiring them to file and obtain confirmation of reorganization plans by certain dates.  
16 Although the parties have attempted to salvage their settlement in further negotiations,  
17 the parties are unable to reconcile their differences, and the moving parties are pressing  
18 the instant motions. The court conducted further hearings on the motions on March 3  
19 and 5, 2015. Appearances were made as noted on the record.

20 In light of these subsequent developments, there have been some changes in the  
21 litigation positions of the parties. In the UST Motion, the United States Trustee originally  
22 recommended dismissal of the bankruptcy cases, but now recommends appointment of a  
23 Chapter 11 trustee. The Creditors' Committee has not changed its position in support of  
24 its motion that a trustee should be appointed and concurs with the United States  
25 Trustee's current position recommending this. Debtors originally filed an opposition to

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27 <sup>1</sup> Because these cases were jointly administered, there is the possibility of some confusion over reference  
28 to docket entries. Any reference to a docket entry in this decision refers to case number 2:13-bk-28497-RK,  
as the lead case in the remaining bankruptcy cases, unless otherwise noted.

1 the UST Motion, but now take the position that the motion to dismiss the cases should be  
2 granted. *Debtors' Response to the United States Trustee's Motion Under 11 U.S.C. §*  
3 *1112(b)(1) to Convert, Dismiss, or Appoint a Chapter 11 Trustee*, ECF 163. This position  
4 is supported by the debtors' shareholder insiders, the Ferrers, Vision West, LLC, and  
5 Antony and Prema Thekkeks.<sup>2</sup> Some creditors support the motions recommending  
6 appointment of a trustee, including HCF and the United States of America on behalf of its  
7 agency, the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS"). The IRS filed a proof of claim for  
8 prepetition taxes totaling \$2,788,325.95 (of which \$1,927,172.34 is claimed as priority  
9 unsecured), and the United States on behalf of the IRS filed a joinder in the UST motion  
10 that the cases be dismissed, but stated at the hearing on March 5, 2015 that it concurred  
11 in the United States Trustee's recommendation that a trustee be appointed. *Joinder of*  
12 *the United States of America, on behalf of its agency, the Internal Revenue Service, in*  
13 *the United States Trustee's Motion to Convert or Dismiss*. ECF 138. Representatives of  
14 other creditors, including Clinishare Pharmacy, Inc., Shred Pro, LLC, Office Smart, LLC,  
15 Intellex Enterprises, Vital Rehab Services, Inc., Verdugo Plaza Pharmacy, Inc.,  
16 Respiratory Medical Services, Rodolfo E. Magsino, M.D., Inc., filed declarations stating  
17 that these parties oppose appointment of a trustee and instead support the motions for  
18 dismissal, as urged by debtors. ECF 163.

19 Other interested parties have also expressed their positions on the motions.  
20 Corona-Cal Associates, LP, the landlord of the premises on which debtors conduct their  
21 business operations, filed a declaration of its representative stating that the landlord  
22 supports appointment of a trustee and will not execute further extensions for the debtors  
23 to assume or reject debtors' leases unless there is a Chapter 11 trustee in place. ECF

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26 <sup>2</sup> A dispute over ownership of 49% equity interests in debtors exists between Vision West, LLC, and its  
27 principals, Bobby Singh and AJ Rana, on one hand, and the Thekkeks on the other. The court does not  
28 resolve this particular dispute with respect to the pending motions, and need not resolve such dispute at  
this time.

1 157. Joseph Rodrigues, the Patient Care Ombudsman appointed in these cases, filed a  
2 declaration stating that he supports the appointment of a trustee. ECF 158.

3 At the conclusion of the hearing on the motions on March 5, 2015, the court set a  
4 further hearing for March 6, 2015 at 3:30 p.m. to announce a ruling on the motions. The  
5 court now takes the motions under submission, issues this memorandum decision as its  
6 ruling and vacates the further hearing as unnecessary in light of this written ruling. For  
7 the reasons stated herein, the court grants the UST Motion under 11 U.S.C. § 1112(b)(1)  
8 and authorizes and directs the United States Trustee to appoint a Chapter 11 trustee for  
9 these cases. Because the Committee Motion seeks the same relief of trustee  
10 appointment under a different statute, 11 U.S.C. § 1104(a), the court need not rule upon  
11 such motion since the relief sought is granted on the other motion.

