

Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) thrives within Office of Inspector General (OIG)

MFCU is certified by the U.S. HHS-OIG to receive a 75 percent federal funding match, requiring an average of \$284,000 per year in state dollars. This cost-effective formula, teamed with a dedicated and highly productive staff, has allowed for the successful return of millions of dollars to West Virginia.

During the past five years, fraud recoveries have totaled more than \$56 million, and active caseloads have more than doubled.

In FY2016, recoveries totaled \$5.3 million and the MFCU set new productivity records in cases referred for prosecution (24), civil cases resolved (22), and criminal convictions obtained (10).

The MFCU Legal Division alone has recovered nearly \$500,000 in civil cases since 2015; prosecuted fraud and financial exploitation cases; and successfully obtained felony convictions.

The MFCU had a record-breaking \$4.675 million civil settlement in 2014, thanks to a joint effort with U.S. HHS-OIG and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

In 2013, the MFCU received the U.S. Attorney's Office Law Enforcement Award for outstanding work on a health care fraud case.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has cited the working relationship between MFCU and the DHHR's Bureau for Medical Services' Program Integrity Unit as a 'best practice.'

Removing MFCU from the DHHR Cabinet Secretary's authority and placing it outside the control of the Chief Executive would exhaust limited state dollars and hinder DHHR's collaboration among bureaus to combat fraud and seek recoveries and prosecutions.

In addition to health care fraud, MFCU investigates allegations of patient abuse and neglect in Medicaid-funded facilities and board and care homes. As part of the DHHR, MFCU is afforded better opportunities for collaborative efforts with the Bureau for Children and Families' Adult Protective Services.

The MFCU staff is nationally recognized for its expertise and contributions to anti-fraud efforts. Unit employees have delivered presentations and case studies at national conferences, served on the Executive Committee for the National Association of MFCUs, and currently serve as part of the national training team, training others on the investigation and prosecution of health care fraud committed against the Medicaid program.

MFCU has civil and criminal investigative authority and a nationally recognized, specially trained and qualified staff to focus on, and excel in, criminal investigations. Two MFCU employees are credentialed as Certified Fraud Examiners, one employee is credentialed as a Certified Coding Professional, and one has several certifications in digital forensics.

The West Virginia Attorney General's Office (AG) lacks criminal investigative or prosecutorial authority, unlike other AGs nationwide that operate Medicaid Fraud Control Units.

The MFCU operates successfully under the DHHR; transferring the office to the AG would incur unnecessary expenses and would be imprudent during challenging budget times.