

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 8, 2008

Dr. Christine Branche
Acting Director
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
395 E Street, SW, Suite 9200
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Branche,

Thank you for coming to brief our staffs on the status of the contract for the World Trade Center (WTC) National Responder Program, which was awarded to Logistics Health Incorporated (LHI) on May 30, 2008 in the amount of \$11 million. As you know, individuals eligible for this program are those who responded to the 9/11 attacks at the WTC site who currently live outside the New York metropolitan area.

At the briefing, you informed our staffs of problems in the transition from the Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics (AOEC) and WTC programs to the LHI program and offered a number of reasons for the delay in services to national responders. These reasons include: 1) NIOSH originally expected a longer transition time before the new contract was put in place; 2) there were misunderstandings between NIOSH and LHI about certain responsibilities; 3) the process of matching LHI's prescription formulary with the former program's formulary took longer than anticipated; and 4) the process of transferring protocols to LHI from the former program also took longer than anticipated.

Although you assured our staffs that people who were already enrolled in the program "have not fallen through the cracks," we remain concerned that few people are actually receiving their monitoring exams. You had said in the meeting that NIOSH is working to hire a part-time social benefits coordinator to smooth the transition from the old program to the new program, and we hope that this will be in place very soon.

To follow up on some of the remaining questions we had, you indicated that you would send us answers to the following:

- 1) What is the process after a national responder calls into the NY/NJ Consortium's hotline? How are they put in touch with LHI?
- 2) What happens after a person calls the LHI hotline?

3) When will the program be functioning at 100% and what criteria will be used to determine that the need is truly being met? For example, how many people will the program monitor by the end of the contract year? By what time will all of the current patients in the treatment program be seeing physicians in the LHI treatment program? How many responders will be treated each month? How many will be monitored each month? What will the wait time be for getting an appointment?

4) Is outreach provided for under the contract? What outreach will LHI do to potentially eligible national responders?

In addition to the questions above, we would also like information on the progress of this program to date and what is planned for the national program in the future:

1) How many responders are being monitored as of today?

2) How many are being treated as of today?

3) How many are being treated by an AOEC doctor?

4) How many AOEC providers has LHI signed up? Out of how many AOEC doctors?

5) What is LHI paying providers for treatment and monitoring, and how does that compare with what the AOEC was paying?

5) How many responders are receiving prescription drugs as of today?

6) Have any responders been denied access to a drug that they had been receiving under the AOEC program? If so, which drugs and why?

7) How many responders are in case management?

5) How many release forms have been received?

6) How many welcome packets have been shipped?

7) How many outbound calls have been made?

8) Of those, how many have been successful in reaching the responder?

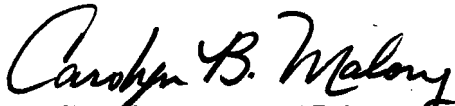
9) How many were unsuccessful (spoke with family member or voicemail)?

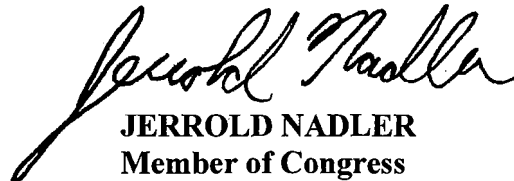
10) How many refused to participate or to transfer their medical records to the program?


Please also include information on any other aspects of the program that you think would be of concern or interest to us.

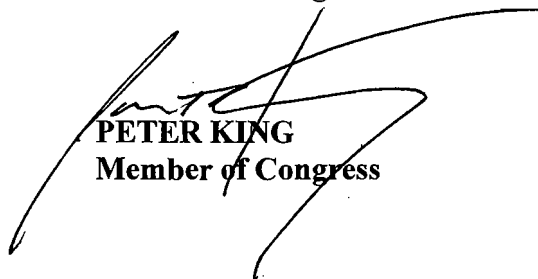
Thank you again for the briefing that you provided to our staffs. We look forward to many more successful meetings like this in the future. We look forward to continuing to work with you for the benefit of 9/11 responders around the nation.

Sincerely,


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress


JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress


VITO FOSSELLA
Member of Congress


PETER KING
Member of Congress

cc: Dr. Julie Gerberding, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention