




# Memorandum



Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General  
A State of Florida Commission on Law Enforcement Accredited Agency  
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To: The Honorable Carlos A. Gimenez, Mayor, Miami-Dade County  
The Honorable Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Chairman  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County

From: Mary T. Cagle, Inspector General 

Date: October 17, 2017

Subject: Plea and Sentence in Veterans Affairs Program Fraud Case; Ref. IG14-18

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Linda Tyson (Tyson), a Veterans Affairs program caregiver who defrauded the Veteran's Directed Home and Community Based Services (VDHCBS) program and the County's Department of Human Services, pled guilty last week to 14 counts of Grand Theft – all 3<sup>rd</sup> degree felonies. Tyson, and her veteran spouse, participated in the VDHCBS program. The program allows veterans to receive in-home services from a variety of caregivers, including family members. The program was locally administered by the Alliance for the Aging, Inc., and case management services were provided by the County's Department of Human Services' Elderly, Disability and Veterans Services Bureau.<sup>1</sup>

As a result of a joint investigation with the United States Veterans Affairs Office of the Inspector General (VAOIG), Tyson was arrested in August 2017. Our joint investigation determined that Tyson fraudulently misrepresented, on several occasions, that her husband (the veteran) was ill and could not be seen by the County case managers, who were assigned to perform monthly visits. While Tyson was making up excuses to the County case workers, her husband was, in fact, incarcerated. Tyson nevertheless submitted electronic timesheets for the hours she purportedly worked providing home health care to her husband. Tyson received over \$14,000 in program funds for care that was never provided.

Tyson was sentenced to 17 days jail, followed by six months of house arrest, and four and a half years of probation. Tyson is also required to make restitution. She must repay over \$14,000 in VDHCBS program funds she fraudulently received.

The investigation and resolution of this case was possible due to the cooperation of our law enforcement partners at the VAOIG, and the assistance provided by the Alliance for the Aging, and the Miami-Dade Community Action and Human Services Department.

cc: Alex Ferro, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor  
Maurice Kemp, Deputy Mayor  
Lucia Davis-Raiford, Director Community Action and Human Services  
Max B. Rothman, President, Alliance for the Aging, Inc.  
Monty Stokes, Special Agent in Charge, Veterans Affairs OIG  
David Spilker, Resident Agent in Charge, Veterans Affairs OIG  
Cathy Jackson, Interim Commission Auditor, and Director, Audit and Management Services Dept.

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<sup>1</sup> The County's successor department, the Community Action and Human Services Department (CAHSD), still has a Veterans Services Program, but has not participated in the VDHCBS Program through the Alliance for the Aging, Inc. since 2014.