



Memorandum

19 West Flagler Street ♦ Suite 220 ♦ Miami, Florida 33130
Phone: (305) 375-1946 ♦ Fax: (305) 579-2656
visit our website at www.miamidadeig.org

To: Mr. John Copeland, Chairperson, Public Health Trust of Miami-Dade County
and Members, Public Health Trust Board of Trustees
Dr. Eneida O. Roldan, M.D., President & CEO, Jackson Health System

From: Christopher Mazzella, Inspector General, Miami-Dade County

Date: June 16, 2010

Re: Arrest of Former Jackson Health System Employee for Theft, Ref. IG09-84

An investigation by the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office (SAO) uncovered a scheme orchestrated by a JHS employee to defraud the Jackson Health System (JHS) of patient payments. Attached is a news release regarding the arrest of former JHS employee Michael R. Clarke (Clarke) on charges of Organized Scheme to Defraud, Grand Theft, and Petit Theft.

Clarke, a JHS employee since 1996, was terminated in November 2009. His last position with JHS was as a Patient Care Assistant at the Batchelor Urology Center. The OIG investigation determined that Clarke was asking patients, who were paying their bills by check, to make the check payable to "cash" or told them to leave the payee section blank so that it could be stamped with the proper payee information. Clarke also manipulated the computer system in order to bypass the billing procedures. Between June 2008 and July 2009, Clarke deposited in his personal account over \$7,500 in payments intended for JHS/Batchelor Urology Center.

The suspected theft was brought to the attention of the OIG by the JHS Internal Audit Director, and we would like to thank her office and the Division of Public Safety for providing assistance during the course of this investigation.

Attachment

cc: Hon. Carlos Alvarez, Mayor, Miami-Dade County
Hon. Denis C. Moss, Chairperson, Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners
and Members of the Board of County Commissioners
George Burgess, County Manager, Miami-Dade County
Alina Hudak, Assistant County Manager, Miami-Dade County
Mark Aprigliano, Director, Public Safety Division, JHS
Marlane Berg, Director, Internal Audit, JHS
Diana Salinas, Esq., Chief Compliance Officer, JHS
Ms. Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit & Management Services, Miami-Dade County
Mr. Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor, Miami-Dade County
Clerk of the Board (Copy Filed)



ARREST OF FORMER JACKSON HEALTH SYSTEM EMPLOYEE

The Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General (OIG) announces today the arrest of a former employee of the Jackson Health System (JHS), Michael R. Clarke (Clarke). The OIG conducted a joint investigation with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office (SAO) based on information received from JHS. Clarke, who was terminated in November 2009, had been employed by JHS since 1996. Clarke was charged with one count of Organized Scheme to Defraud, a third degree felony; four counts of Grand Theft, third degree felonies; and thirteen counts of Petit Theft, first degree misdemeanors.

The OIG investigation found that Clarke, a Patient Care Assistant assigned to the Batchelor Urology Center (Batchelor Center), deposited 17 patient checks into his personal credit union account. The checks were written between June 2008 and July 2009 and totaled \$7,781.25. The OIG investigation revealed that patients or their relatives were told to leave the payee line of the check blank or told to make the checks out to "cash." Clarke then deposited the funds into his personal account. Clarke also manipulated the computer system to ensure that no bill would be generated for the services provided at the Batchelor Center. His scheme unraveled when a patient and her husband complained to JHS that their billing statement did not reflect the payments they had made to the Batchelor Center. During the course of the investigation, the OIG was assisted by the JHS Division of Public Safety and the Division of Internal Audit, which provided the OIG with information and assisted in retrieving documentation.

"Sadly, this trusted JHS employee started using the institution as his personal piggy bank," commented State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle. "The transformation of the medical concept, "first do no harm" into the criminal belief of "first, do me some good" represents a sad betrayal of everything that is JHS, a valued treasure of our community." Also commenting on the arrest, Inspector General Chris Mazzella characterized Clarke's actions in committing this fraud as nothing less than brazen and greedy. He stated that the investigation is continuing to identify possible additional victims of this fraud.

Copies of the arrest affidavit are available at the Office of the Inspector General at 19 West Flagler Street, Suite 220, Miami, FL, telephone number (305) 375-1946; or at the State Attorney's Office, c/o Ed Griffith, 1350 N.W. 12 Avenue, Miami, FL, telephone number (305) 547-0535.

OIG News Release
IG09-84
June 16, 2010