



The Opioid Epidemic: The Neurobiology of Addiction and the Effects on Insurance

DATE: Tuesday, October 29, 2019

TIME: 8:30 am – Noon (registration begins at 7:30 am)

LOCATION: Boston Marriott Newton
2345 Commonwealth Avenue, Auburndale, MA 02466
(617) 969-1000 ~ <http://www.marriott.com>

PRICE: \$45.⁰⁰ per person (includes continental breakfast)
Late registration is \$70.⁰⁰.

SPACE IS LIMITED: *Registration at the door will not be accepted*

REGISTRATION: Register on-line at <https://www.ifb.org> by credit card through PayPal or **mail registration** form (back page) with check payment. Registrations must be received by **Friday, October 18, 2019**

Please join **Dr. Dan L. Hunt, D.O., Corporate Medical Director for workers' compensation insurance carrier AF Group**, as he presents about the major factors responsible for the opioid epidemic in America. What happens to the structure and function of the addicted brain? Can we explain and predict an addict's behavior? And finally, is there hope for the future?

Dr. Hunt currently works at AF Group's National Headquarters in Lansing, Michigan. Dr. Hunt practiced as a General Surgeon in Michigan for 28 years prior to joining AF Group in 2014. His current areas of interest are evidence-based medicine; prescription drug monitoring programs; understanding the appropriate roles of opioids, marijuana and alternative treatments for pain in workers compensation; telemedicine; and the impact of wearable monitoring devices on the care of injured workers.

Dr. Hunt has presented on these topics before the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Department of Labor, National Prescription Drug Abuse Conference, International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions (IAIABC), National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), American Insurance Association (AIA) and numerous legislative and university groups. His most recent papers were published in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine in May of 2016 regarding the effects of evidence-based medicine on the outcomes of injured workers and May of 2019 regarding The Association of Opioid, Anti-Depressant and Benzodiazepines with Workers' Compensation Cost.

For further information, please contact Deborah Terry or check www.ifb.org
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Insurance Fraud Bureau of Massachusetts

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IFB Fraud Hotline
1-800-32FRAUD

IFB Website
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Individuals who have been charged and whose names have been publicly disseminated have been identified.

focusFraud and *e-focusFraud* are published periodically throughout the year. News flashes on current press releases and news articles and updates on prosecution court activity are posted frequently on the IFB website
<https://www.ifb.org>.

If you prefer to receive your issues of *focusFraud* and IFB announcements by email, please forward your name, company name and email address to dterry@ifb.org.

Referrals and general questions can be emailed to referrals@ifb.org.

Case Against Cotuit Woman Continued without a Finding on Prescription Fraud Charges

Barnstable—On September 9, 2019 the case against **Kristin Coughlin** was continued without a finding for two years on two counts each of uttering a false prescription, obtaining a drug by fraud and false health care claim. She was ordered to pay \$1,500 in restitution. Coughlin forged and fraudulently filled multiple prescriptions under both her and her husband's names from 2013-2016 while employed at a medical doctor's office. She had access to the medical practice computer system which allowed her to either print out or e-prescribe prescriptions from the medical practice or from her home. Coughlin filled her prescriptions at CVS and utilized her private health insurance, Harvard Pilgrim, in order to facilitate the receipt of multiple fraudulent prescriptions. Insurance carrier claim records did not show that she or her husband received medical evaluations from the doctor which are typically required prior to receiving narcotic medications. A prosecutor from the Office of Cape and Islands District Attorney Michael O'Keefe prosecuted the case.

West Newburyport Mother Pleads Guilty

Newburyport—A Newburyport woman pleaded guilty on May 20, 2019 to ten counts each of larceny, forgery of a document and forgery of a check. She was sentenced to two years in the House of Correction, suspended for three years, and ordered to pay \$4,283 in restitution. The woman, the mother of a disabled daughter, submitted numerous claim forms that could not be substantiated. The claims were for Personal Care Assistance (PCA) hours allegedly worked by a Haverhill woman through Northeast Arc, who was the third party administrator of the Medicaid benefits. The Haverhill woman filed a complaint that her 2015 statement of wages for her income return showed that she had earned more than \$10,000 while working for the Newburyport woman's daughter. However, the Haverhill woman stated that she made approximately \$1,500 before leaving her job as a caregiver in June 2015. Northeast Arc confirmed that they had records for Medicaid claim forms throughout the entire year of 2015. These forms noted the hours and were allegedly signed by the Haverhill woman. Copies of the signed checks were also allegedly signed by the Haverhill woman who maintained that she had worked for the daughter for a short period of time and collected only four checks for hours worked. The Haverhill woman identified the four checks that she had signed and identified numerous checks that were forged by another person. The woman also noted that she never signed a time sheet for her hours worked. A prosecutor from the Office of Essex County District Attorney Jonathan W. Blodgett prosecuted the case.

