



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

WASHINGTON, DC 20201



AUG 21 2013

The Honorable Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murphy:

I am writing in response to your March 4, 2013, letter in which you asked the Office of Inspector General (OIG) to undertake an investigation into the number of deaths and cases of abuse of developmentally disabled individuals in group homes. Your letter described a number of concerns with the treatment and care of such individuals. I provided an initial response to you on March 21, 2013, and am writing now to update you on the work that OIG is undertaking related to your concerns.

My staff has been working with your staff to respond to your inquiry. Per their latest conversation with your staff on July 12, 2013, OIG has agreed to undertake work related to some of the issues that you raised. For three States--Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York--we are analyzing data to identify instances when Medicaid beneficiaries were transferred from group homes or nursing facilities to hospitals for emergency treatment. We are analyzing data by facility to determine whether certain facilities have excessive rates relative to those of their peers. Because of the way that States collect and track these data, this analysis will include all Medicaid patients and not only those with developmental disabilities. We will share with you the results of this analysis and at that point determine what additional work we may be able to undertake.

Should you have any questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Chris Hinkle, Director of Congressional and Regulatory Affairs, at 202-401-2206 or via email at Christina.Hinkle@oig.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Daniel R. Levinson
Inspector General