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Improper Oversight Results in Fraudulent Timesheets / Members Serving from Home without Accountability of Service Performed

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Closed 2016-11-21

A Hotline complainant reported that members serving with the St. Bernard Project (SBP), Wall Township, NJ, were unsupervised, falsely reporting service hours, and working in unsafe working conditions.

The CNCS-OIG investigation found that some members had falsified their timesheets when they reported inaccurate hours when they arrived late or departed early from their service site due to the lack of a site supervisor. SBP site supervisors relied on the honor system to verify the hours served by the members since supervisors were not present daily at the construction service sites. CNCS-OIG also discovered two members regularly performed service from home and SBP did not have a procedure to verify the hours served or the service performed. CNCS-OIG investigators observed that the allocation of members between the service sites and the SBP main office was disproportionate and did not align with the grant terms. Investigators found no evidence that the members were serving in unsafe working conditions.

As a result of the CNCS-OIG investigation SBP immediately increased supervision at the construction service sites and implemented a requirement that the AmeriCorps program managers at all of the SBP operating sites conduct a monthly review of member timesheets to detect fraud or errors. Additionally, SBP prohibited its members from routinely serving from home. CNCS acknowledged there were fewer members at the construction sites than originally planned, however believed the allocation of members aligned with the grant terms.

Case ID: 2016-014

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