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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
November 21, 2014

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**Agency Honors Fraud Fighter Achievement Award Winner during Fraud Awareness Week**  
~Health plan employee recognized for going above and beyond to prosecute Medicaid fraud~

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** - The Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) has declared Stephanie Bell, a Senior Provider Relations Representative with WellCare Health Plans, Inc., the winner of the 2014 Fraud Fighter Achievement Award. Bell works out of WellCare's regional office in Maitland, Florida, and is the third recipient of the award.

This is the second year of the Fraud Fighter Achievement Award, which was created to recognize an individual, team or entity whose efforts to reduce or deter fraud represent an act of extraordinary dedication and outstanding accomplishment. Last year, the Agency presented the award to Detective Dwight P. Murphy of the Department of Financial Services and Assistant United States Attorney Jesus Casas for their efforts to close facilities, prosecute fraudulent providers, and secure financial restitution and recoupment for fraudulent billing practices.

"Ms. Bell's actions are the embodiment of the values set forth in the Fraud Awareness Week executive proclamation issued by Governor Scott," said Secretary Liz Dudek. "Her commitment to identifying, investigating and combatting fraud, and her tireless pursuit of justice for those who engage in fraudulent activities are recognized and greatly appreciated. Florida is fortunate to have outstanding individuals like Ms. Bell in positions where they can protect both the interests of Medicaid recipients and the utilization of taxpayer dollars."

Bell identified a physician practice suspected of fraudulent billing after noticing that patients were continuing to be seen despite the physician's absence from the office. She then ruled out the presence of a credentialed advanced registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant using queries of a provider database and a series of live "secret shopper" style visits. She later provided reports that indicated that the practice was submitting claims from multiple locations with the same date of service.

Bell's research initiated subsequent investigations by the Special Investigations Unit of WellCare and the State of Florida Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. By relentlessly following up on a suspicious situation and taking the initiative to begin building a case against the suspicious medical service provider, Bell became an instrumental part of bringing to justice an individual impersonating a Florida-licensed physician who not only wrote prescriptions using a real primary care doctor's prescription pads, but who also submitted Medicaid claims for payment in the real doctor's name.

Bell was chosen from a pool of several highly qualified nominees. A nominee of this award may be a Medicaid recipient or provider, government official or entity, or private citizen who demonstrates the Agency's values – Accountability, Fairness, Responsiveness, Teamwork – in their efforts to detect or prosecute fraud, or prevent fraudulent activity in the health care industry. Bell and those like her epitomize the spirit of the Fraud Fighter Achievement Award and the Agency's mission of providing *Better Health Care for All Floridians*.



For additional information about the award and to view the 2014 Fraud Awareness Week executive proclamation, please visit the Agency's website at [ahca.myflorida.com/FraudFighterAward](http://ahca.myflorida.com/FraudFighterAward).

*The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to better health care for all Floridians. The Agency administers Florida's Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 45,000 health care facilities and 34 health maintenance organizations, and publishes health care data and statistics at [www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov](http://www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov). Additional information about Agency initiatives is available via [Facebook \(AHCAFlorida\)](#), [Twitter \(@AHCA\\_FL\)](#) and [YouTube \(/AHCAFlorida\)](#).*

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