



INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

2005-12-0594

October 19, 2006

NURSE OVERBILLING

Indiana Inspector General David O. Thomas, after an investigation by Special Agent Darrell Boehmer, Auditor Deb Currey, and Staff Attorney Amanda Schaeffer, reports as follows:

This case involves three nurses working for two companies who contracted with LaRue Carter Hospital (LaRue) to provide temporary nursing services. These nurses billed and received payment for hours that they did not actually work. This investigation was initiated by Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) Chief Auditor Deb Currey when her auditing unit noticed the suspicious activity and reported their preliminary findings to the Office of Inspector General (OIG). LaRue is an entity owned and operated by FSSA.

I.

Three temporary nurses were assigned to work at LaRue by two staffing companies, namely Medical Staffing Network and Assured Healthcare. These temporary nurses file their time cards with the staffing companies, and the

staffing companies arrange payment to the nurses through submissions to FSSA. The time cards are signed by a nursing supervisor at LaRue, and there is a sign-in sheet for everyone entering and exiting the building. A nursing roster is also maintained.

A.

On September 12, 2005, nurse Kathleen Kyle submitted five time cards to Assured Health Care. On the first of these five, Kyle submitted hours that were not worked at LaRue as evidenced by her name not being on the sign-in sheet or nurse roster. Her remaining four time cards claim she was working hours at LaRue when she was actually working at another unrelated healthcare facility, namely Eagle Valley. Time sheet records from Eagle Valley show her working there at the same times she claims to have been working at LaRue.

On September 18, 2005, Kyle submitted seven time sheets to Assured. On all seven of these time sheets, Kyle claimed to be working hours at LaRue when she was actually working at Eagle Valley according to Eagle Valley time records. There is also no evidence from the sign-in sheet or nurse roster that she worked at LaRue at these times.

On September 21, 2005, Kyle submitted seven time sheets to Assured. For all of the times listed on all seven time sheets, she is not listed on the sign-in sheet or the nurse roster. On each of these time sheets, the authorizing signature appears to be photocopied.

The total over-payment made by FSSA to the temporary agencies for timecards submitted by Kathleen Kyle is \$37,272.

B.

On seven separate occasions, nurse Victoria Reeser submitted time cards to both Assured and Medical Staffing Network for the same work done at LaRue. Reeser obtained signatures from two different supervisors at LaRue each time this was done.

The total of overpayment to the temporary agencies by FSSA based on these timecards submitted by Victoria Reeser is \$2,359.

C.

On six separate occasions, Shannon Tyler submitted time cards to both Assured and Medical Staffing Network for the same work done at LaRue. On some occasions, Tyler obtained signatures from two different supervisors at LaRue each time this was done. On other occasions, the signatures were forged.

The total of overpayment to the temporary agencies made by FSSA based on these timecards submitted by Shannon Tyler is \$2,188.

II.

The OIG asserts jurisdiction under IC 4-2-7-2(b) which makes the OIG responsible for addressing fraud, waste, abuse and wrongdoing in state agencies.

Indiana Code §35-43-5-2(b) defines “forgery” as a person who, with intent to defraud, makes, utters, or possesses a written instrument in such a manner that it purports to have been made by another person, at another time, with different provisions, or by authority of one who did not give authority .

Indiana Code §35-43-5-2(a) defines “counterfeiting” as a person who knowingly or intentionally makes or utters a written instrument in such a manner that it purports to have been made by another person, at another time, with different provisions, or by authority of one who did not give authority.

Indiana Code §35-43-4-2(a) defines “theft” as a person who knowingly or intentionally exerts unauthorized control over property of another person, with intent to deprive the other person of any part of its value or use.

III.

The OIG submitted these investigations to the Marion County Prosecutor’s Office where criminal charges were filed on September 26, 2006 as follows:

Kathleen Kyle: 22 counts of forgery and one count of theft.

Shannon Tyler: 10 counts of forgery and one count of theft.

Victoria Reeser: nine counts of forgery and one count of theft.

Dated this 19th day of October, 2006.



David O. Thomas
Indiana Inspector General