

Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
District of Columbia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, January 22, 2021

Maryland Woman Sentenced for Committing Health Care Fraud Government Continues Crackdown on People Who Defraud Medicaid

WASHINGTON – Janet Olatimbo Akindipe, 62, of Laurel, Maryland, was sentenced today to 13 months in prison for defrauding the D.C. Medicaid program out of more than a quarter million dollars.

The announcement was made by Acting U.S. Attorney Michael R. Sherwin; James A. Dawson, Special Agent in Charge, FBI Washington Field Office, Criminal Division; Maureen R. Dixon, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General for the region that includes Washington, D.C.; and Daniel W. Lucas, Inspector General for the District of Columbia.

At various times between November 2014 and June 2020, Akindipe was employed by six different home health agencies to serve as a personal care aide for D.C. Medicaid beneficiaries. The home health agencies employed Akindipe to assist Medicaid beneficiaries in performing activities of daily living, such as getting in and out of bed, bathing, dressing, and eating. Akindipe was supposed to document the care she provided to the Medicaid beneficiaries on timesheets and then submit the timesheets to the home health agencies, which would in turn bill Medicaid for the services that she rendered.

Between January 2015 and June 2020, Akindipe caused the D.C. Medicaid Program to issue payments totaling \$269,808 for services that she did not render. As part of her fraud scheme, she submitted false timesheets to different home health agencies purporting that she provided personal care aide services that she did not provide. She claimed she provided such services during times when she actually was working her shift as a full-time employee at the National Institutes of Health. She claimed to work more than twenty hours in a given day on more than 300 occasions. She also claimed to provide personal care aide services in the District of Columbia on days when she was not even in the United States. As part of her fraud scheme, she paid kickbacks to get Medicaid beneficiaries to sign falsified timesheets.

In addition to sentencing Akindipe to 13 months in prison, she was also ordered to serve three years of supervised release and pay restitution in the amount of \$269,808 and a forfeiture money judgment for \$119,773.

The FBI, the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General, the District of Columbia's Office of the Inspector General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, and the U.S. Attorney's Office are committed to investigating and prosecuting individuals who defraud the D.C. Medicaid program. Since October 2019, six former personal care aides, including Akindipe, have been sentenced in U.S. District Court for defrauding Medicaid. A seventh former personal care aide is expected to plead guilty. Cases against two other personal care aides remain outstanding.

The government counts on the public for tips and assistance in helping stop health care fraud. If you have information about individuals committing health care fraud, please call the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General hotline at (800) HHS-TIPS [(800) 447-8477]. Assistant U.S. Attorney Kondi Kleinman of the Fraud Section prosecuted the case.

Topic(s):

Health Care Fraud

Component(s):

USAO - District of Columbia

Press Release Number:

21-024