



For Immediate Release

Task Force Arrests Six in Connection With East L.A. Health Care Fraud

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LOS ANGELES – Late last week six individuals were arrested on charges related to grand theft and insurance fraud, practicing medicine without certification, and aiding and abetting the practice of medicine without certification. The case involving eight defendants is being prosecuted by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office following an investigation by the Los Angeles County Health Authority Law Enforcement Task Force (HALT) and the California Department of Justice, Bureau of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse (BMFEA). East Los Angeles Sheriff's Station deputies also assisted in executing the arrests on March 2 and 3.

"The Moreno Clinic arrests once again demonstrate HALT's effectiveness," said Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina. "It is exactly the kind of shady operation HALT was created to bust. I'm very proud of the work HALT has done to help rid our community of unlicensed doctors and pharmacists who claim to care about people's well-being but really just prey on vulnerable individuals during their most desperate hour."

Dr. Shura Alexis Moreno of Alta Loma and Leticia Isabel Pena of Downey were charged with multiple counts of grand theft and fraud, and practicing or aiding and abetting the practice of medicine without certification. Rosa Isela Gonzalez of Fontana, and Sylvia Rodriguez and Humberto Pena, both of East Los Angeles, were charged with multiple counts of practicing medicine without certification. Guadalupe Gonzalez of South Gate was also charged with counts involving prescription fraud and practicing without certification. In addition, two other defendants have been charged with multiple counts of practicing medicine without certification but have not yet been located.

The investigation began in April, 2010, following leads of illegal sales of pharmaceutical and unsupervised medical staff working at the "Dr. Shura Moreno Medical Clinic" located at 4146 E. Olympic Blvd. in East Los Angeles. During the investigation, HALT conducted several undercover purchases of illicit pharmaceuticals from various suspects who were associated with the clinic. Subsequent search warrants at the clinic and a review of claims data also revealed evidence of Medi-Cal and Medicare fraud; including information alleging that the clinic was a front, using the license of Dr. Shura Moreno, who was rarely at the clinic, and where medical services were performed by an unsupervised physician assistant or other unlicensed practitioners.

HALT is a multi-agency task force that includes officials from the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles Police Department, California Department of Health Care Services, and the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General. HALT is dedicated to investigating the illegal sale of pharmaceuticals, unlicensed health care practitioners, health care fraud and other criminal activities that threaten the health and well-being of Los Angeles County residents.