



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Washington DC 20420

JUL 15 2011

William E. Reukauf
Associate Special Counsel
U.S. Office of Special Counsel
1730 M Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20036-4505
Attn: Catherine A. McMullen, Chief, Disclosure Unit
Subj: OSC File No DI-10-1024

Dear Mr. Reukauf:

I am writing to formally advise you of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) actions regarding three recommendations made by the VA Office of Inspector General relating to the Northport VA Medical Center in Northport, New York. (OSC File No. DI-10-1024). We had previously advised the Office of Special Counsel of the following VA actions via email:

OIG Recommendation (1) VA leadership should conduct additional administrative reviews and take appropriate action against responsible officials.

VA Response: The Chief of Staff and a lower level employee were reprimanded.

OIG Recommendation (2) VHA should establish a process to validate residency program data, and to verify the accreditation status of programs before funding is allocated.

VA Response: The VA Medical Center Northport modified their procedure so the Associate Chief of Staff will be required to verify the accreditation status of a program and submit the accreditation status to the Chief of Staff for additional verification and approval prior to submitting a request for funding of the program.

OIG Recommendation (3) VA leadership should notify the appropriate New York Medical Licensing authority of the relevant facts of this issue.

VA Response: VA notified the NY State Licensing Board on November 18, 2010. NY State Licensing Board does not require residents to have a license and stated this was not a licensing board issue.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Katherine Seto in the Office of General Counsel at 202-461-7629.

Sincerely yours,

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

Walter A. Hall
Assistant General Counsel