



MAR 5 2014

Indian Health Service
Rockville MD 20852

Ms. Carolyn Lerner
The Special Counsel
U.S. Office of Special Counsel
1730 M Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, DC 20036-4505

Dear Ms. Lerner:

I am responding to a February 25, 2014, e-mail from Ms. Karen Gorman, Deputy Chief, Disclosure Unit, U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC), to Mr. Oliver Potts, Deputy Executive Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), which requests a supplemental report to address allegations that hospital security did not provide adequate patrol services. The initial report concerns a Whistleblower disclosure that the OSC received from a former employee of the Indian Health Service (IHS), Browning Service Unit, Blackfeet Community Hospital, in Browning, Montana. A report of findings was submitted on July 8, 2013, and a revised report of findings was submitted on November 21, 2013.

The Secretary of HHS has delegated me the authority to sign this report and to take actions necessary under 5 U.S.C. § 1213(d)(5).

I respectfully submit the enclosed supplemental report of findings for OSC File Number DI-12-3553. Please contact me at (301) 443-1083 if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., M.P.H.
Acting Director

Enclosure

2014 MAR 20 AM 7:47
U.S. OFFICE OF
SPECIAL COUNSEL
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Supplemental Report

OSC DI-12-3553

1. Hospital security.

a) Description of any action taken or planned as a result of the investigation:

Blackfeet Community Hospital (BCH) plans to expand and upgrade the current security and monitoring systems in a project to include minor renovations to the present emergency room access area. The project is currently in the design phase, estimated completion date is late 2014.

Blackfeet Tribal Security is a Public Law 638 contracted service from the Blackfeet Tribe to provide security services for the BCH (Attachment 1). Indian Health Service directly operates the facility, but security is provided by the Tribe under an Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act contract. Tribal security currently patrols the interior and immediate area outside the BCH on a schedule and route, and is available through an electronic paging system; this is confirmed with their daily log (Attachment 2). The current contract does not include patrolling BCH government housing; this area does have access to the Bureau of Indian Affairs law enforcement and local law enforcement that routinely patrol this area. The BCH plans to meet and discuss the potential of including the patrolling of government housing with the Blackfeet Tribe prior to the existing contract's renewal date of October 1, 2014.

BCH has installed a data line to the security office and will install a computer to access the Webcident program, projected completion date is March 14, 2014. Incidents are currently being documented manually and submitted to the Infection Control/Safety Officer. Training will be provided to security staff on how to utilize the software once access is available.

Attachment 1

**Blackfeet Tribe
Security Services
Scope of Work**

The Contractor shall furnish all necessary personnel, materials, services, facilities and equipment (except as otherwise specified herein) and otherwise do all this necessary or incidental to the administration of the Indian Health Service (I.H.S.) contracted programs and activities, as set forth below:

SECURITY SERVICES

Provide Security Services to the Blackfeet Hospital *24 hours per day seven (7) days per week including holidays*. The requirement to patrol the Blackfeet Hospital is to prevent theft, fire, damage, accident, trespass, protect lives, and perform similar duties. The contractor will provide the following security from October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014.

- A. The contractor will assume the on-duty guard will examine doors, locks, windows, remove unauthorized personnel, turn off all unnecessary lights, and when not making security rounds, will remain in the proximity of the designated office area.
- B. The contractor will provide security for the hospital and contiguous parking areas between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. seven (7) day per week including holidays.
- C. The contractor will follow established Service Unit Policy in providing appropriate control of any incidents, which could lead to the verbal and/or physical abuse of patients, staff and visitors.
- D. The contractor will follow established service unit policy in providing crowd control and support during incidents which could lead to large numbers of people arriving at the facility during family crisis, such as motor vehicle accidents, mass casualty emergencies, family disputes, etc. The contractor will be responsible for establishing and coordinating support assistance, if needed, with the local police organization.
- E. The contractor will attend Service Unit Safety Committee meetings and Service Unit Supervisor meetings. The meetings will be held as needed and the contractor will be notified in writing. The meetings will be held at the local Service Unit.
- F. The contractor will provide orientation and training to hospital staff on security practices at a location, date and time specified by the Service Unit.

- G. The contractor will assure the emergency room urgent care access driveway and hospital patient loading areas are unobstructed and clear of unauthorized vehicles and the air helipad area is restricted to authorized personnel at all times.
- H. The contractor will assure that on-duty security personnel wear a uniform as established by the local Service Unit and the Blackfeet Tribal Health Department.
- I. The contractor will maintain a daily security log which will include at a minimum departure and return time for hospital rounds and recording any incidents encountered. A report will be generated from the daily security log which will include the number and type of incidents encountered by security personnel on a monthly basis and will be submitted to the Blackfeet Hospital administrative office on a quarterly basis along with a financial report.
- J. Contractor will assure updated training for security personnel.

Attachment 2

