

Department of Social and Health Services

Agency 300

Audit Report	Finding Number	Finding and Resolution	
1032675	001	<p>Finding:</p> <p>Fraud Amount:</p> <p>Amount to be Recovered:</p> <p>Recovery to Date:</p> <p>Resolution/ Status:</p> <p>Personnel Action Taken:</p> <p>Criminal Action Taken:</p> <p>Agency Contact:</p>	<p>The Department did not have adequate internal controls over patient funds, resulting in an employee misappropriating funds between June 2020 and March 2021.</p> <p>\$5,340</p> <p>\$9,015</p> <p>\$4,540</p> <p>The Department concurs with the audit report. The Department will continue to ensure internal controls currently in place to safeguard patient funds will be enforced. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting a weekly limit for patient fund disbursement. Additional requests beyond the limit require a written exception from the patient's social worker. • Requiring patients to request disbursement of funds through designated treatment staff via a Patient Property Request (PPR), which will be documented in the patient record. • Requiring staff to have a PPR that is authorized by the patient to pick up patient funds and sign for receipt of the funds. A copy of the PPR will also be signed by the patient when requested funds are received. • Retaining the signed PPR in the patient record as supporting documentation. <p>All patient's funds have been reimbursed, except for two patients who are no longer at Western State Hospital. The Department is attempting to obtain their new addresses. In addition, the State Auditor's Office has been paid \$3,675 for their hourly services.</p> <p>The employee resigned from employment in October 2021.</p> <p>The case was referred to the Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney's Office who decided to not press charges.</p> <p>Richard Meyer External Audit Compliance Manager PO Box 45804 Olympia, WA 98504-5804 (360) 664-6027 Richard.Meyer@dshs.wa.gov</p>