



Office of Audit Services  
Region I  
John F. Kennedy Federal Building  
Boston, MA 02203

MAY 4 2005

CIN: A-01-05-01500

Ms. Zoila Torres Feldman  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Great Brook Valley Health Center Inc.  
19 Tacoma St.  
Worcester, MA 01605

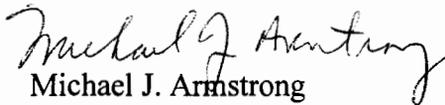
Dear Ms. Feldman:

Enclosed are two copies of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of Inspector General, Office of Audit Services' (OAS) report entitled "Great Brook Valley Health Center Community Health Center Cluster Grant Year Ended May 31, 2004". Should you have any questions or comments concerning the matters commented on in this report, please direct them to the HHS official named below.

In accordance with the principles of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, as amended by Public Law 104-231, OIG reports issued to the Department's grantees and contractors are made available to members of the press and general public to the extent information contained therein is not subject to exemptions in the Act which the Department chooses to exercise. (See 45 CFR Part 5.)

To facilitate identification, please refer to report number A-01-05-01500 in all correspondence.

Sincerely,

  
Michael J. Armstrong  
Regional Inspector General  
for Audit Services

Enclosures - as stated

**Department of Health and Human Services**

**OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL**

**GREAT BROOK VALLEY  
HEALTH CENTER COMMUNITY  
HEALTH CENTER CLUSTER  
GRANT YEAR ENDED  
MAY 31, 2004**



**APRIL 2005  
A-01-05-01500**

# *Office of Inspector General*

<http://oig.hhs.gov>

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The mission of the Office of Inspector General (OIG), as mandated by Public Law 95-452, as amended, is to protect the integrity of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) programs, as well as the health and welfare of beneficiaries served by those programs. This statutory mission is carried out through a nationwide network of audits, investigations, and inspections conducted by the following operating components:

## *Office of Audit Services*

The OIG's Office of Audit Services (OAS) provides all auditing services for HHS, either by conducting audits with its own audit resources or by overseeing audit work done by others. Audits examine the performance of HHS programs and/or its grantees and contractors in carrying out their respective responsibilities and are intended to provide independent assessments of HHS programs and operations in order to reduce waste, abuse, and mismanagement and to promote economy and efficiency throughout the department.

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The OIG's Office of Evaluation and Inspections (OEI) conducts short-term management and program evaluations (called inspections) that focus on issues of concern to the department, the Congress, and the public. The findings and recommendations contained in the inspections reports generate rapid, accurate, and up-to-date information on the efficiency, vulnerability, and effectiveness of departmental programs.

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The OIG's Office of Investigations (OI) conducts criminal, civil, and administrative investigations of allegations of wrongdoing in HHS programs or to HHS beneficiaries and of unjust enrichment by providers. The investigative efforts of OI lead to criminal convictions, administrative sanctions, or civil monetary penalties. The OI also oversees state Medicaid fraud control units, which investigate and prosecute fraud and patient abuse in the Medicaid program.

## *Office of Counsel to the Inspector General*

The Office of Counsel to the Inspector General (OCIG) provides general legal services to OIG, rendering advice and opinions on HHS programs and operations and providing all legal support in OIG's internal operations. The OCIG imposes program exclusions and civil monetary penalties on health care providers and litigates those actions within the department. The OCIG also represents OIG in the global settlement of cases arising under the Civil False Claims Act, develops and monitors corporate integrity agreements, develops model compliance plans, renders advisory opinions on OIG sanctions to the health care community, and issues fraud alerts and other industry guidance.

# *Notices*

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**THIS REPORT IS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC**  
at <http://oig.hhs.gov>

In accordance with the principles of the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552, as amended by Public Law 104-231), Office of Inspector General, Office of Audit Services reports are made available to members of the public to the extent the information is not subject to exemptions in the act. (See 45 CFR Part 5.)

## **OAS FINDINGS AND OPINIONS**

The designation of financial or management practices as questionable or a recommendation for the disallowance of costs incurred or claimed, as well as other conclusions and recommendations in this report, represent the findings and opinions of the HHS/OIG/OAS. Authorized officials of the HHS divisions will make final determination on these matters.





MAY 4 2005

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(617) 565-2684

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Ms. Zoila Torres Feldman  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Great Brook Valley Health Center Inc.  
19 Tacoma St.  
Worcester, MA 01605

Dear Ms. Feldman:

The purpose of this letter is to report the results of our review of Great Brook Valley Health Center (GBVHC) Community Health Center Cluster Grant Year Ended May 31, 2004. The objectives of our review were to obtain an understanding of financial and program performance for the Federal grants at GBVHC and to ensure that Federal funds were used in accordance with the terms of the grant. We found the reported costs and program performance for FY 2004 to be in compliance with applicable Federal regulations. Accordingly, we have no further comments or recommendations to make regarding this review.

## BACKGROUND

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Bureau of Primary Health Care administers the community health center program under Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act to provide for primary and preventive health care services in medically –underserved areas throughout the U.S. and its territories.

A cluster is a grouping of closely related programs that share common compliance requirements. Awarding factors under the Consolidated Health Center Program include: Community Health Centers (CHC), Migrant Health Centers (MHC), Health Care for the Homeless (HCH), Public Housing Primary Care (PHPC) and School Based Health Centers (SBHC). GBVHC currently receives funding for CHC, PHPC and SBHC. These three programs form their CHC cluster grant under Section 330.

HRSA-supported Community Health Centers are a major component of the Nation's health care safety net. In FY 2002, the first year of the President's Initiative to expand the program, over 3,400 primary health care delivery sites provided needed primary and preventive care to approximately 11.3 million poor and near poor medically underserved Americans. The HRSA's 2004 budget devoted over \$1.6 billion to CHCs.

GBVHC was founded in 1972 in response to a resounding need for primary medical care among residents of the Great Brook Valley public housing complex, the largest public housing development in Worcester, the third largest city in New England. The Health Center serves residents of 62 communities in and around Worcester and provides comprehensive medical, dental, mental health, health education, and social services to clients who are low-income, overwhelmingly minority, and living in or near

poverty. For Fiscal Year Ended May 31, 2004, GBVHC received \$2,031,467 and served approximately 20,500 persons.

## **OBJECTIVE, SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY**

The objectives of our review were to obtain an understanding of financial and program performance for the Federal grants at GBVHC and to ensure that Federal funds were used in accordance with the terms of the grant.

To accomplish our objectives, we:

- reviewed Federal regulations;
- gained an understanding of the Health Center's financial and program performance;
- interviewed GBVHC staff and management;
- examined supporting working papers of the independent public accountant;
- reviewed financial statements, financial status reports, and independent public accountant's audit reports;
- verified user and encounter data reported in the UDS by GBVHC
- reviewed the policies and procedures of GBVHC.

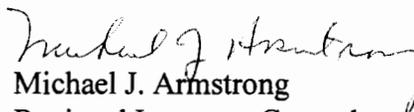
Our review was conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. We conducted our fieldwork for the review at GBVHC in Worcester, Massachusetts and the OIG office in Boston, Massachusetts from January 2005 through March 2005.

## **FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

We found the reported costs and program performance for FY 2004 to be in compliance with applicable Federal regulations. Accordingly, we have no further comments or recommendations to make regarding this review.

To facilitate identification, please refer to Common Identification Number A-01-05-01500 in any correspondence relating to the report. Please contact David Duff, Audit Manager, at (617) 565-2695 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

  
Michael J. Armstrong  
Regional Inspector General  
for Audit Services