

## **Report Highlights**

# **Pinecrest Supports and Services Center (PSSC)**

Office for Citizens With Developmental Disabilities - Louisiana Department of Health

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### Why We Conducted This Audit

On February 8, 2022, PSSC Regional Administrator Shannon Thorn notified the Louisiana Legislative Auditor (LLA), in writing, of a possible misappropriation of public funds by then-PSSC Police Captain David Patterson. According to Mr. Thorn's letter, Mr. Patterson recorded and was paid for 77.5 hours of overtime, totaling \$3,142, that he did not work from October 23, 2021 to December 25, 2021. PSSC management subsequently presented their findings to Mr. Patterson, and he resigned his position on February 16, 2022. The following week, LLA received an anonymous complaint stating that the amount of funds improperly paid to Mr. Patterson were significantly higher than the amount reported to LLA (\$3,142) by PSSC.

LLA initiated this investigative audit to determine the extent to which Mr. Patterson recorded overtime hours he did not work.

#### **What We Found**

#### Former Police Captain May Have Been Paid for Overtime Hours Not Worked

From July 2020 to December 2021, former PSSC Police Captain David Patterson recorded and was paid \$15,099 for 391 hours of COVID-19 overtime on weekend days that he either did not work or failed to go through PSSC's mandatory COVID-19 screening process. During this period, PSSC required all employees and visitors to be screened for COVID-19 and have their names recorded on a screening log sheet. PSSC records show that Mr. Patterson's name was not recorded on the screening log sheets on 62 of the 67 weekend days he allegedly worked overtime. In addition, 15 officers whose time overlapped with Mr. Patterson's weekend overtime told us they did not recall Mr. Patterson working overtime on the weekends. By failing to go through PSSC's screening process, Mr. Patterson appears to have violated PSSC policy. Further, if Mr. Patterson recorded and was paid for overtime hours not worked, Mr. Patterson may have violated state laws.