




Memorandum



Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General
A State of Florida Commission on Law Enforcement Accredited Agency
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To: Roderick Beasley, Executive Director
South Florida Workforce Investment Board
CareerSource South Florida

From: Felix Jimenez, Inspector General 

Date: February 2, 2024

Subject: Wire Fraud Scheme by Former Executive Director of Transition, Inc.,
Maylin Salado Garcia, Ref. 19-0008-I

Attached please find the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) Final Investigative Memorandum concerning the investigation and subsequent prosecution of former Executive Director of Transition, Inc., Maylin Salado Garcia. The OIG assisted the United States (U.S.) Department of Labor, Office of the Inspector General (DOL-OIG) with an investigation into a wire fraud scheme to defraud the government of federal workforce program funds administered at the state and local level.

This investigation resulted in the indictment and sentencing of Maylin Salado Garcia, former Executive Director of Transition, Inc., along with three co-defendants. The OIG would like to thank all parties involved for their cooperation and for the courtesies extended to the OIG and its federal partners during this investigation.

Attachment



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To: Felix Jimenez, Inspector General

Via: Hector Ortiz, Assistant Inspector General
Oswaldo Romero Jr., Supervisory Special Agent

From: Diego A. Rodriguez, Special Agent

Date: January 30, 2024

Subject: Wire Fraud Scheme by Former Executive Director of Transition, Inc.,
Maylin Salado Garcia, Ref. 19-0008-I

The Miami-Dade County (County) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) assisted the United States (U.S.) Department of Labor, Office of the Inspector General (DOL-OIG) with an investigation into a wire fraud scheme to defraud the government of federal workforce program funds administered at the state and local level. The investigation resulted in the indictment and sentencing of Maylin Salado Garcia, former Executive Director of Transition, Inc., along with three co-defendants. Ms. Salado Garcia was ultimately convicted of Conspiracy to Defraud the United States (Theft of Government Funds) and Aggravated Identity Theft.

BACKGROUND

In April 2019, the OIG initiated the investigation after receiving a complaint from CareerSource South Florida (CareerSource). CareerSource is the operating entity in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties that implements the various workforce development programs established by the federal government and administered at the state and local level. Primarily, these workforce development programs consist of job training and employment services. CareerSource contracts with service providers to operate career centers. In return, providers receive remuneration for job placements, as well as for other services that they provide.

Transition, Inc. is a Miami-Dade County based not-for-profit that operates a workforce re-entry program and was a CareerSource service provider. The services offered include job search, referral, and placement assistance, as well as training and certifications in numerous trades. Transition, Inc. received federal funds from two sources, both of which passed through County-funded programs for disbursement to organizations within the community.

CareerSource advised that, while performing routine quality assurance monitoring¹ of participant files for Program Year 2017-2018, they identified higher than normal hourly rates paid for unskilled labor positions. Upon further review, CareerSource identified a business that had a familial relationship with Ms. Salado Garcia, who was serving as Transition, Inc.'s Executive Director at the time.

Additionally, CareerSource received a complaint from a prospective client hoping to attain their GED through one of their programs. While attempting to register for the program, the prospective client was advised that they were ineligible to enroll because they had allegedly already received on-the-job training from Transition, Inc. facilitated by CareerSource.

The OIG presented the case to DOL-OIG due to the federal funding provided to Transition, Inc. DOL-OIG proceeded with their criminal investigation, with the assistance of the OIG.

INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS

Transition, Inc. received funds from CareerSource via the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity administered by the U.S. Department of Labor, and funds from Miami-Dade County Corrections and Rehabilitation Department's (Corrections) Boot Camp Re-entry Program via the Improved Reentry Project Grant administered by the U.S. Department of Education.

Ms. Salado Garcia was employed at Transition, Inc. from December 2013 until February 2019. The criminal conduct committed, which forms the basis for this investigation, began when she was promoted to Workforce Supervisor at Transition, Inc. in January 2017; Ms. Salado Garcia was subsequently promoted to the position of Executive Director in April 2018.

It was determined that Ms. Salado Garcia created fraudulent participant files using the personal identifying information of others and fabricated wage records to make it appear that payments were made to program participants employed at specific companies, including companies owned by Ms. Salado Garcia and one of her co-defendants. Ms. Salado Garcia entered the data of these fictitious program participants into a web-based program run by Transition, Inc.'s payroll processor. The bank accounts listed for alleged participants were accounts controlled or owned by Ms. Salado Garcia. Ms. Salado Garcia also gave herself unauthorized raises and bonuses while serving as the Executive Director of Transition, Inc.

¹ CareerSource's final Transition, Inc. Quality Assurance report findings were made available to the OIG. The report concluded that Transition, Inc. failed to comply with several provisions of its contract with CareerSource resulting in \$360,657.32 in disallowance. The disallowance relates to funding provided for paid work experience, on-the-job training, and direct job placements.

The joint investigation resulted in Ms. Salado Garcia and three other defendants being charged and convicted of conspiracy to commit theft of government funds. (Exhibit 1 – Indictment) Between July and August 2023, Ms. Salado Garcia, Niubis Garcia, Sirce Rodriguez, and Oscar Pujadas pled guilty to conspiracy to commit theft of government funds, specifically DOL's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funds. In addition, Ms. Salado Garcia pleaded guilty to stealing the identities of unsuspecting individuals and using them in furtherance of the scheme. (Exhibit 2 – Judgment in a Criminal Case)

CASE CLOSURE

The investigation found that Ms. Salado Garcia and her co-conspirators defrauded programs receiving federal funds passed through the County for workforce programs. Ms. Salado Garcia and her co-conspirators enriched themselves by diverting these stolen funds to their personal and corporate bank accounts. Ms. Salado Garcia also committed aggravated identity theft by using stolen personal identifying information to create false and fraudulent participant files and wage records.

In November 2023, Ms. Salado Garcia and Ms. Rodriguez were sentenced. Ms. Salado Garcia pleaded guilty and was sentenced to a total of 84 months to be served in federal prison, followed by 3 years of supervised release. Ms. Salado Garcia was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$351,362.84; she will surrender to the U.S. Bureau of Prisons in April 2024. Ms. Rodriguez was sentenced to 3 years' probation, 300 community service hours, restitution in the amount of \$35,080.54, and \$200 special assessment.

In December 2023, Mr. Pujadas and Ms. Niubis Garcia were sentenced. Mr. Pujadas received 18 months' incarceration followed by 3 years of supervised release. Restitution in the amount of \$114, 237.87 imposed and a surrender date of December 27, 2023. Ms. Niubis Garcia received 12 months and 1 day of incarceration followed by 3 years of supervised release. \$100 special assessment plus restitution in the amount of \$117,075.83. Ms. Niubis Garcia's request for a designation to a South Florida facility was granted and her surrender date is in January 2024. (Exhibit 3a-3c – Judgment(s) in a Criminal Case).

No further action is required, and this case is recommended for closure.