Multi-Lines Insurance Fraud

Former Treasurer of Newton PTO Indicted, Arrested in Connection with Stealing Money

Boston—**Rebeca Craig** was arrested on August 15, 2019 in connection with an alleged scheme to steal tens of thousands of dollars by making false insurance claims, providing incorrect information on her tax refunds, and allegedly stealing over \$14,000 from the Newton Parent Teacher Organization Council as the former treasurer. Craig was indicted on 27 counts, including ten counts of presentation of false claims, ten counts of making a false statement to the tax commissioner, three counts of submitting a false insurance claim, one count of forgery, and three counts of larceny over \$250. From 2013 through 2018, Craig allegedly engaged in various fraudulent schemes and thefts. Several of her alleged schemes involved the submission of falsified or altered documents in support of insurance claims. In addition, Craig allegedly submitted falsified tax returns, resulting in her receipt of tax refunds totaling \$11,318, to which she was not entitled. Finally, Craig, who served as the Treasurer for the Newton PTO Council from 2013 to 2014, allegedly funneled \$14,593 from the organization to her own personal accounts.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant Attorney General John Reynolds and Investigator Michelle Silva, both of Attorney General Maura Healey's Insurance and Unemployment Fraud Unit in the White Collar and Public Integrity Division. The Massachusetts Department of Revenue, the IFB, and the Massachusetts State Police assigned to the AG's Office also assisted.

Automobile Fraud

Auto Body Repair Shop Owner Charged

Boston—**Adam Haddad** was indicted on March 28, 2019 by a Statewide Grand Jury on 18 counts of motor vehicle insurance fraud, 15 counts of larceny by false pretenses over \$1,200, three counts of attempted larceny, and six counts of malicious destruction of property. Haddad owns two automotive repair businesses and allegedly perpetrated a complex motor vehicle fraud scheme in which he damaged vehicles and stole \$170,000. **ADH Collison of Boston Inc.**, located in Everett, was indicted on 10 counts of motor vehicle insurance fraud and eight counts of larceny by false pretenses over \$1,200. **Accurate Collision Inc.**, located in Worcester, was indicted on eight counts of motor vehicle insurance fraud and seven counts of larceny by false pretenses over \$1,200. The investigation revealed that over the past four years, Haddad regularly enhanced damage, and caused new damage, to customers' vehicles in order to falsely inflate appraisal repair quotes for labor, paint and parts reimbursement requests. Haddad would then make an additional profit by pocketing the insurance company's check and not completing the necessary repairs on the customers' cars. Surveillance footage from one of Haddad's business locations shows him using mallets, sledge hammers, and pieces of wood to intentionally cause damage to five customers' vehicles. In total, Haddad allegedly stole more than \$170,000 from 11 different insurance companies.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant Attorney General Jennifer Cotter, Chief of the AG's White Collar and Public Integrity Division, with assistance from the Massachusetts State Police, Digital Forensics Laboratory Investigators, and Victim Witness Advocate Amber Anderson, all of the AG's Office. Assistance was also received from the Everett Police Department and the IFB.

Insurance Agent Allegedly Submits False Application

Dover—On March 21, 2019 **John Rapo**, an insurance agent, was indicted on one count of fraudulent insurance application and one count of attempt to commit larceny by false pretenses. Rapo allegedly submitted a false application for automobile insurance to Amica Mutual Insurance Company reporting his father was the owner and primary operator of a 2014 Maserati. On April 5, 2016, Rapo completed and signed an application for insurance listing his father as the owner/operator of the Maserati

(Continued on page 4)

Automobile Insurance Fraud *continued*

(Continued from page 3)

and Rapo and his wife as occasional operators. On September 5, 2016 Rapo's wife was involved in a motor vehicle accident. During the claim review it was learned that the named insured had passed away on June 5, 2014, almost two years before Rapo applied for automobile insurance coverage for the Maserati. Rapo allegedly admitted his father was dead when he applied for and paid for insurance in his father's name. As a result of listing his father on the application, Rapo allegedly evaded approximately \$1,161 in premiums. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant Attorney General Matthew Bailey of the AG's Insurance and Unemployment Fraud Unit.