12 The UST Motion is based on 11 U.S.C. § 1112(b)(1), which provides in pertinent  
13 part: “. . . after notice and a hearing, the court shall convert a case under this chapter to a  
14 case under chapter 7 or dismiss a case under this chapter, whichever is in the best  
15 interests of creditors and the estate, for cause unless the court determines that the  
16 appointment under section 1104(a) of a trustee or an examiner is in the best interests of  
17 creditors and the estate.” The party seeking dismissal under 11 U.S.C. § 1112(b)(1) has  
18 the burden of proving cause by a preponderance of the evidence. See 7 Resnick and  
19 Sommer, *Collier on Bankruptcy*, ¶ 1112.04[4] at 1112-22 (16th ed. 2014), citing *In re*  
20 *Woodbrook Assocs.*, 19 F.3d 312, 317 (7th Cir. 1994); *In re Citi-Toledo Partners*, 170  
21 B.R. 602, 606 (Bankr. N.D. Ohio 1994) (citing *Grogan v. Garner*, 498 U.S. 279, 286  
22 (1991).

23 Here, the court finds that the United States Trustee has demonstrated cause  
24 under 11 U.S.C. § 1112(b)(1) as described in § 1112(b)(4)(A), specifically, substantial or  
25 continuing loss to or diminution of the estate and the absence of a reasonable likelihood  
26 of rehabilitation. At the hearing on March 5, 2015, the United States Trustee described  
27 the dire financial straits that Debtors face currently in these cases. Debtors' financial  
28 condition has not improved, even though these cases have been pending since July 22,

1 2013, over 19 months, which is documented in the debtors' bankruptcy schedules filed in  
2 August 2013 and their recent monthly operating reports submitted with the United States  
3 Trustee's requests for judicial notice. ECF 154. As shown by its January 2015 monthly  
4 operating report, debtor Corona Convalescent Corporation has shown cumulative  
5 postpetition losses of \$161,870.47, and its general bank account and the payroll account  
6 are overdrawn by \$39,321.91 and \$16,595.49 respectively. ECF 154 at 88 and 92. As  
7 shown by its January 2015 monthly operating report, the finances of debtor Corona Care  
8 Retirement, Inc., are, if anything, even bleaker; it has cumulative postpetition losses of  
9 \$698,100.18 and its general bank account is overdrawn \$19,598.53. *Id.* at 225 and 229.  
10 Debtors' monthly operating reports also reflect numerous charges for fees assessed for  
11 charges for their checks returned for insufficient funds. *See, e.g., id.* at 79 and 105.  
12 Counsel for the United States indicated that debtors have postpetition employment tax  
13 delinquencies of approximately \$60,000, though debtors have tendered another check for  
14 approximately \$30,000 to replace a check returned for insufficient funds. None of these  
15 facts are disputed by Debtors. Based on this evidence, the court finds that the United  
16 States Trustee has shown by a preponderance of the evidence substantial or continuing  
17 loss to or diminution of the estates as described in 11 U.S.C. § 1112(b)(4)(A).

18         The United States Trustee further argues that this evidence as well as other  
19 evidence shows that debtors are unable to reorganize internally, and thus, the absence of  
20 a reasonable likelihood of rehabilitation. The United States Trustee points to the  
21 Declaration of Gary Kading, president of K&Y Corona, Inc., the General Partner of  
22 Corona-Cal Associates LP ("Landlord") describing the lack of confidence the landlord has  
23 in debtors' current management, stating "By early 2015, I had begun to seriously doubt  
24 Ms. Ferrer's ability or intentions to make good on her representations, and I was  
25 becoming increasingly concerned about her ability to run the facility." ECF 157,  
26 Declaration of Gary Kading ¶ 3. The deadline for debtors to assume the lease under 11  
27 U.S.C. § 365 has been extended on a month to month basis to allow time for debtors to  
28 reorganize, but now Mr. Kading states that Landlord will not agree to further extensions

1 after the expiration of the current extension on March 18, 2015, unless a trustee is  
2 appointed because Landlord lacks confidence in debtors' management. The landlord's  
3 position is significant because although debtors are current on their rent payments,  
4 debtors may lose their lease if the landlord does not agree to allow them to assume the  
5 lease, and cannot effectively reorganize without their business premises leased by the  
6 landlord. Debtors offer no specific details on how they may operate without the landlord's  
7 cooperation to extend the lease, and argue merely that they will deal with the situation  
8 outside of bankruptcy and that landlord's declaration should not be taken seriously.

