Charges brought by the Medicaid Investigations Division

NC Department of Justice

December 2012

Home Health Care Aide

Name <u>County</u> <u>Provider Type</u>

Alleghany

Aroche, Deborah Atkins, Tammy Bottomly, Michelle Cook, Jessica Lyall, Amy

These individuals were all employees of Families First Home Health Care and are alleged to have submitted false timesheets indicating they provided personal care services that were not actually provided. They were arrested Tuesday, December 18th, 2012. Aroche, Bottomly and Lyall are each charged with one count of Medical assistance provider fraud (Class I felony). Atkins and Cook are charged with two counts each of Medical assistance provider fraud (Class I felony). Special Agent Emily Foss investigated the cases and Assistant Attorney General Laura Lansford will help prosecute these cases. MID was assisted in these cases by Alleghany County Sheriff David Edwards, Surry County Sheriff Graham Atkinson, Ashe County Sheriff James Williams, the Sparta Police Department, District Attorney Tom Horner of Alleghany County, Special Agent Dave Lang with the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General, and the Internal Revenue Service.

While the amount of monetary loss to the Medicaid program is subject to adjustment as the cases proceed, the State estimates the total losses to be in excess of \$21,000

These cases were referred to the MID by the Division of Medical Assistance (DMA) as part of the Families First Home Health Care Investigation.

Tillman, James Cumberland Qualified Professional

Tillman is charged with three counts of Medical Assistance Provider Fraud (Class I felony), three counts of Obtaining Property by False Pretenses (Class H felony), and two counts of Falsifying Documents Issued by a Postsecondary Educational Institution (Class 1 misdemeanor). In order to obtain employment Tillman falsely represented to three separate Medicaid Providers that he possessed the necessary educational qualifications to provide mental health services under the Medical Assistance Program. Tillman was employed by these companies which billed Medicaid for services that he was unqualified to provide. He was arrested on December 18, 2012. Financial Investigator Camille Best investigated the case and Assistant Attorney General Mike Heavner will prosecute it. District Attorney William West of Cumberland County assisted with the case.

While the amount of monetary loss to the Medicaid program and the companies is subject to adjustment as the case proceeds, the State estimates the losses to be in excess of \$74,000. This case was referred to MID from DMA.

Bald, Francis Dr. Dare* Dental Provider

Bald is charged with one count of Medical assistance provider fraud (Class I felony) and one count of Obtaining Property by False Pretenses (Class H felony) for allegedly billing the Medicaid program for services not rendered to Medicaid recipients. Bald allegedly billed Medicaid for extra dental procedures which he did not perform or were not medically necessary, such as administering nitrous oxide, extra anesthesia time, and unnecessary x-rays. He was arrested on December 18, 2012. Financial Investigator John Primus investigated the case and Assistant Attorney General John Parris will prosecute the case, with the help of the Wake County District Attorney's Office.

While the amount of monetary loss to the Medicaid program is subject to adjustment as the case proceeds, the State estimates the losses to be over \$3,183.64.

Bald owns and operates Dr. Francis A. Bald and Associates, P.A. in Nags Head and Elizabeth City, North Carolina. This case was referred to the NC Department of Justice by private citizens.

*Charges filed in Wake County, suspect arrested in Dare County.

Hickman, Kellie Sampson Home Health Care Aide

Hickman is charged with two counts of Medical assistance provider fraud (Class I felony) for allegedly submitting falsified timesheets for two Medicaid recipients while working for United Home Care, Inc. in Sampson County. Hickman was working as a home health care aide when she allegedly began submitting hourly timesheets to her employer for medical care she did not provide. She was arrested on December 18, 2012. Financial Investigator Douglas Crawley investigated the case and Assistant Attorney General John Parris will prosecute the case, with the help of the Sampson County District Attorney's Office. United Home Care, Inc. conducted its own investigation and fully cooperated with state investigators.

While the amount of monetary loss to the Medicaid program is subject to adjustment as the case proceeds, the State estimates the losses to be \$2,932.50. United Home Care, Inc. has already reimbursed the Medicaid program for the loss.

This case was initiated upon a referral from the Division of Health Services Regulation (DHSR).

Gloria Sawyer Wake HIV Case Management

Sawyer is the owner of I Believe In Miracles in Raleigh and is alleged to have wrongfully obtained a Medicaid Provider Number for HIV Case Management by concealing felony convictions in her application to the Division of Medical Assistance (DMA). As a result of her failure to fully disclose her full criminal history, Sawyer obtained a provider number, billed, and was paid more than \$100,000 for services to Medicaid recipients. Sawyer was arrested on December 18, 2012 and charged with three counts of Obtaining Property by False Pretenses (Class C felony) and two counts of Obtaining Property by False Pretense (Class H felony). Financial Investigator Richard Bedford investigated the case and Assistant Attorney General Erica Bing will prosecute it. This case was referred to MID from DMA.