



INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Cynthia V. Carrasco, Inspector General

OFFICE: INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES (DCS)
TITLE: DCS SERVICE PROVIDER THEFT
CASE ID: 2015-02-0014
DATE: September 2, 2016

Inspector General Chief Legal Counsel, Tiffany Mulligan, after an investigation by Director of Investigations, Darrell Boehmer, reports as follows:

On January 28, 2015, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) received a request from the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) to investigate double billing by several service providers, including a female service provider in Lake County (the Provider) who was working with several DCS vendors. DCS had performed an audit of service vendors in Lake County for the period of January 1, 2013 to August 28, 2014. The audit found that the Provider was billing more than one vendor for the same time periods for services on different DCS cases.

The OIG is a law enforcement agency established under Ind. Code § 4-2-7-2. The OIG is authorized by Ind. Code § 4-2-7-3 to receive complaints alleging violations of certain criminal statutes, as well as the Code of Ethics, and to conduct investigations. OIG Director of Investigations, Darrell Boehmer, conducted the investigation. Director Boehmer interviewed several individuals, including DCS employees, contractors and clients. He also reviewed numerous records, including billing invoices, visitation logs and phone records.

In the normal course of business, DCS contracts with vendors to provide services to children and families under DCS's purview. These vendors often then subcontract with service

providers to deliver the services to the children and family. The vendors set the amounts paid to the providers based on the type of services. The service providers bill the vendors, who then in turn bill DCS. DCS pays only for the time the provider is face to face with the DCS client.

The DCS audit found that the Provider was working for three vendors between January 1, 2013 to August 28, 2014, which was the entire time period audited. She worked for an additional vendor from September 2013 to the end of the audited time period. The DCS audit found that the Provider double billed the DCS vendors for services, and the vendors then submitted bills to DCS based on the Provider's services. DCS charged these amounts back to the vendors following the audit, and the vendors agreed to settlements with DCS.

Director Boehmer's investigation confirmed that the Provider performed work under several DCS vendors and was double billing multiple vendors for the same periods of time. The Lake County Courts had ordered these services to assist families and protect children. The types of ordered services included: services to eliminate drug-use and violence, as well as training on housekeeping, nutrition, child care, transportation, and other as-needed services.

Director Boehmer reviewed the Provider's billings to the DCS vendors to determine the total length of time that the Provider had double billed for her services. An example of the Provider's double billing is as follows: on March 6, 2013, for the time period between 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., the Provider billed one DCS vendor for providing service to one DCS client for two hours, and she then billed a different DCS vendor for providing services to two additional DCS clients for the same two hour period. On the same day, for the period between 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., she billed one DCS vendor for providing services to one DCS client for three hours, and she billed a different DCS vendor for providing services to three different DCS clients for the same three hours. Director Boehmer found that the Provider submitted duplicate billings approximately

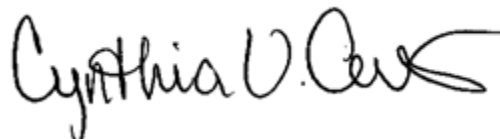
180 times between January 1, 2013 and August 28, 2014. Director Boehmer determined that the approximate dollar amount for the fraudulent billing that the vendors paid to the Provider based on the total length of services was \$25,673.65.

Throughout his investigation, Director Boehmer also interviewed DCS clients and reviewed numerous documents, such as visitation logs, to determine whether the Provider was accurately reporting the time she spent face-to-face with DCS clients. Based on this review, Director Boehmer determined that the services the Provider billed the vendors appear to have exceeded the time the Provider spent face-to-face with the DCS clients.

The OIG submitted the results of this investigation to the Lake County Prosecutor's Office. The Lake County Prosecutor's Office charged the Provider with one count of Theft, a Level 6 Felony. Accordingly, this investigation is closed.

Dated: September 2, 2016

APPROVED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia V. Carrasco". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Cynthia V. Carrasco, Inspector General