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Report Highlights

Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) – Medicaid Eligibility – Ghadeer Shalabi

Audit Control # 82170005

Investigative Audit Services • September 2020

Why We Conducted This Audit

LDH used tax return data from the Louisiana Department of Revenue to identify Medicaid recipients who reported income in excess of \$100,000 during tax year 2017. The list of recipients who met these criteria was provided to the LLA in April 2019. Ghadeer Shalabi was included on this list and selected for review by LLA because of the level of activity on her Medicaid case (encounter payments in excess of \$16,000). LLA initiated this investigative audit to determine if Ms. Shalabi provided LDH with accurate information to determine Medicaid eligibility for herself and her children.

What We Found

Recipient Failed to Disclose All Income Information to Obtain Medicaid Benefits

From January 2016 to March 2020, Ghadeer Shalabi provided incomplete information to LDH to obtain Louisiana Medicaid (Medicaid) benefits for herself and her three children. LDH paid \$57,454 for monthly premiums to Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and \$19,065 directly to providers on behalf of Ms. Shalabi and her children. The MCOs paid providers \$71,198 for covered health care services for Ms. Shalabi and her children. During this period, Ms. Shalabi failed to disclose to LDH all income. Had Ms. Shalabi provided accurate information, she and her children may have been ineligible to receive Medicaid benefits. By providing incomplete information to LDH, Ms. Shalabi may have violated state law.

View the full report, including management's response, at www.la.gov.