Agent Fraud

Sandwich Man Charged in Connection with Insurance Fraud Scheme

Boston—The President and CEO of a Taunton insurance agency was indicted in connection with an alleged embezzlement scheme that left client companies uninsured. **David Pietro**, a licensed insurance broker, and his company **DGP Miles Insurance Agency (DGP)** were indicted by a Statewide Grand Jury on March 25, 2019. Pietro was charged with five counts of larceny over \$250. He was arraigned on May 5, 2019 in Bristol Superior Court. Pietro collected insurance premiums from clients through DGP and then allegedly failed to remit the premium payments to their insurance carriers. As a result of the alleged embezzlement of these premiums, his client companies had various commercial insurance policies cancelled and were left uninsured. Pietro allegedly stole approximately \$270,423 in premium from client companies.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant Attorney General Sara Yoffe of the AG's Insurance and Unemployment Fraud Unit, with assistance from Victim Witness Advocate Megan Murphy, and investigators at the IFB.

Workers' Compensation Claimant Fraud

Rehoboth Man Charged with Workers' Comp Fraud

Boston—A Rehoboth man was arraigned on April 26, 2019 on charges of larceny over \$250 by a single scheme and workers' compensation fraud. The man sustained a work-related injury on September 14, 2016 during his normal course of employment. He was granted Total Temporary Disability (TTD) benefits by his employer's insurer, American Zurich Insurance, and paid approximately \$555 per week for 47 weeks. During the time he was collecting benefits, he stated that he was not working nor earning any money. Investigation revealed that the Rehoboth man was allegedly working as a subcontractor at a contracting/roofing company from March 29, 2017 until August 10, 2017 while continuing to collect disability benefits. The Rehoboth man never returned to his employment even after American Zurich requested he return to his duties on March 2, 2017. Further, the man failed to inform the carrier he was working and reported no earnings on a DIA Employee's Earning Report Form 126 he signed and dated on June 23, 2017. While working at the contracting/roofing company, the Rehoboth man allegedly collected approximately \$12,688 in TTD benefits which he was not entitled to. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant Attorney General Josh Pakstis of the AG's Insurance and Unemployment Fraud Unit.

Worcester Man Indicted for Evading More than \$110,000 in Workers' Compensation Premiums

Worcester—On September 17, 2019 **Sovane Kien**, who operates a Worcester temporary employment agency, was indicted in connection with a scheme to evade more than \$110,000 in workers' compensation premiums. Kien was indicted by a Worcester County Grand Jury on six counts of workers' compensation fraud, five counts of larceny over \$250 and one count of larceny over \$1,200. He will be arraigned in Worcester Superior Court on October 22. From August 2012 through August 2018, Kien, who owns and operates People's Temp Service, Inc., allegedly substantially underreported its number of employees and the amount that it paid these employees in response to audits conducted by the company's workers' compensation insurance provider, AIM Mutual Insurance Company. As a result, People's Temp allegedly evaded approximately \$111,856 in insurance premiums. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant Attorney General Kristy Lavigne with assistance from Investigator Michael Azevedo of the AG's Insurance and Unemployment Fraud Unit and the IFB.

Worcester Man Indicted on Tax and Fraud Charges

Boston—**Tam Vuong** was indicted on August 29, 2019 on 14 counts of wire fraud and four counts of failing to pay taxes. Vuong had previously been charged by criminal complaint and arrested in April 2019, and has been released since that time. Vuong oversaw Prime Labor LLC and UT Services, Inc., both of which were employment agencies based in Worcester. Each agency allegedly paid a few employees by check but paid most employees in cash. Each agency allegedly failed to report or pay taxes on the wages paid in cash, which Vuong fraudulently concealed in connection with tax filings and insurance audits. Vuong allegedly concealed millions of dollars in cash wages that were paid to Prime Labor workers and additional cash wages paid by UT Services. Between 2012 and 2017, more than \$30 million in Prime client company checks were cashed at a check-cashing business in Worcester; Prime allegedly paid millions of these dollars in cash wages and then failed to report these wages to the Internal Revenue Service or to its insurer, Travelers Insurance Company. In addition, while in his role overseeing and controlling UT Services, Vuong allegedly falsely told UT Services' insurance carrier that the company had only one employee and an annual payroll of only \$50,000, when, in actuality, UT Services had dozens of employees and a significantly higher payroll. UT Services allegedly disseminated forged certificates of insurance to several clients and failed to inform clients when its workers' compensation policy was cancelled. Vuong also allegedly shifted operations from Prime Labor Services to UT Services after federal search warrants were executed in November 2017. Vuong allegedly took steps to hide his role with both Prime and UT Services.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Abely of United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling's Criminal Division is prosecuting the case. Investigators from the Federal Bureau of Investigation Boston Division, the Internal Revenue Service's Criminal Investigation in Boston, and the Insurance Fraud Bureau are assisting in the case.