9 The United States Trustee also points out the proof of claim the IRS filed in the  
10 Corona Care Convalescent Corporation case for prepetition taxes totaling \$2.7 million,  
11 including \$1.9 million in priority unsecured taxes. See Claim 1-4. Providing for payment  
12 of this claim is necessary for any reorganization under Chapter 11. 11 U.S.C. §  
13 1129(a)(9)(C)(plan confirmation requires full payment of priority tax claims within 5 years  
14 of the date of the order for relief (i.e., petition date)). As the United States Trustee  
15 suggests, there is no reasonable likelihood of rehabilitation unless there are some means  
16 to pay the priority tax claims in a plan of reorganization as required by the Bankruptcy  
17 Code and no such means are offered or shown by debtors.

18 Based on the foregoing evidence, the court finds that the United States Trustee  
19 has shown by a preponderance of the evidence the absence of a reasonable likelihood of  
20 rehabilitation of debtors in these cases.<sup>3</sup> Accordingly, the court determines that the  
21 United States Trustee has made the requisite showing to establish cause to grant his  
22 motion under 11 U.S.C. § 1112(b)(1) to convert, dismiss or appoint a trustee. Thus,  
23 under 11 U.S.C. § 1112(b)(1), the court is to convert these cases to Chapter 7 or dismiss  
24 the cases, whichever is in the best interests of creditors and the estates, for cause

25 \_\_\_\_\_  
26 <sup>3</sup> The United States Trustee also argues that his motion under 11 U.S.C. § 1112(b)(1) may be granted on  
27 grounds of gross mismanagement of the bankruptcy estates. While gross mismanagement constitutes  
28 cause under 11 U.S.C. § 1112(b)(4)(B) to grant a motion under § 1112(b)(1), the court need not reach the  
claim of gross mismanagement since it grants the motion under an alternative ground under §  
1112(b)(4)(A) as discussed herein.

1 unless it determines that the appointment of a trustee under § 1104(a) is in the best  
2 interests of creditors and the estate. 11 U.S.C. § 1112(b)(1).

3 As previously noted, the United States Trustee, the Creditors' Committee and  
4 other parties urge the court to grant the motions and appoint a Chapter 11 trustee for  
5 these cases under 11 U.S.C. § 1112(b)(1) and/or § 1104(a), which provides that on  
6 request of a party in interest or the United States trustee, and after notice and a hearing,  
7 the court shall order the appointment of a trustee under one of two conditions:

- 8 1. for cause, including fraud, dishonesty, incompetence, or gross mismanagement of  
9 the affairs of the debtor by current management, either before or after the  
10 commencement of the case, or similar cause . . . ; or
- 11 2. if such appointment is in the interests of creditors, any equity security holders, and  
12 other interests of the estate. . . .

13 The parties seeking appointment of a Chapter 11 trustee under 11 U.S.C. §  
14 1112(b)(1) and/or 1104(a) have the burden of proving appropriate grounds exist for such  
15 appointment by the preponderance of the evidence. 1 March, Ahart and Shapiro,  
16 *California Practice Guide – Bankruptcy* ¶ 4:2001 at 4-144 (2014), *citing In re William A.*  
17 *Smith Const. Co., Inc.*, 77 B.R. 124, 126 (Bankr. N.D. Ohio 1987) and *Grogan v. Garner*,  
18 498 U.S. 279, 286-291 (1991). Cause and best interest of creditors and other parties are  
19 separate and independent bases for granting a motion to appoint a trustee under 11  
20 U.S.C. § 1104(a). The United States Trustee argues that a trustee may be appointed  
21 here under 11 U.S.C. § 1112(b)(1) and 1104(a) on both grounds, for cause based on  
22 gross mismanagement and best interests of creditors. The Creditors' Committee argues  
23 that a trustee may be appointed under 11 U.S.C. § 1104(a) based on the best interests of  
24 creditors.

25 As discussed herein, the court determines that it is in the best interest of creditors  
26 to appoint a Chapter 11 trustee in these cases under the circumstances as requested by  
27 the United States Trustee and the Creditors' Committee under 11 U.S.C. § 1112(b)(1)  
28 and therefore the court need not address the appointment of a trustee for cause under 11

