



ATTORNEY GENERAL

P.O Box 94005 • Baton Rouge, LA 70804
225-326-6705 • www.ag.state.la.us

Tammi Arender Herring, Director of Communications
225-326-6703 (office) • 225-588-4639 (cell) • arendert@ag.state.la.us

April 16, 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEAMWORK LEADS TO ARREST OF NINE INDIVIDUALS ON CHARGES OF MEDICAID FRAUD

(Baton Rouge, LA)---Working closely with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, the Attorney General's Office Medicaid Fraud Control Unit has arrested nine individuals in an alleged Medicaid Fraud scheme that allegedly cost the Louisiana Medicaid Program thousands of dollars for services not rendered.

The nine individuals arrested are former and current personal care attendants at First Thessalonians Community Programs, Inc. located in Hammond, Louisiana. First Thessalonians is a licensed Medicaid provider that provides personal care services to Medicaid recipients who are disabled. During the period of January 1, 2008 through April 2009, First Thessalonians billed Medicaid \$6.8 million. Medicaid Fraud Control Unit investigators allege the suspects submitted falsified timesheets and service logs for work that was not performed, thus causing the Medicaid program to be billed for services which were not rendered.

"Teamwork is what it's all about," stated Attorney General Buddy Caldwell. "Our close working relationship with DHH was instrumental with the investigation of this case. I commend not only the men and women in my office, but at DHH as well for their hard work. I would also like to thank the Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office for

their assistance with these arrests. Let me be clear, Medicaid Fraud will not be tolerated in Louisiana.”

“When you steal from Medicaid, you are stealing from the poor and from hard-working taxpayers,” said DHH Secretary Alan Levine. “We cannot tolerate fraud or abuse in Medicaid, and we will aggressively pursue those who do it. I applaud the Attorney General and his staff as well as the DHH Medicaid Program Integrity Unit for their continued work.”

The following individuals were arrested by investigators from the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit with the assistance of the Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff’s Office and the City of Independence Police Department and booked into East Baton Rouge Parish Prison:

-Joyce M. Cyprian, DOB 4/15/1957
113 Counts of Medicaid Fraud
113 Counts of Filing or Maintaining False Public Records

-Wanda Michelle Baham, DOB 9/17/1977
66 Counts of Medicaid Fraud
66 Counts of Filing or Maintaining False Public Records

-Robin W. Williams, DOB 6/13/1958
62 Counts of Medicaid Fraud
62 Counts of Filing or Maintaining False Public Records

-Jasmine S. Jones, DOB 1/15/1982
62 Counts of Medicaid Fraud
62 Counts of Filing or Maintaining False Public Records

-Roger O. Green, 2/28/1961
50 Counts of Medicaid Fraud
50 Counts of Filing or Maintaining False Public Records

-Markita M. Guillory, DOB 10/13/1987
44 Counts of Medicaid Fraud
44 Counts of Filing or Maintaining False Public Records

-Katina L. Smith, DOB 6/29/1973
10 Counts of Medicaid Fraud
10 Counts of Filing or Maintaining False Public Records

-MORE-

-Gloria Burton, DOB 5/30/1946
6 Counts of Medicaid Fraud
6 Counts of Filing or Maintaining False Public Records

-Sonji Johnson, DOB 6/8/1966
5 Counts of Medicaid Fraud
5 Counts of Filing or Maintaining False Public Records

The Medicaid Fraud Control Unit stated that the investigation is continuing.

If you suspect Medicaid Fraud, please contact the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit at 1-888-799-6885.

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals strives to protect and promote health statewide and to ensure access to medical, preventive and rehabilitative services for all state citizens. To learn more about DHH, visit <http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov>.

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