

U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS RELEASE:

Palm Beach County Drug and Mental Health Services Provider Settles with United States Regarding False Billings Allegations

Wifredo A. Ferrer, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, and Theresa Gulotta-Powers, Special Agent in Charge, United States Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General (DOJ-OIG), announced the filing of a Settlement Agreement on behalf of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) with Professional Evaluation & Counseling Services, Incorporated (PEC) and Frederick Presciti, Vice-President of PEC, located in West Palm Beach, Florida. Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, PEC paid the U.S. Department of Justice \$50,000.

According to documents filed with the court, PEC had contracted to provide drug and mental health counseling in support of the BOP's Transitional Drug Abuse Treatment Program for inmates housed at the Salvation Army Community Corrections Center in Palm Beach County, Florida. The Settlement Agreement resulted from an OIG investigation into allegations that between October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2010, PEC falsely billed the BOP for drug and mental health counseling services that had not been rendered.

More specifically, the OIG investigation determined that, without the knowledge of Presciti, a PEC billing contractor falsified invoices and forged the signatures of inmates and PEC counselors to inflate the number of counseling sessions and billable units charged to the BOP.

Mr. Ferrer commended the investigative efforts of the DOJ-OIG. The civil case was handled Assistant U.S. Attorney James A. Weinkle.

A copy of this press release may be found on the website of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida at www.usdoj.gov/usao/fls. Related court documents and information may be found on the website of the District Court for the Southern District of Florida at www.flsd.uscourts.gov or on <http://pacer.flsd.uscourts.gov>.