



Memorandum



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To: The Honorable Carlos A. Gimenez, Mayor, Miami-Dade County
The Honorable Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Chairman
and Members, Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County

From: Mary T. Cagle, Inspector General

Date: August 3, 2017

Subject: Arrest of Veterans Affairs Program Caregiver who Provided False Information to the County's Former Department of Human Services. Ref. IG14-18

A joint investigation by the Miami-Dade Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and the United States Veterans Affairs Office of the Inspector General (VAOIG) concluded yesterday with the arrest, on theft charges, of a disabled veteran's caregiver spouse. The veteran and caregiver participated in the Veteran's Directed Home and Community Based Services (VDHCBS) program. At the time of the fraud, the Miami-Dade County Department of Human Services' Elderly, Disability and Veterans Services Bureau¹ provided consultancy/case management services to the VDHCBS Program, under an agreement with the local administrator of the program, the Alliance for the Aging, Inc., (Alliance).

The VDHCBS program provided veterans the opportunity to receive in-home assistance with daily living activities to avoid nursing home placement. The services were provided by skilled or unskilled caregivers depending on the needs of the veteran; caregivers can include a family member, spouse or friend. The County's assigned case managers performed monthly visits of VDHCBS clients – the veterans – in the program to ensure the veterans' needs were being met. The case managers also submitted regular monthly and quarterly reports to the Alliance.

The joint investigation revealed that a caregiver falsely represented to a County case manager that her veteran husband was not feeling well. The caregiver spouse took the necessary paperwork to the veteran and returned it to the case manager with the veteran's purported signature. The investigation revealed that at the time, the veteran was incarcerated and not receiving in-home care. In addition to the falsehoods, the caregiver spouse also electronically submitted to the VDHCBS program timesheets for the purported hours worked during the time that her husband was incarcerated. The submissions resulted in the caregiver spouse receiving over \$14,000 in VDHCBS

¹ The County's successor department, the Community Action and Human Services Department (CAHSD), still has a Veterans Service Program, but has not participated in the VDHCBS Program through the Alliance since 2014.

program funds to which she was not entitled. The phony caregiver has been criminally charged with Grand Theft.

The OIG is proud to have worked jointly with the VAOIG on this case, and we are grateful for assistance provided by the Alliance for the Aging, Inc., and Miami-Dade CAHSD during the course of this investigation.

cc: Alex Ferro, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
Russell Benford, Deputy Mayor
Lucia Davis-Raiford, Director Community Action and Human Services
Max B. Rothman, President, Alliance for the Aging, Inc.
Monty Stokes, Special Agent in Charge, Veterans Affairs OIG
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