



**U.S. OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL**

1730 M Street, N.W., Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20036-4505

The Special Counsel

July 1, 2008

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: OSC File No. DI-07-2512

Dear Mr. President:

I received disclosures from Mr. Darryl Young, a whistleblower formerly employed at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), New Mexico VA Healthcare System (the Hospital), Albuquerque, New Mexico. Mr. Young, who consented to the release of his name, alleged that as a result of poor management, supervision, and staffing in the VA Substance Abuse Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (SARRTP) unit, a patient committed suicide by overdose. Mr. Young also disclosed that VA physicians routinely prescribe medication to patients without notation to the patient treatment record. He asserted that these and other incidents constitute a violation of law, rule or regulation, gross mismanagement and a substantial and specific danger to public health and safety.

I required the Honorable James B. Peake, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to conduct an investigation into Mr. Young's disclosures pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 1213(c) and (d). The Secretary delegated authority to the Under Secretary for Health, who directed the Office of the Medical Inspector (OMI) to investigate this matter. The Secretary subsequently submitted a report to this office. Mr. Young provided comments on the agency report to this office pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 1213(e)(1); his comments are enclosed. As required by law, 5 U.S.C. § 1213(e)(3), I am now transmitting the report to you.

As discussed in the enclosed Analysis of Disclosures, the agency investigation did not substantiate Mr. Young's allegations. The investigation did, however, result in findings regarding areas in need of improvement within the SAARTP unit. The Secretary indicated in his letter accompanying the agency report that these issues were addressed with Hospital senior management and that an action plan was being developed to address the findings.

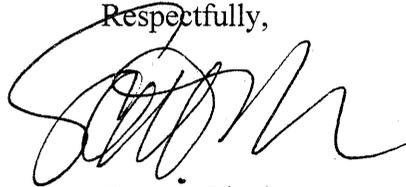
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Based on the representations made in the agency report and Mr. Young's comments, I have determined that the agency report contains all of the information required by statute and that the findings appear to be reasonable. As required by 5 U.S.C. § 1213(e)(3), I have sent a copy of the agency report and Mr. Young's comments to the Chairmen of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans' Affairs. We have also filed a copy of the agency report and Mr. Young's comments in our public file and closed the matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Bloch', written in a cursive style.

Scott J. Bloch

Enclosures