1 U.S.C. § 1104(a) based on gross mismanagement, as argued by the United States  
2 Trustee.

3 The court notes that there is a slight difference in the statutory language between  
4 11 U.S.C. § 1112(b) and § 1104(a) in that § 1112(b)(2) refers to whether appointment of  
5 a trustee under § 1104(a) “is in the best interests of creditors and the estate” whereas §  
6 1104(a) has more expansive language referring to additional parties, that is, whether the  
7 appointment of a trustee “is in the interests of creditors, any equity security holders, and  
8 other interests of the estate, without regard to the number of holders of securities of the  
9 debtor or the amount of assets or liabilities of the debtor.” 11 U.S.C. § 1112(b)(1) and §  
10 1104(a); 7 Resnick and Sommer, *Collier on Bankruptcy*, ¶ 1112.05[1] at 1112-4. Here,  
11 regarding the difference in language, *Collier on Bankruptcy* suggests that the factors are  
12 much the same between these statutes. *Id.* The court bases its ruling on the UST  
13 Motion based on the narrower language of 11 U.S.C. § 1112(b)(1), limiting the inquiry to  
14 the bests interests of creditors and the estate. Because the court should grant the UST  
15 Motion and appoint a trustee under § 1112(b), it need not rule upon the Committee  
16 Motion seeking the same relief of trustee appointment under § 1104(a).<sup>4</sup>

17 In determining which option is in the best interest of creditors, the court evaluates  
18 the prospects for collection and payment of the claims of creditors. As argued by the  
19 Creditors’ Committee and the United States Trustee, a sale of the debtors’ businesses  
20 offers some prospect of payment of creditors because the assets will be monetized for  
21 the payment of claims of creditors. This was reflected in the bargain reached by the  
22 parties as set forth stipulation approved by the court in its “Order Granting Motion  
23 Pursuant to Sections 305(A) and 1112(B) of the Bankruptcy Code for and Order  
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25 <sup>4</sup> Assuming arguendo that the court would rule on the Committee Motion, the court would likely determine  
26 that the factors to appoint a trustee would be much the same under § 1104(a) and that although the  
27 positions of the creditors and equity are divergent, the best interest of the creditors, equity and interested  
28 parties is to appoint a trustee to maximize value of the assets of the estate for these parties through an  
asset sale now that debtors and their insiders have had a reasonable opportunity to propose reasonable  
reorganization plans in these cases and have not succeeded.

1 Dismissing Chapter 11 Cases,” entered in the jointly administered cases in the then lead  
2 bankruptcy case of Pasadena Adult Residential Care, Inc., on August 28, 2014. 2:13-bk-  
3 28484, ECF 382. That stipulation and order resolved the disputes between the parties to  
4 allow the debtors some time to reorganize by proposing and confirming reorganization  
5 plans by a certain deadline, and if the deadlines were not met, the assets would be sold  
6 to raise funds to pay creditors. The parties to the settlement included debtors, their  
7 insiders, the Ferrers, the Creditors’ Committee and HCF, a creditor with one of the largest  
8 claims. 2:13-bk-28484, ECF 380. The settlement was negotiated with the assistance of  
9 another judge of this court acting as a mediator and was formally approved by this court;  
10 the approved settlement involved concessions by the settling parties, specifically  
11 providing for payment of claims of certain creditors in the Pasadena entity cases in  
12 certain fixed and limited amounts agreed to by the parties, dismissal of the Pasadena  
13 entity cases, deferral of payment of administrative expense claims of the estate  
14 professionals to the remaining cases of the Corona entities, and the commitment of the  
15 remaining debtors, the Corona entities, to propose and confirm reorganization plans by  
16 certain dates or to sell their assets to pay claims of creditors. The settlement returned  
17 control of the more profitable Pasadena entities to the debtors’ insiders, the Ferrers,  
18 based on the agreement of the parties to attempt to work out payment of creditors  
19 through reorganization of the less profitable Corona entities based on an agreed  
20 timetable. Paragraph 7 of the settlement stipulation approved by the court provided that  
21 “failure to confirm a plan in the Corona estates consistent with the terms of the  
22 Settlement on or before February 28, 2015, shall result in the immediate employment by  
23 the Corona Debtors’ estates of a broker for the purpose of selling the Corona facilities.”  
24 2:13-bk-28484, ECF 380.

