



STATE OF OKLAHOMA  
OKLAHOMA HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

October 12, 2015

The Honorable Joseph R. Pitts  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Health  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Pitts:

Your question regarding the benefits of a Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) is simultaneously simple and complex. Put simply, the MFCU is the law enforcement extension to the Medicaid Program's program integrity group (PI). The more complex answer requires a more thorough look at the responsibilities and the ultimate goals of each group. The essence of MFCU is threefold; punishment both criminally and civilly, reduction of recidivism and finally to reimburse the program as much as possible for the fraud, waste and abuse within the system. Conversely, the PI group is focused on the program as a whole and locating and recovering those funds paid out inappropriately. Ultimately, however, both groups share a common goal of insuring the integrity of the Medicaid Program for the state.

The two groups are required by federal regulations to maintain independence from each other. However, in reality they are each a necessary part of the other. The most effective MFCU and PI relationship requires open sharing of information on fraud, waste and abuse. Benefits of an effective MFCU and PI group includes quick responses to suspected fraud. For example, referrals from the MFCU to the PI group allow suspension or termination of bad actors with a high level of confidence that fraud is factually occurring and not hypothetically. Referrals from the PI group to the MFCU allow an immediate and thorough investigation resulting in the recovery of funds to the program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joel Nico Gomez".

Joel Nico Gomez