

Following an investigation by the MFCU, the Suwannee County Sheriff's Office and MFCU arrested James Daniels and his employee Laverne Johnson on counts of organized fraud, fraudulent use of personal identification of an individual under the age of 18 and principal to organized fraud. The investigation revealed that Daniels' company, D's Healthcare Transportation Services, caused the submission of false transportation services bills to Medicaid for trips that did not actually take place.

Law enforcement officials in Maryland arrested Stephanie Fleming and Helen Storey after a federal grand jury in Tallahassee returned an indictment charging them with multiple counts of conspiracy to commit health care fraud, health care fraud, false statements in connection with a health care matter and aggravated identity theft. The indictment alleges that Storey was the owner of North Florida Mental Health, a counseling center that employed Fleming as a licensed mental health counselor. The investigation conducted by the MFCU and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General revealed that Fleming and Storey submitted and caused to be submitted false and fictitious claims for payment and psychotherapy, psychiatric diagnostic evaluations and therapeutic behavioral services. In total, Fleming and Storey allegedly improperly obtained or attempted to obtain more than \$250,000 from Florida Medicaid.

Following an MFCU investigation, Eliecer Hernandez was arrested for Medicaid fraud and organized scheme to defraud. Hernandez, a targeted case manager, allegedly submitted false progress notes to approximately four Miami Dade county companies thereby causing the submission of false and fraudulent claims of more than \$50,000 to the Medicaid program.

Miami law enforcement officials arrested Dustin Gollopp for Medicaid fraud and organized scheme to defraud. According to the MFCU investigation, Gollopp, a Medicaid provider and owner of Reciprocate 1906, LLC, submitted false and fraudulent targeted case management claims of more than \$500,000 to the Medicaid program on behalf of approximately 14 Medicaid recipients.

Following an investigation by the MFCU, Liana Alvarez was charged with Medicaid fraud and organized scheme to defraud. Alvarez, a targeted case manager, allegedly submitted false progress notes to a Miami Dade county company thereby causing the submission of false and fraudulent claims of more than \$80,000 to the Medicaid program.

Indian River County law enforcement officials arrested Marie Isaac with Medicaid fraud. According to the MFCU investigation, Isaac submitted false progress notes to a Saint Lucie county company, causing the submission of false and fraudulent home maker claims of more than \$2,300 to the Medicaid program.

Following an MFCU investigation, Palm Beach County law enforcement officials arrested Jephete Saint Phillipp for Medicaid fraud and practicing as a health care professional without a valid license. Phillipp allegedly caused a Palm Beach county

company to submit false and fraudulent nursing care claims to the Medicaid program. Phillip also allegedly acted as a licensed nurse, provided the company with a false and fraudulent nursing license and provided false and fraudulent progress notes showing that Phillip rendered nursing care to a Medicaid recipient. As a result, Medicaid paid the company and ultimately Phillip more than \$104,000 for nursing services that were not rendered.

Orlando law enforcement officials arrested Dr. Ignacio Baez and Wilma Garcia following a MFCU investigation for Medicaid provider fraud and organized fraud. Baez owns a dental practice where Garcia works as the biller and office manager. The couple charged more than \$1,000 in illegal fees from Baez's Medicaid patients. Baez and Garcia charged for services that were reimbursable by Medicaid and, in some cases, Baez charged both the patient and Medicaid.

Following an MFCU investigation, Orlando law enforcement officials arrested Ashley Albani on one count of Medicaid provider fraud. Albani, an occupational therapist, billed patients for services not provided. According to the investigation, Albani submitted at least \$6,000 in fraudulent billing.

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office arrested Johana Medina-Acosta and Ronald Moreno for counts of Medicaid fraud and scheme to defraud. According to the MFCU investigation, Medina-Acosta worked for a transportation company that provides Non-Emergency Transport services for Medicaid recipients, including the defendants' own children. Medina-Acosta arranged for NET service requests for those children; however, upon investigation, no transportation services were rendered and Medina-Acosta and Moreno arranged to receive payment for the alleged transports.

Following an MFCU investigation, Hillsborough County law enforcement officials arrested Katera Armwood for Medicaid fraud and scheme to defraud. The investigation revealed that Armwood was fraudulently billing Medicaid clients for time performing services while Armwood was working a second unrelated job. The billings for services not rendered total approximately \$10,000.

Hillsborough County law enforcement officials arrested another individual on counts of Medicaid fraud and scheme to defraud. A MFCU investigation showed that Sasha Gaffney worked for a Medicaid provider performing homemaker services for a disabled recipient, stopped providing services to the recipient, failed to notify Gaffney's employer and continued submitting timesheets and services notes claiming the work was performed. This resulted in a loss of more than \$12,000 to the Medicaid program for services not rendered.

In another case, Hillsborough County law enforcement officials arrested Lakeena McGee on charges of Medicaid fraud and scheme to defraud. According to the MFCU investigation, McGee continued to submit timesheets and service notes for services McGee stopped providing to a recipient. This resulted in a loss of more than \$12,000 to the Medicaid program for services not rendered.

The Manatee County Sheriff's Office arrested Francine Nipper on a charge of exploitation involving an elderly person. The arrest resulted from an investigation by MFCU's Patient Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Team, acting on information received from a Medicaid provider. According to that investigation, Nipper used a durable power of attorney obtained on behalf of the elderly patient, a relative of Nipper's, and used the power to misappropriate the elderly relative's funds for purposes other than the relative's benefit in excess of \$20,000.

Hillsborough County law enforcement officials arrested Victoria Wickes on charges of Medicaid fraud and scheme to defraud. A MFCU investigation revealed that Wickes falsified documents and timesheets indicating services were provided to child recipients on dates when it was determined that Wickes did not perform any services, resulting in a loss of more than \$1,000 to the Medicaid program.