

Polcyn, Bryan

From: Goodsitt, Elizabeth S - DHS <Elizabeth.Goodsitt@dhs.wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2017 2:13 PM
To: Polcyn, Bryan
Cc: DHS Media
Subject: RE: Achievement Associates

Hi Bryan,

Per our legal team, we are not able to schedule on camera interviews at this time, but here is information that may be helpful.

--By suspending Medicaid payments to Acacia, did DHS also intend to prevent Abe Freund from receiving Medicaid payments? Mr. Freund himself is not a Medicaid provider. However, because he had an ownership interest in an entity suspended due to a credible allegation of fraud, we would not approve the enrollment into Medicaid of any new entities in which Mr. Freund had an ownership interest.

--When DHS certified Achievement Associates to operate at 5228 W. Fond du Lac in June 2017, was the agency aware of Freund's close connections to the new clinic? No. The application identified the owners of the clinic and additional information required by DHS as part of the application process. According to the submitted documentation, there are no disclosed connections between Mr. Freund and "Achievement Associates Center." We are aware that the clinic is reportedly owned by Netanel Friedman.

Included in the application process is the mandatory background check required by state law under Wis. Stat. § 50.065. The Division of Quality Assurance (DQA) carefully reviews the results of the background check and conducts an on-site inspection to determine if the rules governing the clinic are met. DQA issues a "certification" when we determine that all rules and requirements are met.

--Did DHS know that Neena Florsheim, the clinic administrator, had announced to her own staff in November 2016 that she sold all assets of her business to Telepsych, Inc., which is registered in New York as a business owned by Abe Freund? We are aware of this claim. However, it must be noted that "Achievement Associates LTD" owned and administered by Dr. Florsheim is an entity separate and distinct from "Achievement Associates Center" which is legally owned by Netanel Friedman and administered by Alan Binder. Dr. Florsheim's Achievement Associates LTD is no longer an enrolled Medicaid provider. That entity's DQA certification expired in August 2017, and it was subsequently disenrolled from Medicaid at that time. Telepsych, Inc. is not and has never been a Wisconsin Medicaid provider.

--Is DHS aware that Freund's son, Isaac, operates a lab at the same location? Yes.

--Does DHS have the ability to withhold certification of a clinic from family members or close associates of a person suspected of fraud? No. DHS may withhold certification for failure to comply with regulations pertinent to the services the clinic provides under DHS 75. In addition, failure to pass the Caregiver Background Check process can result in a denial of certification issued by DQA.

--What steps has DHS taken to ensure that Achievement Associates is not engaging in fraudulent billing or unnecessary lab testing? Staff with both DQA and the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) have made site visits to Achievement Associates in the past few weeks. Monitoring is ongoing.

Please let us know if we can offer any additional information.

Elizabeth

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From: Polcyn, Bryan [mailto:Bryan.Polcyn@fox6now.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 06, 2017 2:21 PM
To: DHS Media
Subject: RE: Achievement Associates

Julie –

I appreciate your call today.

As we've discussed, the interview I'm looking to do is focused on Abe Freund's connections to Achievement Associates at 5228 W. Fond du Lac and whether those connections are a concern for DHS, considering the agency has already determined that there was a "credible allegation of fraud" made against him.

I do not intend to ask any questions about the specific fraud allegations contained in the lawsuit against Freund and Acacia.

The kinds of questions I would like to be able to ask include:

- By suspending Medicaid payments to Acacia, did DHS also intend to prevent Abe Freund from receiving Medicaid payments?
- When DHS certified Achievement Associates to operate at 5228 W. Fond du Lac in June 2017, was the agency aware of Freund's close connections to the new clinic?
- Did DHS know that Neena Florsheim, the clinic administrator, had announced to her own staff in November 2016 that she sold all assets of her business to Telepsych, Inc., which is registered in New York as a business owned by Abe Freund?
- Is DHS aware that Freund's son, Isaac, operates a lab at the same location? Is that a concern?
- Does DHS have the ability to withhold certification of a clinic from family members or close associates of a person suspected of fraud?