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***CITY OF CHICAGO AND BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF ILLINOIS ANNOUNCE JOINT TASK  
FORCE ON FRAUD DETECTION  
Task Force to Help Identify and Recover Millions in Healthcare Fraud***

CHICAGO, IL – The City of Chicago and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBSIL) announced today a joint task force on fraud detection and prevention, with the goal of potentially recovering millions of dollars in cost burdens on the City of Chicago.

“As public servants, we must be faithful stewards of taxpayer dollars and ensure that they are used appropriately,” said Mayor Rahm Emanuel. “I am proud that the City is teaming up with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois to form this important Task Force. It will allow us to even further expand our ongoing efforts in uncovering any and all instances of abuse by identifying those bad actors who are improperly exploiting the City’s resources.”

The City and BCBSIL have a record of success in working together on fraud and waste detection, which has already resulted in significant savings of City resources.

“We (BCBSIL) have built a lasting legacy of trust with our customers and members,” said Karen Atwood, President of BCBSIL. “Key to that trust is serving as guardians of their resources. While fraud is, fortunately, an outlier behavior, it does put significant burdens on the healthcare system. As we continue our partnership with the City of Chicago, we’ll work together to root out wasteful spending and help to meet the City’s fiscal responsibilities.”

The Task Force will be comprised of representatives from the City of Chicago and BCBSIL. Together, they will collaborate to detect and assess potential fraud cases and instances of wasteful spending. Additionally, the Task Force will recommend best practices for continuous improvement in detecting fraud.

The Task Force will begin its work September 4, 2012.

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