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AHCA Interim Secretary Announces 2016 Fraud Fighter Achievement Award Winners

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Today, Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) Interim Secretary Justin M. Senior announced that Detectives Anthony Alonso and Jeff Brito of the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department have been selected as the winners of the 2016 Fraud Fighter Achievement Award.

Interim Secretary Senior said, “The actions of Detectives Alonso and Brito are the embodiment of the values set forth in the Fraud Awareness Week executive proclamation issued by Governor Scott. Their hard work pursuing those who engage in fraudulent activities is greatly appreciated. The Agency works hard to keep Florida families safe, and we are fortunate to have outstanding individuals like Detectives Alonso and Brito in positions where they can protect the public from higher insurance and health care rates caused by fraud.”

Detectives Alonso and Brito were nominated by Commander William Tagle. Commander Tagle’s nomination detailed the detectives’ work in investigating two health care providers who were suspected of recruiting Miami-Dade School District employees to sign blank treatment forms for health care providers, allowing the health care providers to bill Cigna Health Insurance for treatments that never actually occurred.

These awards were issued in in connection with Fraud Awareness Week (November 13-19). Fraud Awareness Week was designated by Governor Rick Scott via an executive proclamation, and seeks to minimize the impact of fraud by promoting awareness and education.

With the assistance of Cigna Health Insurance and the State Attorney’s Office for the 11th Judicial Circuit, Detectives Alonso and Brito completed a thorough investigation that ended with the arrests of two clinic owners and the two clinics’ managers for health care fraud. As a result of their extensive investigation, the charged parties collectively face over 300 counts of filing false and fraudulent insurance claims, over 300 counts of grand theft, four counts of organized scheme to defraud and two counts of money laundering. As a result of the search warrants executed in this case, over \$90,000.00 in cash, four vehicles, a boat and thousands of dollars in jewelry were seized and impounded.

This marks the fourth year of recognizing those who go above and beyond to identify and fight fraudulent activity in Florida. For additional information about the award, including past winners, and to view the 2016 Fraud Awareness Week executive proclamation, please visit the Agency’s website at <http://ahca.myflorida.com/FraudFighterAward>.

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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 48,500 health care facilities and 43 health plans, and publishes health care data and statistics at www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov. Additional information about Agency initiatives is available via [Facebook \(AHCAFlorida\)](#), [Twitter \(@AHCA_FL\)](#) and [YouTube \(/AHCAFlorida\)](#).