

## WHAT IS THE MFCU?

Medicaid Fraud Control Units (MFCUs) are health care oversight agencies funded with a 75/25 match by the federal government. All states are required by law to have a MFCU or be able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of Health & Human Services (HHS) of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) that they have no Medicaid fraud in their state. Currently 49 states and the District of Colombia have MFCUs, and the remaining state is presently in the certification process. The MFCU must have statewide investigative authority and either statewide prosecutorial authority or systems in place that insure criminal Medicaid fraud cases are prosecuted by the state. If the MFCU prosecutes the case, the state can be reimbursed for both the cost of the investigation and the prosecution.

In Arkansas, our MFCU has statewide jurisdiction to investigate Medicaid fraud. We have a system where, with the approval of the local prosecutor, the MFCU can prosecute any Medicaid fraud charges (AR Medicaid Fraud Act §5-55-101 to 114). Additionally, the unit has the authority to bring civil Medicaid false claims under the federal false claims act and under the state false claims act (AR Code Ann.§20-77-901 et seq.). The Medicaid Fraud Control Unit is currently investigating 182 cases. We have nine (9) outstanding warrants and two (2) outstanding civil demands. We are currently prosecuting 24 defendants. The Arkansas MFCU has limited jurisdiction to investigate and assist in prosecuting other charges related to the Medicaid system. One area of increasing litigation is criminal and civil allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of long term care and board & care facility residents. Other legal actions may be taken against certain drug diversion cases and other forms of health care fraud when approved by the HHS of the OIG. Lastly, when warranted, the MFCU may even delve into the prosecution of ancillary charges to Medicaid fraud such as rape, murder, battery, theft by deception, forgery, and harassment.

Upon General Leslie Rutledge taking office, the Arkansas MFCU developed a baseline to measure the unit's progress compared to available MFCU records of the previous four years. The unit collects large amounts of data but our primary markers to measure our success include numbers for Medicaid Fraud convictions, state false claims cases, total convictions, civil investigations of long term care facilities and judgment settlements. The handout attachment indicates our achievements.

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