



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Office of the General Counsel
Washington DC 20420

AUG 26 2011

Catherine McMullen
Chief, Disclosure Unit
U.S. Office of Special Counsel
1730 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-4505

In Reply Refer To:

Dear Ms. McMullen:

This letter serves as a supplemental report to the Agency report submitted on July 12, 2011, concerning allegations reported by a former employee of the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Healthcare System (OSC File No. DI-11-1580). The whistleblower alleged that a physician misused official time by failing to report to work or reporting late, and that the physician's private practice was the reason for this misuse of official time. The Administrative Investigation Board ("AIB") that investigated these allegations determined that they were without merit. You requested that the Agency interview the whistleblower to determine if his testimony presented evidence that would alter the Agency's findings.

The AIB interviewed the whistleblower on August 4, 2011, and found no evidence that alters the findings communicated to you in the July 12, 2011, report. The whistleblower's testimony was substantially similar to the allegations that he presented to your office. However, the AIB discovered additional facts that further erode the veracity of the whistleblower's allegations. In particular, the whistleblower testified that he was not the physician's timekeeper and that the physician's supervisor was aware of the physician's schedule. Further, he continued to allege that the physician operated a private practice, which is an allegation that the AIB already found to be meritless. Accordingly, the whistleblower's testimony does not alter the original Agency findings. In addition, you will note, as mentioned in the July 12, 2011, report, that VA's Office of Inspector General previously investigated these allegations and determined that the physician committed no wrongdoing.

If you have any questions about this supplemental report, please contact Chris Britt in the Office of General Counsel at 202-461-4915.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter A. Hall".

Walter A. Hall
Assistant General Counsel