25         The settlement has been partially executed in that the cases of the Pasadena  
26 entities have been dismissed, some claim payments under the settlement have been  
27 made, and the debtors in the Corona entities have had time to devise, propose and  
28 confirm reorganization plans. It is now evident that debtors are in default under the

1 agreement because they have not and cannot propose reorganization plans based on the  
2 deadlines agreed to in the settlement. Rather than complying with the default provisions  
3 of the settlement, debtors and their insiders want to avoid the consequences of their  
4 default and repudiate their settlement by supporting dismissal of the cases through the  
5 motion of the United States Trustee to convert, dismiss or appoint trustee. It is evident  
6 that they are no longer willing to abide by the settlement, and are now arguing that it was  
7 a “corrupt deal,” even though they voluntarily and willingly negotiated and signed the  
8 settlement with the advice and assistance of counsel, the settlement was reviewed by the  
9 court and the order approving the settlement is now final and nonappealable. However,  
10 debtors and their insiders, the Ferrers, offer no meaningful alternative to the settlement to  
11 pay creditors. They say that they will restructure and pay creditors by continuing to  
12 operate the businesses and by locating new financing or investors to provide the funds to  
13 pay creditors and also argue that creditors have nonbankruptcy remedies to collect on  
14 their claims. Debtors argue that appointing a trustee is not in the best interest of creditors  
15 because additional administrative expenses will be incurred and the prospects for  
16 payment of creditors through an asset sale are uncertain. They offer declarations of  
17 representatives of some of the creditors expressing opposition to appointment of a  
18 trustee and support for dismissal of the cases.

19       While there may be some merit to debtors’ argument, the United States Trustee  
20 and the Creditors’ Committee make the better argument based on the record before the  
21 court. Debtors and their insiders, in seeking dismissal, essentially propose more of the  
22 same. Based on the evidence before the court, this has not, and will not work. As shown  
23 by the evidence before the court, these debtors are continuing to rack up losses  
24 postpetition, and their postpetition efforts to obtain new financing or investors have not  
25 succeeded. ECF 154 at 88, 92, 225, 229. The creditors, as represented by the Creditors’  
26 Committee and HCF, negotiated in good faith a deal with debtors and their insiders to  
27 give them some time to obtain new financing and investors to propose and confirm  
28 reorganization plans, and debtors and their insiders were unable to do this as agreed.

1 While the parties did not agree to the appointment of a trustee as part of their settlement,  
2 they did agree to commit to an asset sales process by agreeing to the employment of a  
3 broker to sell the assets of the estates. Dismissing the cases now without enforcing the  
4 settlement or providing for meaningful payment of creditor claims is not in the best  
5 interests of creditors because this would undermine the settled expectations of interested  
6 parties, including creditors and vendors, such as debtors' landlord, which has granted  
7 extensions of debtors' right to assume or reject the lease under 11 U.S.C. § 365 based  
8 on the settlement. Without the landlord's cooperation, the court does not see how the  
9 value of the assets of debtors now in the bankruptcy estates can be preserved for any  
10 party because the nature of the debtors' business in operating convalescent care facilities  
11 for adult patients needs a physical facility, which is currently being leased because  
12 debtors apparently cannot afford to purchase their own facility. Debtors have no answer  
13 to the problem of not having the landlord's confidence and cooperation in their  
14 management, and debtors' statement that they will "deal" with these issues outside of  
15 bankruptcy does not show that it is in the best interest of creditors to expose the  
16 bankruptcy estates to the risk of loss of cooperation with the landlord and termination of  
17 the lease which is critical to maintenance of any value of the assets of the estates.  
18 Moreover, an asset sale most likely will result in monetizing the assets of the estates for  
19 payment of creditors. While debtors are correct in arguing that an asset sale may or may  
20 not result in full payment of claims, their alternative of continuing business as usual offers  
21 less prospect of recovery of value for payment of creditors. The evidence shows large  
22 operating losses by debtors, which continue postpetition as shown on the monthly  
23 operating reports, and hostility to current management by the landlord, which probably  
24 foreshadows difficulties with lease extension and uncertain viability of debtors'  
25 businesses. ECF 154 at 88, 92, 225, 229, and ECF 157. Understandably, debtors and  
26 their insiders want to continue their efforts to operate the businesses and recover value  
27 for themselves since they probably think an asset sale will leave equity holders with  
28 nothing, but as shown by their record, they are continuing to rack up losses without

1 meaningful progress in paying down debt. Thus, it appears that the appointment of a  
2 trustee to conduct an asset sale process is in the best interest of creditors because  
3 debtors and their insiders are not inclined to sell the assets, as indicated by their support  
4 of dismissal of the cases. An asset sale at least offers some prospect of recovery of value  
5 of the estates to pay creditors. The fact that an asset sale process may be conducted  
6 does not necessarily mean that there are no protections for the interested parties,  
7 because any sale would have to be reviewed under the standards of the Bankruptcy  
8 Code, whether through a plan under 11 U.S.C. § 1129 or a non-plan sale under 11  
9 U.S.C. § 363. Moreover, it would undermine the policy of enforcement of settlements to  
10 dismiss the cases and allow the debtors and their insiders to escape the consequences  
11 of their default on the settlement.

