



## OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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*Inspector General*

### NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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#### **OIG Follow-Up Review Finds Improvements and Remaining Deficiencies at Tree House Child Advocacy Center**

Rockville, Maryland – Montgomery County Maryland Inspector General Megan Davey Limarzi announced today the release of a report, [\*The Tree House Child Advocacy Center, Follow-Up Review, OIG Report #26-16\*](#), detailing the results of an OIG review following up on two investigations the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) conducted in 2020. The original investigations involved allegations of wrongdoing and non-compliance with contract requirements by the Tree House Child Advocacy Center of Montgomery County (Tree House). The review was initiated as part of the OIG's efforts to strengthen accountability and provide transparency to County-funded programs.

Tree House is a non-profit organization that contracts with Montgomery County to provide specialized services that support trauma recovery for children and adolescents who have experienced sexual abuse, physical abuse, and neglect. The organization uses a multidisciplinary model that brings together County and private resources to deliver services to victims. In fiscal year (FY) 2026, Tree House received \$1,044,755 in County funding. The County's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) provides oversight of the County's contract with Tree House.

In 2020, the OIG conducted two investigations into Tree House operations. One investigation found that sensitive and personally identifiable information (PII) had been improperly exposed on a County SharePoint site accessible to County employees. The other investigation identified deficiencies in Tree House's compliance with contractual and regulatory requirements. In this follow-up review, the OIG noted that DHHS and Tree House made progress in addressing several of the issues previously identified, including improving safeguards for sensitive patient information. However, the review also found weaknesses in background investigations and CPS check processes that resulted in non-compliance with DHHS requirements and contractual obligations.

The report includes 4 recommendations for DHHS to strengthen their oversight of Tree House's performance relative to contract terms. The County's Deputy Chief Administrative Officer concurred with the recommendations and provided an implementation plan.

Read the full [report](#).

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