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**AFTER A SIX-DAY TRIAL FEDERAL JURY CONVICTS HOLY HEALTH CARE SERVICES,
LLC PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR FOR A HEALTH CARE FRAUD SCHEME**

Greenbelt, Maryland – A federal jury yesterday convicted Lambert Mbom, age 50, of Riverdale, Maryland, for conspiracy to commit health care fraud and wire fraud and for conspiracy to make false statements relating to health care matters in connection with a scheme to fraudulently bill Medicaid. The defendant's conviction stems from a scheme involving services purportedly provided by Holy Health Care Services, LLC ("Holy Health"), a mental health services provider with locations in Washington, D.C. The jury acquitted Mbom of conspiring to violate the Anti-Kickback Statute.

The guilty verdict was announced by United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Erek L. Barron; Acting Special Agent in Charge David Geist of the FBI Washington Field Office's Criminal and Cyber Division; Special Agent in Charge Maureen Dixon, Office of Investigations, Office of Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services ("HHS OIG"); and Daniel W. Lucas, Inspector General for the District of Columbia.

According to evidence presented at Mbom's six-day trial, he was a program administrator at Holy Health. Holy Health entered into Medicaid Provider Agreements with the District of Columbia's Department of Health Care Finance ("DHCF"), to provide healthcare services to D.C. Medicaid recipients and was certified by the District of Columbia's Department of Behavioral Health ("DBH") to provide mental health services as a freestanding clinic and as a Mental Health and Rehabilitation Services ("MHRs") provider. As a certified MHRs provider, Holy Health had authority to provide and bill for a variety of mental health services including "community support" – a service for which community support workers ("CSWs") provide rehabilitative and educational support to mental health patients both in clinical settings and in the community.

According to evidence presented at trial, Mbom and his co-conspirators paid to Medicaid beneficiaries to induce the beneficiaries to visit Holy Health for mental health services. As detailed in trial testimony, Mbom and his co-conspirators caused claims to be submitted by Holy Health to Medicaid for services, including community support services, purportedly provided to Medicaid beneficiaries.

As detailed in trial testimony, Mbom and his co-conspirators paid individuals to come into the office and then used their personally identifiable information ("PII") to bill Medicaid for services that were not rendered or were not rendered as billed. The evidence proved that Mbom made up fake Holy Health employees who were purportedly Community Support Workers so that he could bill Medicaid for services provided by these fake employees. Witnesses testified that during the investigation, sources posing as mental health patients were sent to Holy Health to obtain community support services. Not only did the sources not

receive the services as billed, but Holy Health billed for CSW services for those patients for visits that never happened.

Mbom faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in federal prison for conspiracy to commit wire fraud and health care fraud; and a maximum of five years in federal prison for conspiracy to make a false statement regarding health care matters. U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis has not yet scheduled sentencing.

The owners of Holy Health, Julius Bakari, age 45, and Mboutchok Kabiwa a/k/a “Eugenie Bakari” or “Eugenie Kabiwa,” age 45, both of Silver Spring, Maryland, previously pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit health care fraud in connection with a scheme to pay bribes and kickbacks to Medicaid beneficiaries to induce the beneficiaries to visit their company. Judge Paula Xinis has scheduled sentencing for Bakari on November 6, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. and for Kabiwa on November 21, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

United States Attorney Erek L. Barron commended the FBI, the HHS OIG, and the District of Columbia Office of Inspector General’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit for their work in the investigation. Mr. Barron thanked Assistant U.S. Attorneys Christopher M. Sarma, Jessica C. Collins, and Megan S. McKoy, who are prosecuting the case.

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