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PRESS RELEASE

Orange County Woman and Three Others Arrested on Indictment Alleging Multimillion-Dollar Health Care Business Scam



Wednesday, July 19, 2023

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For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, Central District of California

LOS ANGELES – The owner of a now-shuttered health care business management services company and three other people were arrested today on a nine-count federal grand jury indictment alleging they defrauded lenders and investors out of millions of dollars via false claims that the owner’s struggling business was booming.

Tammy Le, 48, of San Clemente, the former owner and CEO of CareAccess MSO Inc., a Cerritos-based company that purported to help primary care physician groups manage their business affairs, was arrested without incident this morning.



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Also arrested today were:

- Macy Zia, 50, of Fullerton, a former senior accounting manager at CareAccess;
- Galen Clark, 31, of Simi Valley, a former CareAccess information technology manager; and
- Chris Ruiz, 52, of Pasadena, the owner of Auxilium Health Network, an Arcadia-based independent physician association (IPA).

All four defendants are charged with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud. Le, Zia and Ruiz are charged with six counts of wire fraud. Clark, who allegedly joined the conspiracy in November 2020, is charged with three counts of wire fraud. Le also is charged with one count of aggravated identity theft and one count of money laundering.

Le and Zia are expected to make their initial appearances this afternoon in United States District Court in Santa Ana. Clark and Ruiz are scheduled to make their initial court appearances this afternoon in federal court in downtown Los Angeles.


According to an indictment returned on Tuesday, from January 2020 to July 2021, the defendants conspired to fraudulently obtain money from their victims by falsely representing the scope of CareAccess' business and its anticipated revenue – one victim company was duped into loaning money to CareAccess while the other victim company was deceived into acquiring Le's company. Neither victim knew the weak state of CareAccess, the indictment alleges.

Le allegedly caused CareAccess to contract with a New Jersey-based finance company that would make loans to CareAccess in exchange for rights to collect against her company's accounts receivable, including fees due from Auxilium and other IPAs.

The defendants allegedly induced the lender by making false statements regarding the business performance of CareAccess, including by sending fake copies of invoices the company purportedly issued to IPAs. The bogus invoices were accompanied by spreadsheets containing the number of patients purportedly enrolled with the IPAs. The fraudulent invoices and spreadsheets inflated the amount of fees due to CareAccess and the amount of money the lender would loan to it.

To impede the lender's ability to detect the fraud, Le allegedly arranged for Ruiz to be the point of contact at Auxilium and, when contacted by the lender's representatives, he verified the false information contained in the fraudulent invoices and spreadsheets.

Le, Zia and Ruiz allegedly caused this lender to wire approximately \$6.1 million in loans into a Le-controlled bank account.

Also, starting in November 2020, the defendants, now including Clark, allegedly solicited  TOP Utah-based health care investment company to invest in and eventually acquire CareAccess.

The defendants allegedly provided this investor fraudulent reports that inflated its business performance and the size of its customer base.

Through these misrepresentations the defendants allegedly caused the investor to provide approximately \$12.7 million for the acquisition of CareAccess, of which Le allegedly directed \$2.2 million to be deposited in her bank account. A substantial portion of the latter amount was to be used by the defendants for their personal benefit.

Within months of the acquisition, CareAccess filed for bankruptcy protection.

An indictment is merely an allegation. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

The FBI is investigating this matter.

Assistant United States Attorneys Valerie L. Makarewicz and David H. Chao of the Major Frauds Section are prosecuting this case.

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