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Executive Inspector General Agrees to a Record \$100,000 Settlement of Revolving Door Allegations Against Former HFS Director

CHICAGO, IL: – On April 23, 2014, the Executive Ethics Commission approved a settlement agreement between the Office of Illinois Attorney General, on behalf of the Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor (OEIG), and former Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services Director Barry Maram. Under the terms of the settlement agreement, although Mr. Maram did not admit to wrongdoing, he agreed to pay the state \$100,000 to settle the administrative charges that alleged he violated the revolving door provisions of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act. The \$100,000 settlement resulted from a May 2012 Executive Inspector General investigative report concluding that Mr. Maram violated the revolving door provisions of state law by accepting employment with a law firm that had been awarded a state contract worth \$25,000 or more.

Since the 2009 amendment to the revolving door provisions, the OEIG has investigated a number of related matters and has issued hundreds of revolving door determinations. The majority of state employees who leave state employment fully comply with all state laws; however, in instances where the OEIG discovers alleged violations of any of the state's employment laws, including violations of the state's revolving door provisions or *Rutan*-related hiring policies, the OEIG will conduct a complete and thorough investigation and prepare a final summary report. "In May 2012, we concluded our investigation of Mr. Maram relating to the revolving door provisions of the Ethics Act, provisions that were enacted to prevent state employees from improperly benefitting from their state positions," stated Executive Inspector General Ricardo Meza. OEIG investigators and assistant inspectors general will continue to investigate allegations of wrongdoing, including those involving illegal employment practices, and will document their findings in final summary reports for action by appropriate authorities.

In an effort to facilitate transparency, the settlement agreement includes a copy of the OEIG final summary report, as well as related filings and rulings issued by the Executive Ethics Commission. A copy may be found on our website at <http://www.inspectorgeneral.illinois.gov>.

Individuals are encouraged to report fraud, waste, and abuse involving state agencies, and may contact the OEIG at (866) 814-1113 to do so. The OEIG's online complaint form may be found at <http://www.inspectorgeneral.illinois.gov>.

Created in 2003, the mission of the OEIG is to ensure accountability in state government by functioning as an independent, non-partisan state agency with responsibility, pursuant to state law, to investigate allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, and misconduct in relation to the more than 350 executive branch state agencies, boards, commissions, state public universities, and four Regional Transit Boards within its jurisdiction and authority. In addition, the OEIG, in conjunction with the Illinois Executive Ethics Commission and in consultation with the Office of Illinois Attorney General, provides oversight to ethics training for the approximately 175,000 employees, appointees, and officials under OEIG jurisdiction.