

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Inspector General

Inspector General



October 11, 2019

Barbara J. Bazron, PhD
Director
Department of Behavioral Health
64 New York Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Dr. Bazron:

My Office's Inspections and Evaluations (I&E) Unit will soon start an evaluation of the Department of Behavioral Health's (DBH) contracting procedures. The objectives for this project, which is part of the OIG's *Fiscal Year 2020 Audit and Inspection Plan*,¹ are to: (1) review selected DBH contracts for vulnerabilities to corruption, fraud, mismanagement, waste, and abuse; and (2) assess whether the parties to each contract have effectively operationalized key contract terms and conditions to ensure that the District is receiving maximum benefits and expected goods and services.

I&E projects are conducted under the *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation* promulgated by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency. As a matter of standard practice, our inspections and evaluations pay particular attention to the quality of internal control.²

Please provide Edward Farley, Assistant Inspector General for Inspections and Evaluations, with the name and telephone number of the person who will serve as the primary point of contact at DBH during the evaluation. You can reach Mr. Farley at 202-727-9249 or edward.farley@dc.gov.

In addition, Mr. Farley will need the following information no later than October 21, 2019, so the I&E team can prepare its evaluation plan:

¹ This document is accessible on the OIG website at: <https://oig.dc.gov/>.

² "Internal control" is defined by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) as comprising "the plans, methods, policies, and procedures used to fulfill the mission, strategic plan, goals, and objectives of the entity" and is "not one event, but a series of actions that occur throughout an entity's operations." Furthermore, internal control is a process that provides "reasonable assurance that the objectives of an entity will be achieved," "serves as the first line of defense in safeguarding assets," and is "an integral part of the operational processes management uses to guide its operations." U.S. GOV'T ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE, STANDARDS FOR INTERNAL CONTROL IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT 5-6, GAO-14-704G (Sept. 2014).

- A list of all current contracts (with an annual projected value of at least \$100,000), noting the contractor's name, brief description of the goods/services provided, and the name and contact information of DBH's contract administrator;
- Position descriptions for all DBH employees with responsibilities pertaining to contract administration; and
- Any additional information or documentation that you believe would assist the OIG.

Mr. Farley will schedule an entrance conference with the point of contact you identify. Thank you in advance for your cooperation, and I look forward to working with DBH in our joint efforts to improve the quality of services provided to District stakeholders.

Sincerely,



Daniel W. Lucas
Inspector General

cc: The Honorable Muriel Bowser, Mayor, District of Columbia
Mr. Rashad Young, City Administrator
Mr. Wayne Turnage, Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services
The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia
The Honorable Vincent C. Gray, Chairperson, Committee on Health, Council of the District of Columbia
The Honorable Kathy Patterson, D.C. Auditor, Office of the D.C. Auditor, Attention: Cathy Patten