Business Owner Pleads Guilty to Underreporting Number of Employees

Boston—On September 4, 2019 **Anner Valentin Amaya** pleaded guilty to five counts of larceny over \$250, five counts of workers' compensation fraud and two counts of failure to provide workers' compensation insurance. He was sentenced to one year of probation. A restitution hearing is scheduled for October 17, 2019. Between May 2012 and August 2016, Amaya, who owns Valentin General Contractors, substantially underreported the number of individuals his business employed and the amount he paid these employees when audited by his workers' compensation insurance provider, American Zurich Insurance. In total, Amaya evaded more than \$73,000 in insurance premiums. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant Attorney General Kristy Lavigne of the AG's Insurance and Unemployment Fraud Unit.

Community Insurance Fraud Initiatives Highlights

Boston CIFI

On August 16, 2019 a Dorchester woman received a general continuance for six months on charges of motor vehicle insurance fraud and attempt to commit a crime. She was ordered to pay \$657 in restitution. The woman reported to Safety Insurance Company that on March 15, 2017 her 2011 Cadillac Sedan was allegedly struck by an unknown vehicle while parked resulting in damage to the front fender area and driver side door. The vehicle was deemed a total loss. The woman stated she parked the Cadillac around 4:30 p.m. on March 15, 2017 and when she returned to her vehicle the following morning she discovered the damage. Police were not notified of the alleged incident. A collision analysis concluded the vehicle was in motion when it came into contact with an external tubular barrier which was coated with an outer layer of latex yellow paint. Furthermore, particles of stone were wedged within the damage.

The Boston task force is assisted by Boston Police detectives. Community Insurance Fraud Initiative (CIFI) cases are prosecuted by the Office of Suffolk County District Attorney Rachel Rollins.

Brockton CIFI

On March 25, 2019 the case against **Kerry McGrath** was continued without a finding for one year on charges of motor vehicle insurance fraud and burning a motor vehicle to defraud an insurer. She was ordered to pay \$750 in restitution. On May 2, 2019 her daughter was placed on pre-trial probation for six months on a charge of motor vehicle insurance fraud. The daughter was ordered to pay \$1,115 in restitution. At approximately 2:00 a.m. on September 24, 2015 Brockton police responded to the MBTA train station for a report of a vehicle fire of a 2006 BMW 750Li. Police also noted vandalism to the BMW which consisted of scratches. The vehicle was registered to McGrath. McGrath stated that her daughter's boyfriend parked the vehicle at the train station the evening of September 23, 2015. When McGrath arrived at the train station the morning of September 24 she was unable to locate the vehicle and subsequently discovered the vehicle had been burned. A vehicle analysis determined the BMW had significant mechanical issues. McGrath had stated the BMW was in excellent working condition prior to the vehicle fire. Charges against the boyfriend were dismissed. Progressive Insurance Company insured the BMW.

Brockton CIFI cases are prosecuted by the Office of Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz.

Lawrence/Lowell CIFIs

A Haverhill woman received a general continuance for six months on charges of motor vehicle insurance fraud and attempt to commit a crime. She was ordered to pay \$500 in restitution and \$1,000 in court costs. On July 17, 2016 the woman reported to Arbella Mutual Insurance Company that her 2003 Audi A4 was allegedly damaged when it was hit-while-parked at her parents' residence. A collision analysis of the damages concluded the damage was not a result of a hit-while-parked incident and the low height and abrasive nature of the damage was consistent with contact with some type of stone or concrete fixed object. The woman stated she discovered the damage upon her return from vacation, she had the only key to the vehicle in her possession and that nobody else used the vehicle.

The Lawrence CIFI task force is assisted by detectives from Lawrence and other area police departments. CIFI cases are prosecuted by Essex County Assistant District Attorney Rocco DeFilippis. Lowell CIFI cases are prosecuted by Middlesex County Assistant District Attorney Mary O'Neill.

