

## Protecting Older Adults From Health Care Fraud



### The more you know...

This issue provides information from an interview with **Drew Macon, Chief Investigator for the Michigan Department of the Attorney General's Health Care Fraud Division.**

## Interview with Drew Macon

### ***What do you enjoy about your job?***

**Drew:** We're bringing about change within Michigan's Medicaid healthcare system. I have a great team of investigators and prosecutors to work with. We work together to solve cases. We have outstanding investigators; everyone's mission is "How do we serve the residents in the state of Michigan, to the best of our ability?"

### ***What kinds of cases does your office investigate?***

**Drew:** Medicaid fraud. We look at fraud, waste and abuse by providers. Also, financial, medical, and other types of abuse and neglect in long-term care settings.

### ***What types of long-term care settings does your office look into?***

**Drew:** Both licensed and unlicensed settings, including any facility that houses two or more residents (including assisted living, adult foster care, nursing homes, and homes for the aged).

### ***Who can refer cases to your office?***

**Drew:** Anyone can refer cases including another state agency, local police department, a family member, or employees in facilities. We also take complaints on our website, if people complete the online form.

### ***What happens after you investigate a case and think there is something worrisome going on?***

**Drew:** If it rises to the level of a crime, someone is probably going to get charged. If it is not criminal, it will be referred to the appropriate state agency (ex: LARA).

### ***How does your office decide whom to prosecute?***

**Drew:** Our job is to go out and prove the facts of the case and then present them to the prosecutors who will file charges if they think a crime has been committed. Not everybody gets prosecuted. However, if a Medicaid provider commits a crime by doing something like billing for services that were not provided or putting false information in a medical record, they will be eliminated from participating in the Medicaid program for at least five years.

### ***What does a "win" look like for your office?***

**Drew:** Eliminating providers who are taking advantage of a Medicaid beneficiary from participating in Medicaid. Or, recovering money from a Medicaid provider that that provider did not have a right to receive.



## Drew's interview continued...

*What is one of your favorite cases, in which you thought your office was very effective?*



Drew: There was an assisted living facility where a resident with memory issues wandered out of the facility. Unfortunately, she was found deceased the next morning, after being outside overnight, exposed to the elements, for about 8 hours. Our team sent investigators to work with that Sheriff's department. They were able to find that two staff members had falsified records stating that they had done bed checks and documented that the resident was in her room, when she wasn't. We were happy to be able to help resolve that case.

*If there is one thing you could say to nursing home staff, what would it be?*

Drew: Don't be afraid to communicate any of your concerns to your management. Also, share your ideas—and ask questions!

*Any other comments, Drew?*

Drew: Our first priority is to ensure the safety and welfare of our elder population, as we work to increase awareness of health care fraud. We understand that direct care staff are on the front lines, working very hard caring for our seniors, especially during these challenging times—and **we appreciate the work you are doing!**



**Thank you, Drew Macon, for this valuable information. For questions, complaints, or concerns, call (517) 241-6525 (hotline: 1-800-ABUSE) Email: [hcf@michigan.gov](mailto:hcf@michigan.gov)**

## To Report Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation

Of a nursing home resident by a staff member: Call State of Michigan LARA @ (800) 882-6006

Of an older adult living at home, in assisted living, adult foster care, home for the aged, or a nursing home, by anyone who is *not* a staff member, call:

**Adult Protective Services: (855) 444-3911**

If you think a crime has occurred: Call your local police/sheriff department (and LARA)—If the danger is immediate, **call 911**

## Your efforts at caring for your



**residents do not go unnoticed. Thank you for all you do!**

## For More Information

**Long Term Care Ombudsman: (517) 394-3027**

**Tri-County Office on Aging: (800) 405-9141**

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