

Summary: Former President of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe Stole Funds by Forging False Travel Receipts

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We investigated allegations that Lawrence KILLSBACK, while serving as the Northern Cheyenne Tribe (NCT) health director and then as its President, submitted fraudulent travel claims. The funds used to pay the fraudulent claims came from federally funded NCT programs as well as tribal and state agencies. Our investigation focused on KILLSBACK's regional travel. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducted a parallel investigation that focused on KILLSBACK's remaining domestic trips.

Together, the parallel investigations found that KILLSBACK stole over \$20,000 from NCT programs by submitting multiple fraudulent travel vouchers between 2014 and 2017.

This investigation was prosecuted jointly with the HHS OIG investigation. KILLSBACK pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court for the District of Montana to one count of wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343 and one count of false claims conspiracy in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 286. On December 12, 2019, KILLSBACK was sentenced to 6 months in prison and 3 years of supervised release. KILLSBACK was also ordered to pay a \$200 special assessment and \$25,092 in restitution.

This is a summary of an investigative report we issued to the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