12 In terms of patient safety, the court is persuaded that, at the very least,  
13 appointment of a Chapter 11 trustee will not harm the patients. The court takes note of  
14 the declaration of Patient Care Ombudsman Joseph Rodrigues, which stated the  
15 Ombudsman's support of the appointment of a Chapter 11 trustee. ECF 158. Although  
16 the Ombudsman's declaration did not explain or give much reason for his support, the  
17 court determines that, in the discharge of the duties of his office, the Ombudsman would  
18 not support the appointment of a trustee if doing so would endanger patient safety. The  
19 court discounts the self-serving declarations of AJ Rana and Felicidad Ferrer (ECF 163),  
20 as insiders and equity holders of the debtors, and determines that a Chapter 11 trustee  
21 chosen by the United States Trustee should be reasonably able to manage the facilities  
22 without the services of the Ferrers and vendors of therapist services such as represented  
23 by AJ Rana for the brief and limited period of time necessary to conduct and complete an  
24 asset sale process.

25 The Creditors' Committee also argued that it is not in the best interests of creditors  
26 to dismiss the cases because this would restore the parties to the prepetition "race to the  
27 courthouse" to collect on claims and seeks appointment of a Chapter 11 trustee for an  
28 orderly liquidation of assets and payment of claims. The court agrees that the evidence

1 supports this argument because debtors were given the opportunity in the bankruptcy  
2 process through the automatic stay to see what they could do to restructure and  
3 reorganize before creditors took action outside of bankruptcy. Debtors, their insiders,  
4 and their creditors reached a bargain in the settlement to allow this to happen, but  
5 unfortunately debtors were not able to succeed. Now that they have failed in their  
6 restructuring efforts in the bankruptcy cases, it would be in the best interest of creditors to  
7 go forward with an asset sale process based on the settlement of the parties rather than  
8 returning the creditors to the prepetition status quo where they have to fend for  
9 themselves after being delayed for over 19 months in these bankruptcy cases,

10       The Creditors' Committee also pointed out that appointment of a Chapter 11  
11 Trustee may make available to creditors other sources of potential recovery of value for  
12 creditors if the bankruptcy cases continue. Specifically, Committee pointed to the  
13 existence of a potential malpractice claim against debtors' previous attorneys in a state  
14 court action brought by creditor HCF Insurance Agency ("HCF") in which HCF was  
15 awarded almost \$4 million, jointly and severally, against debtors based on an original  
16 claim which was much less. *See Claim 5-2*. This potential malpractice claim was listed  
17 as an asset on debtors' bankruptcy schedules, but never pursued. ECF 154 at 10,  
18 Schedule B. A Chapter 11 trustee may attempt to enforce this potential claim where  
19 debtors' current management has not so far, and this is further evidence that  
20 appointment of a Chapter 11 trustee is in the best interest of creditors to pursue such  
21 claim to recover value for creditors.

22       For the foregoing reasons, the court finds that the United States Trustee has met  
23 his burden of proving cause by a preponderance of the evidence to grant his motion to  
24 convert, dismiss or appoint a trustee under 11 U.S.C. § 1112(b)(1) and determines that it  
25 is in the best interest of creditors and the estate to appoint a trustee under 11 U.S.C. §§  
26 1112(b)(1) based on the preponderance of the evidence and that the motion of the United  
27 States Trustee for trustee appointment under should be granted. For the reasons stated  
28 herein, the court determines that pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §1112(b)(1) trustee appointment

1 is in the best interest of creditors and the estate over the alternatives of dismissal or  
2 conversion to Chapter 7. Regarding conversion, no party seeks that alternative, and the  
3 court does not view that conversion would be more advantageous than appointment of a  
4 Chapter 11 trustee to operate the businesses of the debtors for a short period of time and  
5 to conduct and complete an asset sales process. Because the court should grant the  
6 UST Motion and appoint a trustee under 11 U.S.C. § 1112(b)(1), it need not formally rule  
7 on the merits of the Committee Motion to appoint a trustee under 11 U.S.C. § 1104(a),  
8 which will be denied without prejudice as moot.

9 Final orders granting the UST Motion and appointing a Chapter 11 trustee in these  
10 cases will be separately entered.

11 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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24 Date: March 6, 2015

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Robert Kwan  
United States Bankruptcy Judge