



COUNTY of VENTURA

MELISSA LIVINGSTON
Director

July 23, 2024

HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

855 Partridge Drive
Ventura, CA 93003
805-477-5100

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

JENNIE PITTMAN
Deputy Director
Administrative Services

VICTORIA JUMP
Deputy Director
Aging & Disability Services

Subject: Approval of, and Authorization for the Human Services Agency Director to Sign, the 2024 Medi-Cal Privacy and Security Agreement as Required by California Department of Health Care Services; and Delegation of Authority to the Human Services Agency Director to Sign Future Privacy and Security Agreements.

DAVID SWANSON HOLLINGER
Deputy Director
Children & Family Services

MARISSA MACH
Deputy Director
Community Access & Engagement

Recommendations:

ELAINE MARTINEZ
Deputy Director
Community Services

1. Approve, and authorize the Human Services Agency (HSA) Director to sign, the 2024 Medi-Cal Privacy and Security Agreement (Exhibit 1) as required by California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).
2. Delegate authority to the HSA Director to approve and sign future Privacy and Security Agreements with State agencies, subject to County Executive Office and County Counsel review and approval.

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

There are no fiscal mandates associated with this action.

Strategic Plan Priority:

The Medi-Cal Privacy and Security Agreement contributes to the Board of Supervisors' 2024-2027 Strategic Plan priority of creating a 'Diverse and Innovative Workforce Dedicated to Service Excellence', Goal (1) Cultivate a talented, diverse, and inclusive workforce emphasizing ethics, leadership, and effectiveness.

Discussion:

The purpose of the Medi-Cal Privacy and Security Agreement (PSA) between DHCS and each County Welfare Department (CWD) is to ensure the security and privacy of Medi-Cal Personally Identifiable Information (PII). Medi-Cal PII is information directly obtained in the course of performing an administrative function on behalf of Medi-Cal that can be used alone

or in conjunction with any other information to identify a specific individual. Medi-Cal PII includes any information that can be used to search for or identify individuals, or can be used to access their files, including but not limited to name, social security number, date and place of birth, mother's maiden name, driver's license number, or identification number. Medi-Cal PII may also include any information that is linkable to an individual, such as medical, educational, financial, and employment information. Medi-Cal PII may be electronic, paper, verbal, or recorded and includes statements made by, or attributed to, the individual.

The prior Medi-Cal PSA was developed in 2019. Since that time, there have been substantial changes to the information security environment in which we operate. The 2024 Medi-Cal PSA includes enhanced privacy and security requirements. HSA will work closely with the County's Information Technology Division to assess and update policies, processes, and systems, where applicable, to ensure alignment with the terms of the Agreement.

DHCS receives federal funding to administer California's Medicaid Program (Medi-Cal). CWDs assist DHCS in the administration of Medi-Cal. Because counties have access to Social Security Administration-provided information, the Social Security Administration requires that DHCS enter into individual agreements with each county to safeguard this information. All 58 CWDs are required to sign the 2024 Agreement to ensure the continued transmission of PII between the counties and DHCS.

We ask your Board to approve, and authorize the HSA Director to sign, the 2024 Medi-Cal PSA, and to delegate authority to the HSA Director to approve and sign future PSAs with State agencies, subject to County Executive Office and County Counsel review and approval.

This item has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office and County Counsel. If you have any questions, please contact me at 805-477-5301, or Elaine Martinez, Deputy Director, Community Services Department, at 805-477-5309.



Melissa Livingston
Director

Attachment:

Exhibit 1 – 2024 Medi-Cal Privacy and Security Agreement