



STATE OF NEW YORK
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OFFICE OF THE WELFARE INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION FRAUD INSPECTOR GENERAL

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LETIZIA TAGLIAFIERRO
INSPECTOR GENERAL

January 13, 2020

Anthony J. Annucci, Esq.
Acting Commissioner
New York State Department of Corrections
and Community Supervision
The Harriman State Office Campus, Bldg. 9
Albany, New York 12225

Re: NYS IG 0165-316-2019

Dear Acting Commissioner Annucci:

On January 7, 2019, the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) alleged to the Offices of the New York State Inspector General that [REDACTED], an [REDACTED] assigned to DOCCS's Support Operations Unit, may have submitted to DOCCS fraudulently altered medical documentation.

The Inspector General investigated this allegation and found that a medical note submitted by [REDACTED] to DOCCS had been altered. Further, the investigation found circumstantial evidence that [REDACTED] was responsible for this alteration. The following is a summary of the Inspector General's investigative findings.

The investigation found that in or around December 2018, [REDACTED] submitted a medical note to DOCCS, which was dated December 13, 2018, and excused

her absence from work until February 13, 2019. The medical note, written on an official New York State prescription form, was from the office of [REDACTED]. However, upon initial inspection at DOCCS, it appeared the medical note had been altered to extend [REDACTED] return to work date one additional month, from January 13, 2019 to February 13, 2019.

DOCCS Office of Special Investigations reviewed the note and obtained a sworn statement from the individual who prepared the note on behalf of [REDACTED] office. The statement read that the original medical note was prepared by a member of [REDACTED] administrative staff with his authorization; the return to work date of the original note had been January 13, 2019; and the note had been subsequently altered without the knowledge or authorization of [REDACTED], changing the return to work date to February 13, 2019.

The Inspector General obtained sworn testimony from [REDACTED] in which she acknowledged submitting the medical leave note to DOCCS but claimed she neither altered the original note nor knew who had. Further, [REDACTED] testified that she received a second medical leave note from a different medical practitioner that excused her from work for the period January 13, 2019 through March 2019. The Inspector General verified the existence and validity of this second note.

Additionally, the Inspector General reviewed [REDACTED] employment history with New York State and found numerous time and attendance issues. Indeed, [REDACTED] probationary employment period with DOCCS was extended on multiple occasions due to her frequent absences and she was counseled several times while on probation regarding her absenteeism. Further, [REDACTED] employment history revealed that in 2016, she was terminated from a position with the New York Department of State due to excessive absences during her probationary period at the agency.

Notably, DOCCS advised the Inspector General that [REDACTED] resigned from DOCCS, effective July 4, 2019.

If you require further information, please contact Deputy Inspector General James R. Davis at 518.474.1010.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Letizia Tagliafierro
Inspector General

Cc: Adam Silverman, Esq.
Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel