



Board Agenda Item 51

DATE: August 20, 2024

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBMITTED BY: Sanja Bugay, Director, Department of Social Services

SUBJECT: Agreement with the California Department of Health Care Services for Medi-Cal Privacy and Security

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Approve and authorize the Chairman to execute an Agreement with the California Department of Health Care Services to ensure the security and privacy of Medi-Cal Personally Identifiable Information, effective upon execution by both parties, through September 1, 2028 with an option to extend the agreement for up to six-months (\$0).

Approval of the recommended action will ensure the Department of Social Services (DSS) has continued access to sensitive and confidential Personally Identifiable Information (PII) obtained for the administration of Social Services programs, and obligates the DSS to safeguard the PII obtained from the Department of Social Security Administration (SSA), Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS), Applicant Income and Eligibility Verification System (IEVS), and the California Statewide Automated Welfare System information (CalSAWS), with no Net County Cost. This item is countywide.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION(S):

There is no viable alternative action. Should your Board elect not to approve the recommended Agreement, DSS would lose access to information required to administer the Medi-Cal program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no Net County Cost associated with the recommended action.

DISCUSSION:

In its administration of the Medi-Cal program, DSS utilizes SSA, MEDS, IEVS, and other confidential data for benefit eligibility determinations. The recommended agreement affects the DSS staff and contractors who access, use, or disclose PII to assist in the administration of Medi-Cal.

PII is information that can be used alone, or in conjunction with any other reasonably available information, to identify a specific individual. PII includes but is not limited to an individual's name, social security number, driver's license number, identification number, biometric records, date of birth, place of birth, or mother's maiden name. The PII may be electronic, paper, verbal, or recorded.

DSS is required to safeguard client data through a variety of personnel, physical, technical, and administrative controls. DSS has extensive protocols in place as well as reporting mandates in case of a breach of protected information.

The recommended Agreement applies to information obtained in the course of administering the Medi-Cal program. The Agreement deviates from the standard County Agreement template, as it was drafted by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). Additionally, the exhibits are excluded from the attachment due to their confidential nature but have been reviewed and approved by Counsel. The Agreement is effective upon execution by both parties through September 1, 2028. Upon Board approval, the Agreement will be sent to the DHCS for execution.

ATTACHMENTS INCLUDED AND/OR ON FILE:

On file with Clerk - Agreement with DHCS

CAO ANALYST:

Ronald Alexander