



## **Office Of The Medicaid Inspector General**

Elizabeth Smith, Medicaid Inspector General  
323 Center Street, Ste. 1200 · Little Rock, AR 72201  
501-682-8349 · Fax: 501-682-8350



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Brett Hays

Telephone: 501-396-6404

June 15, 2017

### **The Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG) Investigation Leads to Conviction of Two School-Based Speech Therapists**

LITTLE ROCK, AR- On June 12, 2017, Paula Riggs, of Jonesboro, was convicted of Medicaid fraud for billing the Arkansas Medicaid Program for services not rendered as a speech therapist for the Bay School District. Hannah Riggs, of Paragould, who worked under the supervision of Paula Riggs, was also convicted of Medicaid fraud on February 28, 2017. Paula Riggs plead guilty to Class C felony Medicaid fraud, and will pay fines and restitution totaling \$54,033.64. Hannah Riggs, plead guilty to Class A misdemeanor Medicaid fraud, and will pay fines and restitution totaling \$23,419.84. Both providers will also be excluded from participation in the Medicaid program.

OMIG investigated both providers after analyzing Medicaid claims data, which showed that each was billing an excessive number of speech therapy hours per day. OMIG auditors discovered that both therapists falsified records, billed for services that were not provided, and coded claims improperly. The improper coding of claims resulted in a \$160,911.78 recovery by OMIG.

This case was prosecuted by the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit of the Arkansas Attorney General's Office.

### **Mission Statement of the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG)**

The mission of the OMIG is to prevent, detect, and investigate fraud, waste, and abuse within the medical assistance program. This mission is achieved through auditing Medicaid providers and medical assistance program functions; recovering improperly expended funds; and referring appropriate cases for criminal prosecution. OMIG works closely with providers and the medical assistance program to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse.