IN THE EXECUTIVE ETHICS COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

IN RE: RHODA KIMBROUGH ) OEIG for the Agencies of
) the Illinois Governor
) Case #17-01435

PUBLICATION OF REDACTED VERSION OF OEIG FINAL REPORT

Below is the redacted final summary report from an Executive Inspector General. The General Assembly has directed the Executive Ethics Commission (Commission) to redact information from this report that may reveal the identity of witnesses, complainants or informants and “any other information it believes should not be made public.” 5 ILCS 430/20-52(b).

The Commission exercises this responsibility with great caution and with the goal of balancing the sometimes-competing interests of increasing transparency and operating with fairness to those involved. To balance these interests, the Commission may redact certain information contained in this report including, but not limited to, information that relates to allegations against a person who was found not to have committed a violation. The redactions are made with the understanding that the subject or subjects of the investigation have had no opportunity to rebut the report’s factual allegations or legal conclusions before the Commission. Further, in publishing the below redacted final summary report, the Commission makes no finding of law or fact for or against any individual or entity referenced therein.

The Commission received this report from the Governor’s Office of Executive Inspector General (“OEIG”) and a response from the agency in this matter. The Commission, pursuant to 5 ILCS 430/20-52, redacted the final report and mailed copies of the redacted version and responses to the Attorney General, the Executive Inspector General for the Governor and to Rhoda Kimbrough’s last address.

The Commission reviewed all suggestions received and makes this document available pursuant to 5 ILCS 430/20-52.
Office of the Executive Inspector General 
for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor 

Summary Report

I. ALLEGATIONS

The Office of Executive Inspector General (OEIG) received a complaint on July 19, 2017, alleging that Department of Human Services (DHS) employee Rhoda Kimbrough, who works at the Elisabeth Ludeman Developmental Center, received payments for the same working hours under two different assistance programs offered through the DHS. The complaint further alleged that these hours may have overlapped with the times she reported working at Ludeman.¹

II. BACKGROUND

A. DHS In-Home Care Services

DHS offers in-home care services to eligible individuals through two different programs. DHS’s Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) provides services to individuals under 60 with severe disabilities through the Home Services Program.² Similarly, DHS’s Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) provides services to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities so they can remain in their homes through the Home-Based Services Program.

1. Division of Rehabilitative Services Personal Assistants

The purpose of the DRS Home Services Program is to allow eligible individuals to remain in their homes and be as independent as possible.³ One option for achieving this goal is by using the services of a Personal Assistant (PA). PAs assist customers with household tasks, personal care and, with a doctor’s permission, certain health care procedures.⁴ When a customer submits an application for assistance to DRS, a caseworker is assigned to determine eligibility. If it is determined that they are eligible, customers can select their own PA to assist them in their home in accordance with the service plan they have jointly developed with their DRS rehabilitation counselor. Alternatively, DRS can recommend a homemaker agency, which supplies a PA for the customer.

Timekeeping for PAs is done via both paper timesheets, completed twice a month, and an Electronic Voice Verification (EVV) system. Generally, the customer and PA each sign the timesheet, which states that the information on the document is correct. Additionally, when the

¹ [The Commission exercises its discretion to redact this footnote pursuant to 5 ILCS 430/20-52(b).]
² Illinois residents who are over the age of 60 may be eligible to obtain in-home care services through the Illinois Department on Aging’s Community Care Program. See Community Care Program, Illinois Department on Aging, https://www.illinois.gov/aging/CommunityServices/Pages/ccp.aspx (last visited November 19, 2018).
⁴ Id.
PA arrives at the customer’s home, the PA must call into the EVV system using the customer’s telephone. The EVV system recognizes the customer’s telephone number, and the PA then enters his or her PA identification number. This process is repeated at the end of the PA’s shift. The EVV system records the PA’s start and end times and generates a report that is to be reviewed by the customer’s caseworker and compared to the handwritten timesheets. Any discrepancies should be reconciled.

2. Division of Developmental Disabilities Personal Support Workers

The DDD Home-Based Services Program, in accordance with the customer’s personal plan, allows customers to purchase services through an authorized community agency or pay for a Personal Support Worker (PSW). PSWs assist with activities of daily living, supervision, or teaching skills that promote the customer’s safety and well-being. Once an individual qualifies for Home-Based Services, he or she is allocated a set amount of money for services. The individual participant, or his or her guardian, works with an Individual Service Coordination agency to develop a service plan, which includes a determination of how many hours the participant needs for a PSW and an agreement regarding the hourly amount the PSW will be paid. Once an agreement is reached, the participant or guardian must contact a fiscal/employer agent directly and designate a preferred PSW or indicate that the participant will use a personal service agency. The fiscal/employer agent assists Home-Based Service participants in the PSW hiring process, including performing extensive PSW background checks, training the PSW, and performing the PSW timekeeping functions in accordance with the agreement. Avenues to Consumer Employer Services & Support (ACES$) is one of the fiscal/employer agents.

B. DHS Human Resources Associate Rhoda Kimbrough

Rhoda Kimbrough is a DHS Human Resources Associate at Ludeman, located in Park Forest, Illinois. Ms. Kimbrough’s normal work schedule is Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Ludeman is a facility serving people with developmental disabilities who may have severe medical needs. In addition to her position at Ludeman, Ms. Kimbrough acts as a PA and PSW for [Identifying Information Redacted] [Family Member 1]. Ms. Kimbrough has been his live-in caretaker since 2005. Ms. Kimbrough resides in Matteson, Illinois, not only with [Identifying Information Redacted] [Family Member 2]; [Identifying Information Redacted] [Family Member 3]; and [Identifying Information Redacted] [Family Member 4].

C. [Family Member 1]’s Care Plans

Starting August 29, 2016, [Family Member 1]’s DRS service plan approved him for 78 hours of PA services at an hourly rate of $13. [Family Member 1]’s DDD Individual Service Coordination agency service plan for 2017 indicated [Family Member 1] required 24-hour

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5 Personal Plans are written plans for the customer’s life detailing his strengths, preferences, needs, and desires. The Plans contain the customer’s desired outcomes, providers selected to help achieve outcomes, barriers, risk factors, and plans to minimize risks. (http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=101181, last accessed November 19, 2018.)

6 Id.

supervision, specifically regular personal care or close supervision at all times. The Individual Service Coordination agency approved Ms. Kimbrough to provide 126.25 hours per month at an hourly rate of $15.

III. INVESTIGATION

OEIG investigators interviewed DHS [Identifying Information Redacted] [DHS Employee 2], [DHS DDD Employee 1], and DHS Ludeman Human Resources Associate Rhoda Kimbrough. Investigators also reviewed Ms. Kimbrough’s Ludeman, PA, and PSW timekeeping records, as well as [Family Member 1]’s PA and PSW benefit files.

A. Overview of DHS In-Home Care Programs

In order to understand the relationship between DHS’s in-home care programs, the OEIG interviewed [Identifying Information Redacted] [DHS Employee 2] and [Identifying Information Redacted] [DHS DDD Employee 1] on August 1, 2017 and January 17, 2018, respectively.8

[DHS DDD Employee 1] stated that even though DDD does not administer PSW daily timekeeping, DDD conducts an annual audit of all PSWs to verify that the PSWs are being paid appropriately and that the rate of pay is not atypically high. She explained that during the audit, DDD reviews PSW timesheets, particularly those where the PSW is being paid over a certain threshold amount. [DHS DDD Employee 1] stated that, otherwise, the fiscal employer agency maintains PSW timesheets, and DDD does not review them except when fraud is suspected.

[DHS DDD Employee 1] stated that participants can no longer qualify for PA and PSW services simultaneously, but there are approximately 200 individuals in the State who were utilizing both programs and are “grandfathered” in to continue doing so. She stated that DHS uses a computer program called the IMPACT9 system to track PA and PSW information and that this system allows DHS to see if someone works as both a PA and a PSW. [Identifying Information Redacted] [DHS DDD Employee 1] stated, however, that DDD does not actively monitor IMPACT to determine if a PSW is already a PA or whether participants are being paid for services by both DDD and DRS. Rather, she stated that there was an initiative by the DRS Fraud Unit to see whether individuals were paid as both PAs and PSWs.

OEIG investigators interviewed [DHS Employee 2], whose duties included reviewing suspected fraud reports and examining records for overlapping PA and PSW service hours. [DHS Employee 2] stated that her job was part of a budget initiative that started in April 2017 to identify

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8 [DHS Employee 2] held this position at the time of the interview. According to State salary records, [Identifying Information Redacted] [DHS Employee 2] subsequently began working at [Identifying Information Redacted]
9 IMPACT stands for Illinois Medical Program Advanced Cloud Technology. Beginning in July 2015, the State started implementation of the web-based IMPACT system as a replacement for the 30-year old legacy Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) in order to meet the federal requirements of the Affordable Care Act and provide a more standardized platform for providers serving Medicaid clients. See About IMPACT, Illinois Department of Healthcare & Family Services, https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/impact/Pages/AboutIMPACT.aspx (last visited November 19, 2018).
and recover overpaid funds for PAs. She said that between April and August 2017, she identified 85 cases of potential overpayments made to PAs, totaling approximately $624,500.

[DHS Employee 2] stated that while working through a list of possible overpayments, she looked at records for customer [Family Member 1]. [Identifying Information Redacted] [DHS Employee 2] said she initially examined the timesheets from Ms. Kimbrough, the PA working for [Family Member 1].10 [DHS Employee 2] said she found that Ms. Kimbrough recorded overlapping PA and PSW service times totaling $4,680.05 from July 2012 to March 2016.11

B. Review of Ms. Kimbrough’s Timesheets and Sign-In Sheets

OEIG investigators obtained and reviewed the timesheets Ms. Kimbrough submitted for each in-home services program between July 2012 and July 2017. Both the PA and PSW timesheets listed start and end times for each day that Ms. Kimbrough purportedly provided in-home services. The timesheets were then signed in Ms. Kimbrough’s name. The PA timesheets also included a line for the customer, [Family Member 1], which initially contained a signature reading “Rhoda Kimbrough for [Family Member 1].” In October 2014, an “X” mark replaced the signature, presumably made by [Family Member 1]. The PSW timesheets included a similar line for the “Employer/Consumer,” which was originally signed in the name of Ms. Kimbrough on [Family Member 1]’s behalf, but appeared to be signed by Ms. Kimbrough’s [Identifying Information Redacted] [Family Member 2], starting in April 2013.

Investigators also compared the PA timesheets to the EVV logs from July 2015 to July 2017, which documented the times Ms. Kimbrough purportedly called to report the start and end of her PA work hours. The OEIG found that the EVV logs generally matched the timesheets, except for certain occasions where they were off by a few minutes.

OEIG investigators compared Ms. Kimbrough’s PA and PSW timesheets for the period between July 2012 and March 2016 and confirmed [Identifying Information Redacted] [DHS Employee 2] findings, concluding that Ms. Kimbrough billed DHS for 378 overlapping hours and received $4,680.05 in pay for those hours.

Investigators also reviewed available sign-in sheets from Ludeman, which indicated that Ms. Kimbrough had a regular schedule of Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM with time off and adjustments noted. The OEIG compared her PA and PSW timesheets and Ludeman sign-in sheets for the period from July 2016 through July 2017 and found 40 instances of overlapping hours between the three sets of records, which ranged from 15 minutes to 11.5 hours.12 Investigators also identified eight dates with questionable travel times where Ms. Kimbrough

10 The initial records [DHS Employee 2] examined noted that [Family Member 1]’s PA was Rhoda Cooper. The OEIG learned that Ms. Cooper also goes by “Rhoda Kimbrough” and, since she primarily uses Kimbrough, the OEIG refers to her as Rhoda Kimbrough in this report.
11 [DHS Employee 2] informed investigators that she calculated the estimated overpayments by multiplying the number of overlapping hours by the PA pay rate, which, during the period in question, ranged from $11.55 to $13.00.
12 In an email, [DHS Employee 1], [Identifying Information Redacted], stated that Ludeman was unable to produce sign-in sheets for more than one year and that the one year that was available had missing dates. Ludeman is required to maintain sign-in sheets for seven years; however, as previously stated, because Ludeman is developing a corrective action plan to correct the issue, the OEIG did not pursue an investigation of this matter.
would indicate that she ended her work at Ludeman and began her PA or PSW work at or very near the same time. In addition to [DHS Employee 2]'s findings, there were 152 hours of apparent overlap amounting to approximately $1,976 in pay for these hours as follows:  

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13 The total overpayment amount was determined using the lesser rate of pay, which was Ms. Kimbrough’s $13 PA hourly rate, and multiplying that by the number of overlapping hours.
C. Interview of Rhoda Kimbrough

On March 6, 2018, OEIG investigators interviewed Rhoda Kimbrough. Ms. Kimbrough confirmed that she works as a Human Resources Associate at Ludeman. She also confirmed she acts as a PA through DRS and PSW through ACES$ for [Identifying Information Redacted] [Family Member 1]. Ms. Kimbrough confirmed that she resides with [Identifying Information Redacted] [Family Member 2], and [Identifying Information Redacted] [Family Member 3] and two [Identifying Information Redacted], including [Family Member 1]. Ms. Kimbrough stated that both [Identifying Information Redacted] [Family Member 3] and [Family Member 1] have special needs.

Ms. Kimbrough said that she has been [Family Member 1]’s primary caregiver since 2005, adding that [Family Member 1] requires round-the-clock care, including nights and weekends. Ms. Kimbrough explained that [Family Member 1] needs daily assistance [Identifying Information Redacted]. She said [Family Member 1] [Identifying Information Redacted] and requires assistance to do so. She said that [Family Member 1] occasionally [Identifying Information Redacted] at night, which require her to provide additional care to [Family Member 1]. Ms. Kimbrough said that she provides most of the care herself, but that [Identifying Information Redacted] [Family Member 2], or a paid assistant cares for [Family Member 1] while she is at work. She confirmed that neither [Family Member 2] nor the paid assistant were paid directly by DRS or ACES$; however, she stated that she (Ms. Kimbrough) receives payment from ACES$ for the hours she herself works and then pays [Family Member 2] and the assistant. She informed investigators that [Family Member 1] occasionally attends a daycare program called [Identifying Information Redacted] as well. Ms. Kimbrough stated that she is the person who decides what services [Family Member 1] needs on any given day.

1. Documentation of Time Worked

During her interview, Ms. Kimbrough explained that she typically documented working as a DRS PA from 6:00 PM through 10:00 PM from Monday through Friday. She said she did not attribute any weekend care to the PA position. She stated that she submitted her completed PA timesheets to [Family Member 1]’s assigned DRS caseworker. She also confirmed that DRS instated a call-in system, which requires her to call in when she begins her shift and call out when she ends her shift.14 Ms. Kimbrough added that [Family Member 2] also used [Family Member 2]’s cell phone to call in because she did not always have time to do it. She said [Family Member

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<th>OVER-LAP</th>
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<td></td>
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</table>

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14 Investigators obtained Ms. Kimbrough’s EVV records for July 2015 through July 2017. Ms. Kimbrough called the EVV system sporadically from July 2015 until February 2016, when she began doing so on a more consistent basis.
2] cared for [Family Member 1] during the day while she was working at Ludeman but that [Family Member 2] would not call in during those hours. Ms. Kimbrough said she had another person, [Paid Assistant 1], help care for [Family Member 1] prior to May 2017 and that ([Paid Assistant 1]) would also call in when she was helping care for [Family Member 1]. Ms. Kimbrough admitted she never checked to see if [Family Member 2] or [Paid Assistant 1] called in while she (Ms. Kimbrough) was working at Ludeman, but she stated she instructed both to not call in during the hours she was working at Ludeman. Ms. Kimbrough stated that she knows that DRS compares the times reported on her physical timesheets to the times she calls in or out because she has received calls from a DRS employee, informing her of the discrepancies in her times, in which case she needs to make adjustments to her written timesheets.

With respect to her DDD PSW hours, Ms. Kimbrough explained that [Family Member 1] receives a set allotment of approximately of $1,800 each month through ACES$ to pay for Home-Based Services, which includes her PSW time and the [Identifying Information Redacted] daycare program when [Family Member 1] is able to attend. She said that she attributes night and weekend care to ACES$ and completes timesheets to document her PSW hours. She clarified that the hours documented on her ACES$ timesheets were not the actual times she was providing services to [Family Member 1]. She explained that she rounds to make the hours easier to count and does not always count all of the hours. For example, she said that she may stop recording hours on one of the timesheets at 11:00 PM even when she is still caring for [Family Member 1] at 1:00 AM or 2:00 AM that night.

Ms. Kimbrough acknowledged that both DRS and ACES$ instructed her to ensure that her hours for each program were accurate and did not overlap, adding that they recommended that she document her hours worked on a daily basis. She stated that she was aware that she could not double-bill for her time spent as a PA and a PSW.

Ms. Kimbrough stated that, at Ludeman, she physically documents her hours worked and use of benefit time on a sign-in sheet. Ms. Kimbrough explained that there are only three employees in her department, and her supervisor collects the timesheet.

2. Timesheet Review and Overlap of Hours Worked

OEIG investigators showed Ms. Kimbrough copies of her timesheets from the DRS PA program and ACES$, and the sign-in sheets from Ludeman for the dates identified in the chart above. Ms. Kimbrough verified her signatures on the worker line of the PA timesheets. Ms. Kimbrough stated that [Family Member 1] initially signed the timesheets on the customer line upon the instruction of a previous DRS caseworker. However, she explained that a different DRS employee later told her that [Family Member 1] should not be signing PA timesheets and that someone who does not provide care for [Family Member 1] should sign on the customer line. Ms. Kimbrough acknowledged that both DRS and ACES$ instructed her to ensure that her hours for each program were accurate and did not overlap, adding that they recommended that she document her hours worked on a daily basis. She stated that she was aware that she could not double-bill for her time spent as a PA and a PSW.

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15 During her interview, Ms. Kimbrough claimed [Family Member 2] and [Paid Assistant 1] used their personal cell phones to call in and out, but the EVV records showed only Ms. Kimbrough’s number was used from July 2015 to July 2017.
16 Ms. Kimbrough stated ACES$ pays [Identifying Information Redacted] directly when [Family Member 1] attends so she does not document the time.
17 OEIG investigators also reviewed Ms. Kimbrough’s performance evaluations from Ludeman for 2013 to 2017 and found no mention of issues with her timekeeping.
Kimbrough explained that her ACES$ timesheets also required a second signature, so [Family Member 2] signed them. Ms. Kimbrough said that after completing the ACES$ timesheets, she faxes them to a Springfield office or takes it directly to the ACES$ office in Tinley Park.

Investigators directed Ms. Kimbrough to examples of some of the overlapping times. Ms. Kimbrough acknowledged the overlapping times and stated that they were errors on her part. Ms. Kimbrough stated that she completed her PA and PSW timesheets at the end of the pay period and that she estimated the dates and times she worked based on her memory of when she provided services. Ms. Kimbrough explained that she also typically rounded the times to make calculations easier. Ms. Kimbrough stated that if the PA call-in system logged times she was at Ludeman, [Identifying Information Redacted] [Family Member 2], called in while [Identifying Information Redacted] [Family Member 2] was caring for [Family Member 1]. Ms. Kimbrough reiterated that [Family Member 2] takes care of [Family Member 1] during that day while she is at Ludeman, and she instructed [Family Member 2] to not use the PA call-in system while she was at work. Ms. Kimbrough stated that if she provided services to [Family Member 1] during her Ludeman work hours, she took benefit time to do so.

When investigators questioned Ms. Kimbrough about the travel times, she explained that it takes her approximately three minutes to get home from work,18 and, since she rounds her times to make calculations easier, there is overlap between when she ends her Ludeman work and begins her PA and PSW work. Ms. Kimbrough stated that any overlap between Ludeman sign-in sheets and her PA or PSW timesheets was a result of errors on the latter, and she insisted that times she recorded on the Ludeman sign-in sheets were accurate. She added that any dates where neither PA or PSW services were documented would have been errors because [Family Member 1] needs constant care. She said that her only time off is approximately one week a year when [Identifying Information Redacted] [Family Member 5] takes care of [Family Member 1].

IV. ANALYSIS

A. Rhoda Kimbrough Submitted Inaccurate DRS PA Timesheets

According to Individual Provider Payment Policies for the DRS PA program, Individual Providers “can only be paid for the hours they worked for the customer per the Home Services Program Service Plan.”

Ms. Kimbrough admitted that her PA timesheets included inaccurate information because she estimated the dates and times that she worked as a PA and often rounded times to make the calculations easier. As a result, Ms. Kimbrough included dates and times on her timesheets where she may not have been performing work for the customer, [Family Member 1]. This was also confirmed when OEIG investigators compared her PA timesheets with those from the PSW program and sign-in sheets from DHS’s Ludeman facility. OEIG investigators reviewed Ms. Kimbrough’s PA and PSW timesheets and her Ludeman sign-in sheets from July 2016 through July 2017 and concluded she had 40 instances, in addition to the instances previously identified by [DHS Employee 2], where she indicated she was working as a PA while also working as either

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18 An OEIG review of Google Maps showed that Ms. Kimbrough’s home and Ludeman are approximately five minutes from each other.
a PSW or at her Ludeman position. This means that, on at least some of those occasions, the dates and times indicated on her PA timesheets were inaccurate. She acknowledged that DRS had explained to her the importance of accuracy with respect to her PA timesheets.

Therefore, the allegation that Ms. Kimbrough violated DRS Individual Provider Payment Policies when she reported inaccurate information on her PA timesheets is **FOUNDED.**

The OEIG notes that Ms. Kimbrough’s actions make it impossible to determine exactly what hours she worked as a PA or a PSW for [Family Member 1]. However, [Family Member 1]’s service plan indicated [Family Member 1] required 24-hour supervision but was only approved for a total of 204.25 hours per month or approximately 7 hours of care per day. Therefore, Ms. Kimbrough likely provided at least the number of hours of care she reported, just not at the times she reported.

**B. Rhoda Kimbrough Submitted Inaccurate DDD PSW Timesheets**

According to the DDD Waiver Program Provider Agreement, the provider “shall be fully liable for the truth, accuracy, and completeness of all claims for payment submitted electronically or in hard copy.”

Similar to her PA timesheets, Ms. Kimbrough admitted to OEIG investigators that her DDD PSW timesheets included inaccurate information. She stated she estimated dates and times, and she rounded numbers to make calculations easier, which resulted in her reporting dates and times that may not have been accurate. As noted previously, OEIG investigators confirmed this when they compared Ms. Kimbrough’s timesheets for her work as a PSW with her PA timesheets and the sign-in sheets from her DHS job at Ludeman. Ms. Kimbrough’s timesheets indicated she was working as a PSW while also working as either a PA or at Ludeman on several occasions indicating that her PSW timesheets were likely not all accurate. She acknowledged that staff from ACES had counseled her on maintaining accurate timesheets.

Therefore, the allegation that Ms. Kimbrough violated the DDD Waiver Program Provider Agreement when she reported inaccurate information on her PSW timesheets is **FOUNDED.**

**C. [The information in this subsection is redacted because it relates to an allegation that the OEIG determined was unfounded. Therefore, the Commission exercises its discretion to redact this section pursuant to 5 ILCS 430/20-52(a).]**

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19 The OEIG concludes that an allegation is “founded” when it has determined that there is reasonable cause to believe that a violation of law or policy has occurred, or that there has been fraud, waste, mismanagement, misconduct, nonfeasance, misfeasance, or malfeasance.
V. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of its investigation, the OEIG concludes that there is REASONABLE CAUSE TO ISSUE THE FOLLOWING FINDINGS:

- **FOUNDED** – Rhoda Kimbrough reported inaccurate information on her PA timesheets in violation of the DRS PA program policies.

- **FOUNDED** – Rhoda Kimbrough reported inaccurate information on her PSW timesheets in violation of the DDD PSW provider agreement.

The OEIG recommends that DHS take whatever action it deems appropriate with regard to Rhoda Kimbrough for violating DHS policies.

No further investigative action is needed, and this case is considered closed.

Date: **December 14, 2018**

Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor
69 W. Washington St., Suite 3400
Chicago, IL 60602

By: **Dirk De Lor**  
Assistant Inspector General #143

**Rachel Miller**  
Assistant Inspector General #144

**Steve Hochstetler**  
Investigator #164
September 12, 2019

Via e-mail to Fallon Opperman, Deputy Inspector General and Chief of Chicago Division, on behalf of:
Susan M. Haling
Executive Inspector General
Office of the Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor
69 West Washington Street, Suite 3400
Chicago, Illinois 60602

RE: Response to the Final Report for Complaint 17-01435

Dear Executive Inspector General Haling:

This letter updates a previous response for the Final Report for Complaint Number 17-01435. It made several founded allegations and made several recommendations. Through the grievance process Rhoda Kimbrough was allowed to retire. She did so at the end of February 2019. Next, the Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Rehabilitation Services has reviewed timesheets regarding Personal Attendant (PA) time. An overpayment was established, and an Account Receivable was created on July 29, 2019 in the amount of $5,936.06. On August 5, 2019, Rhoda Kimbrough was no longer eligible to work as a PA.

DHS staff are still reviewing documents regarding her Personal Support Worker (PSW) time. As such, this case is still being monitored with DHS, and your office will receive updates as things progress. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Robert J. Grindle, DHS' Ethics Officer.

Regards,

Grace B. Hou
Secretary
January 3, 2019

Via e-mail to Fallon Opperman, Deputy Inspector General and Chief of Chicago Division, on behalf of:
Susan M. Haling
Acting Executive Inspector General
Office of the Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor
69 West Washington Street, Suite 3400
Chicago, Illinois 60602

RE: Response to the Final Report for Complaint 17-01435

Dear Acting Executive Inspector General Haling:

This letter responds to the Final Report for Complaint Number 17-01435, attached. The Report finds certain allegations founded against Department of Human Services (DHS) employee Ms. Kimbrough. The Report recommended that DHS take whatever action against her it deemed appropriate.

A pre-disciplinary meeting will be scheduled for mid-February (because the employee is about to serve a suspension for another matter). In addition, DHS is reviewing records to determine whether any funds should be recovered.

As you may know, the disciplinary process is detailed in the Collective Bargaining Agreement, and it may take some time to complete. As such, DHS will provide updates as the process moves along. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Robert J. Grindle, DHS’ Ethics Officer.

Regards,

James T. Dimas
Secretary
February 2, 2022

Via e-mail to Fallon Opperman, Deputy Inspector General and Chief of Chicago Division, on behalf of:
Susan M. Haling
Executive Inspector General
Office of the Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor
69 West Washington Street, Suite 3400
Chicago, Illinois 60602

RE: Updated Response to the Final Report for Complaint 17-01435

Dear Executive Inspector General Haling:

This letter updates a previous response for the Final Report for Complaint Number 17-01435. The Final Report contains two founded allegations and makes one recommendation against a Department of Human Services (DHS) employee. This update is quite delayed. The delay was caused by a variety of factors including staff turnover, Administration change, the nature of the complaint, the pandemic and more. After sending this letter, however, DHS considers this matter closed.

Personnel activity and Division of Rehabilitation Services activity have been previously reported to your office. For work that was improperly billed as a Personal Support Worker (PSW), staff from the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) determined the amount to recover from the individual is $981.25. This amount is in addition to the amount previously reported to your office to be recovered. Further, the individual has established a repayment plan with DHS’ Bureau of Collections, and payments are being made. Finally, she is now ineligible to bill DDD as a PSW.

Both debts will be recovered in the normal course. As such, DHS considers this matter closed with respect to your office. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Robert J. Grindle, DHS’ Ethics Officer.

Regards,

/s/ Grace B. Hou by /s/ Robert J. Grindle

Grace B. Hou, Secretary