



News Release

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES APPLAUDS EFFORTS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY TASK FORCE *Multi-Agency Group Conducts First Fraud Sweep*

SACRAMENTO – California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Director David Maxwell-Jolly today announced that DHCS participated in its first In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) fraud sweep as part of the Sacramento County Task Force, which is comprised of state, federal and county agencies dedicated to combating fraud within the IHSS program. Sacramento County District Attorney Jan Scully today held a news conference to announce the results of the sweep: 12 arrests, with more warrants to be served in the weeks to come.

"Our cooperative anti-fraud efforts are targeted to cases in which criminals take advantage of some of our most vulnerable Californians," said Maxwell-Jolly. "The strong, appropriate actions taken in IHSS fraud cases are a direct reflection of the team effort among DHCS and its county and federal partners to protect those being defrauded and prosecute those breaking the law to the fullest extent allowable. We will continue working to aggressively fight fraud in the state's vital health care programs."

The Governor's 2009-2010 budget includes funding for 19 new positions at DHCS to conduct and support IHSS fraud investigations so fraud can better be prevented and detected within the program to ensure that state tax dollars are used appropriately. Two of these new staff are dedicated to the Sacramento County Task Force and will help prevent and combat fraud in the IHSS program through several program integrity efforts.

"These new fraud-fighting resources will bolster our efforts to prevent and combat fraud in the IHSS program," said Maxwell-Jolly. "We're pleased Sacramento County is taking real steps to address fraud."

Also, significant resources have been provided to counties throughout the state to combat fraud, with counties soon receiving \$26.4 million in state, local and federal resources to prevent IHSS fraud. In addition, as a result of IHSS reforms adopted in this year's budget, the state has begun to implement background checks so individuals with serious criminal backgrounds are not allowed to care for vulnerable people in their homes. Moreover, the state has sent providers and recipients information about the strict new rules designed to combat fraud, with civil penalties for false timesheets, new fingerprinting requirements and unannounced home visits to ensure services are being provided.

"These broad efforts to prevent, detect and crack down on fraud in the IHSS program will pay dividends for all Californians by ensuring that scarce tax dollars available during these tough budget times are used on only those who legitimately need public health services," said Maxwell-Jolly. "This first county task force effort to combat IHSS fraud will serve as a great example for other counties to follow as statewide implementation moves forward."

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