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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BATON ROUGE -- Today, the State Inspector General's Office issued a report on its investigation of overtime for calendar year 2008 at the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH). The investigation uncovered problems with overtime at a DHH facility in Northeast Louisiana. Inspector General Stephen Street said: "Our investigation revealed a healthcare facility that, at best, kept employees at their posts past when any normal person could function effectively to serve the patients." Mr. Street continued: "At worst, our findings paint a picture of a DHH facility where employee time records lack credibility." The report also examined overtime at the Louisiana State Police.

DHH

1) Ten employees at DHH's Northeast Supports and Services Center in Ruston were paid over \$407,000 for more than 23,000 hours of questionable overtime in 2008. These overtime hours equal the hours that more than 11 **additional** fulltime employees would work if they put in eight-hour days over the course of a year.

- 2) The ten employees routinely reported working more than 16 hours a day, working back to back days with less than six hours off between shifts, and working as many as 82 days straight. For example:
- a) One employee reported he worked 33 hours straight, and separately that he worked 41.5 hours in a 42-hour period.
 - b) Another employee reported she worked 59 hours in a 66-hour span of time.
 - c) A third employee reported that she worked 34.5 hours straight. She also reported having worked more than 20 hours a day on 14 different dates in 2008, and having worked 82 days straight.
- 3) Time entries in the Integrated Statewide Information Systems (ISIS) database by DHH timekeepers did not always match employee timesheets. The dramatic amount of overtime, combined with the mismatched time entries, raise serious questions as to whether the employees actually worked all the hours claimed.

STATE POLICE

Our review of overtime for State Police employees revealed no significant instances of questionable overtime. However, we did find that the State Police under-billed a local agency by more than \$27,000 for the reimbursement of mileage and overtime under Local Agency Compensated Enforcement (LACE) agreements. Inefficient payroll procedures and billing procedures contributed to this billing error, and to errors in the time entered in the ISIS payroll system. In addition, many timesheets were certified as accurate before the last day worked in a pay period by both the employee and the supervisor. Inspector General Stephen Street made a total of

seven recommendations that, if implemented, should improve operations of DHH and State Police.

To obtain the full report, follow this link:

<http://oig.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/reports/2010/1090029-A.pdf>