(Continued on page 7)

Look for other CIFI stories on the IFB website at <https://www.ifb.org>.

(Continued from page 6)

New Bedford/Fall River CIFI

On June 21, 2019 a New Bedford woman was placed on pre-trial probation for six months on charges of motor vehicle insurance fraud and attempt to commit a crime. She was ordered to pay \$950 in restitution. On September 20, 2014 the woman reported to Safety Insurance Company that her 2003 Honda Accord was struck in the right front bumper, fender and door while allegedly parked in her apartment building's parking lot. She claimed that the adverse vehicle fled the scene. A damage analysis concluded the Honda came into contact with an external fixed object which was coated with a wood type preservative similar to creosote. In addition, the direction of force moving from the front towards the rear indicated the Honda was moving forward at the time of the loss. The woman maintained that her vehicle was parked when damaged by an unknown vehicle.

The New Bedford/Fall River task force is assisted by New Bedford Police Officer Greg Sirois, Fall River Police Lt. Paul Bernier and State Police assigned to the Bristol County District Attorney's Office. CIFI cases are prosecuted by the Office of Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III.

Western Massachusetts CIFI

A Springfield man admitted to sufficient facts on May 9, 2019 on charges of motor vehicle insurance fraud and attempt to commit a crime. The case was continued without a finding for six months. He was ordered to pay \$964 in restitution. On May 4, 2018 the Springfield man reported to Arbella Mutual Insurance Company that his 2010 Toyota Tacoma was allegedly struck by an unknown vehicle while parked in a store parking lot resulting in damage to the rear passenger side. He did not report the alleged incident to police or check with the store to see if there were cameras covering the lot. A vehicle damage analysis concluded the damages reported were a result of the vehicle moving in reverse and striking a structure with an outer layer of white latex paint. There was no evidence of automotive material from an adverse vehicle. The Springfield man stated no one else operated the Toyota, his residential parking is in a private lot and he inspected his vehicle prior to using it.

The Western Massachusetts task force is assisted by area police departments. CIFI cases are prosecuted by Hampden County Superior Court Assistant District Attorney James Forsyth, Berkshire County First Assistant District Attorney Karen Bell and First Assistant District Attorney Steve Gagne of the Northwestern Massachusetts District Attorney's Office which covers Franklin and Hampshire counties.

Worcester CIFI

A Fitchburg man was placed on pre-trial probation for six months on a charge of motor vehicle insurance fraud. He was ordered to pay \$4,170.35 in restitution. The man contacted police at 05:40 hours on January 20, 2018 and reported his 2014 Chrysler 200 had allegedly been vandalized. A subsequent review of police records indicated the man also reported being involved in a hit-and-run incident with the same vehicle on the same date at 01:28 hours, prior to the alleged vandalism. Police secured video surveillance which showed an individual believed to be the Fitchburg man entering his white Chrysler. The Chrysler then proceeded to drive away, striking a parked mini-van. The man initially reported the incident to police via a recorded phone line at 01:28 hours but he was no longer at the scene when the responding officer arrived. Investigation revealed the Fitchburg man claimed to Mapfre Insurance that he allegedly awoke to find vandalism damage to his 2014 Chrysler; however he made no mention of the hit-and-run incident which occurred earlier the same day. Without the knowledge of the hit-and-run accident, Mapfre issued a payment for the vandalism claim in the amount of \$4,170.35.

The Worcester task force is assisted by Worcester Police Det. James O'Rourke and other area police departments. CIFI cases are prosecuted by Worcester County Assistant District Attorney Greer Spatz.

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Tuesday, October 29, 2019

REGISTRATION FORM

Please submit a separate form for each person attending.
This information will be used to generate a Certificate of Attendance which may qualify for continuing education credits.

NAME: _____
(Please print or type)

TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: (_____) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____
(Will be used to provide confirmation of registration and ensure future email announcements.)

Please indicate if you need an accommodation:

_____ ASL Interpreter _____ Wheelchair Seating

Specify Alternative Material Format: _____

Other: _____

Please return registration form and check (**payable to Insurance Fraud Bureau**) for \$45.00 per person by Friday, October 18, 2019. Registration fee includes seminar and continental breakfast. **Late registration is \$70.00**

Payment must accompany registration form. Confirmation will be sent by e-mail.

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REGISTRATION DEADLINE
Friday, October 18, 2019