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3
4 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
5 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
6

7 EDIN A. CHACON,
8 Plaintiff,

No. C 05-4880 SI (pr)

ORDER RE. TRIAL PREPARATION

9 v.

10 D. GALLIAN, sergeant; et al.,
11 Defendants
12 _____/

13 This matter is now before the court for attention to matters that need to be addressed
14 before the trial date. The pretrial conference remains on calendar for 10:00 a.m. on Monday,
15 December 15, 2008, and the bench trial remains on calendar to commence at 8:30 a.m. on
16 Tuesday, December 16, 2008.

17 Summary Judgment Motion: Defendant Lisa Graham filed a motion for summary
18 judgment on October 9, 2008. The motion is DENIED. (Docket # 51.) The motion was not
19 filed by the May 30, 2008 deadline set for summary judgment motions. See May 15, 2008
20 Scheduling Order (explaining background of dispositive motion deadline). The present motion
21 is the second motion filed on behalf of defendant Graham, and fails to explain why the ground
22 raised in it was not raised in the first motion filed on her behalf. The piecemeal presentation
23 is particularly inexplicable given that the contention made in the second motion for summary
24 judgment – that Graham was not employed at the prison on the dates on which the allegedly
25 deficient medical care was provided – is one that should have been obvious long before the first
26 motion for summary judgment was filed. Additionally, the material on which the motion is
27 based is not newly discovered – the personnel record has a date stamp (apparently from a fax
28 machine) of August 20, 2008, see Exh. A to Yu Decl., almost two months before the motion was

1 filed – suggesting the motion may have been made at this late date to delay the trial date.
2 Further, past experience in other prisoner cases leads the court to believe that the prisoner-
3 plaintiff may be in transit to a prison closer to the courthouse for the early part of December and
4 possibly the end of November, making it unlikely that he will be able to prepare an opposition
5 to Graham's motion for summary judgment before the trial date. Even if Graham could prevail
6 on her motion, the claims against the other defendants would have to proceed to trial. The
7 contention that Graham makes in her motion for summary judgment can be raised as a defense
8 at the trial. Plaintiff should be prepared to meet that defense with any evidence he can muster
9 if he believes Graham was working at the prison during the relevant time period.

10 Prisoner-Witnesses: Plaintiff has filed an "Intended Witnesses" statement in which he
11 identified two prisoners he wishes to call as witnesses at trial and described their expected
12 testimony. Docket # 45 and # 50. Upon due consideration of plaintiff's "Intended Witnesses"
13 statement, the court finds that inmates Michael Lerma (cell D-3 B-123) and Frank Fernandez
14 (cell D-3 B-125) (CDCR # D-61222) appear to have information relevant to plaintiff's claims.
15 Because this case will have a bench trial rather than a jury trial, and because it is very costly and
16 time-consuming to have the two witnesses transported to the courthouse to testify, it is in the
17 interest of justice to have them testify by telephone.¹ Cf. 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(f)(1). Plaintiff may
18 be unfamiliar with testimony by telephone, so the court provides this further explanation: There
19 will be a speaker phone in the courtroom, and the witnesses will be in Pelican Bay rather than
20 in San Francisco; one inmate witness will be sworn in and will testify in response to questions
21 posed by plaintiff and then by defense counsel; then the second inmate witness will be sworn
22 in and will testify in response to questions posed by plaintiff and then by defense counsel.
23 Plaintiff may wish to write a list of questions to ask each witness about what that witness
24 observed with regard to plaintiff's condition, plaintiff's requests to medical personnel, and the

25
26 ¹The two inmate-witnesses are incarcerated at Pelican Bay State Prison. Plaintiff is now
27 incarcerated at the C.C.I. in Tehachapi, California. Thus, it is not simply a matter of putting three
28 people instead of one person on a single bus, but instead would require a second set of correctional
officers in a second vehicle traveling from a different part of the state to bring the two inmate-witnesses
to the courthouse.


1 defendants' responses, so that he is prepared for these trial witnesses.

2 Defense counsel is directed to contact prison officials at Pelican Bay State Prison to make
3 arrangements for these two prisoners (i.e., Michael Lerma and Frank Fernandez) to be available
4 to testify by telephone conference call from Pelican Bay on December 16-17, 2008. Defense
5 counsel also is directed to contact the courtroom deputy to obtain the telephone number and
6 make arrangements for that conference call.

7 Plaintiff's Attendance At Trial: Defense counsel has submitted and the court has issued
8 an order for habeas corpus ad testificandum to bring plaintiff to the courthouse for the pretrial
9 conference and trial. Defense counsel is directed to work with the prison officials to have
10 plaintiff brought to the courthouse pursuant to the order. Defense counsel also is directed to
11 inform prison officials that plaintiff is to be allowed to bring up to one box of legal materials
12 with him for use at the trial.

13 IT IS SO ORDERED.

14 Dated: November 21, 2008



SUSAN ILLSTON
United States District Judge