

December 9, 2025

Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

**PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH MERCY HOUSE BRUNDAGE LANE NAVIGATION CENTER
FOR INFORMATION SHARING AND HUMAN SERVICES TO PROVIDE PROGRAM
ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION ASSISTANCE FOR CENTER RESIDENTS
(Fiscal Impact: None)**

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is requesting your Board's approval to enter into an Agreement with Mercy House Brundage Lane Navigation Center (BLNC). Human Services Technician services will assist residents of BLNC with applications for the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids ("CalWORKs"), CalFresh, Medi-Cal, General Assistance, Homeless Assistance, and other assistance programs. The term of the Agreement is January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. There is no General Fund cost.

BLNC provides homeless assistance and homeless prevention services to Kern County residents. This Agreement enables BLNC and DHS to have a collaborative working relationship for providing eligibility information, application assistance and resources for all DHS programs to residents and program participants of BLNC.

This Agreement has been approved by the Office of County Counsel as to form. The County Administrative Office has reviewed and concurs with our recommendation.

Therefore, IT IS RECOMMENDED that your Board approve the proposed Agreement with Mercy House Brundage Lane Navigation Center for information sharing and Human Services to provide program eligibility and application assistance for center residents for the term of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Sincerely,



Lito Morillo
Director

cc: CAO

**AGREEMENT
FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION TO KERN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
SERVICES AND HUMAN SERVICES TECHNICIAN SERVICES TO RESIDENTS OF MERCY
HOUSE BRUNDAGE LANE NAVIGATION CENTER**

Independent Contractor
(COUNTY – Mercy House Living Centers)

THIS AGREEMENT (“**Agreement**”) is made and entered into on _____ (“**Execution Date**”), by and between the COUNTY OF KERN, a political subdivision of the State of California (“**County**”), as represented by the Department of Human Services (“**Department**”), and Mercy House Living Centers – Brundage Lane Navigation Center (**BLNC**), whose principal place of business is at 1900 East Brundage Lane, Bakersfield, CA 93307. County/Department and Contractor are referred to individually as a “**Party**” and collectively as the “**Parties**”. CONTRACTOR’S UNIQUE ENTITY IDENTIFIER NUMBER: DVJ5XQ7BMQ88

WHEREAS:

- a. Government Code Sections 31000 and 53060 permit the County Board of Supervisors to contract for the furnishing of special services with individuals specially trained, experienced, and competent to perform those services; and
- b. Department is the County agency responsible for administering the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (“**CalWORKs**”), CalFresh, Medi-Cal and General Assistance Programs; and
- c. BLNC will provide homeless assistance and homeless prevention services to Kern County residents; and
- d. BLNC and Department desire to have a collaborative working relationship between the Parties for providing eligibility information, application assistance and resources for all Department programs to residents and program participants of BLNC.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED between the Parties as follows:

1. TERM

This Agreement shall commence on the January 1, 2026 and shall remain in effect until December 31, 2026, unless sooner terminated as provided for in this Agreement.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF CONTRACTOR

Contractor shall assume responsibility for providing the following services:

- A. BLNC will provide a liaison to Department to ensure open communication and that client services provided by both parties are seamless; and
- B. BLNC will obtain BLNC residents and/or program participants’ signatures on Consent to Release Form, (**Exhibits “A” and “A-1”**), which will allow the exchange of information between BLNC and Department (NOTE: No information can be

exchanged with the Department unless there is a signed Consent to Release Form on file); and

- C. BLNC shall present customers to the DHS location in person, or by phone for application services. Applications can be sent by fax, email, taken over the phone, or on-line. Online options for services include: www.BenefitsCal.com, applications for CalFresh may be made by phone at (661) 631-6062 and applications for Medi-Cal benefits can be made by calling 1-800-300-1506; and
- D. BLNC will contact the on-site staff or the DHS Liaison, who will be the point of contact for the BLNC, to start an application, follow up with application process and/or to get clarification on necessary information to expedite process the application for BLNC residents or program participants; and
- E. BLNC will post Department posters about the services provided by Department. BLNC will also provide pamphlets and other informational material provided by Department to BLNC residents and or program participants; and
- F. BLNC will communicate any issues or concerns regarding services to the Department on a regular basis.
- G. BLNC will provide office space for DHS staff in order to provide in-house services to the residents of the BLNC. This shall include internet access and a phone line.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNTY

Department shall assume responsibility for providing the following services:

- A. Department will provide information on the various programs available to BLNC residents or program participants; and
- B. Department will provide a designated contact person who will act as liaison between Department and BLNC; and
- C. Department will ensure that a signed Consent to Release form (**Exhibit "A" and "A-1"**) is on file before sharing information with BLNC liaison or any other staff from BLNC; and
- D. Department will work with BLNC residents and/or program participants to ensure qualifying program eligibility is determined in an expeditious manner; and
- E. Department will provide services in the customer's preferred language or will provide interpreter services if necessary; and
- F. Assigned Department liaison will make efforts to accommodate BLNC residents or program participants when scheduling interviews for services by phone or in-person; and
- G. Department will respond timely via email or phone to BLNC inquiries or requests for assistance sent to the designated Department assigned liaison; and

- H. Department will provide staff on site to provide services and will provide all necessary technology and office supplies needed for on-site staff member.
- I. The Department is open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed on County Holidays.

4. COMPENSATION

The services conducted pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Agreement shall be performed without the payment of any monetary consideration by either Party one to the other.

5. REPRESENTATIONS

Department and BLNC make the following representations, which are agreed to be material to and form a part of the inducement for this Agreement:

- A. BLNC has the expertise, facilities and support staff necessary to provide the services described in this Agreement; and
- B. Department has the expertise and Human Services Technicians (HST) and Social Service Workers (SSW) staff necessary to provide the services described in this Agreement; and
- C. Department has the expertise and Human Services Technicians (HST) and Social Service Workers (SSW) staff necessary to provide the services described in this Agreement; and
- D. BLNC does not have any actual or potential interests adverse to County, nor does BLNC represent a person or firm with an interest adverse to County with reference to the subject of this Agreement; and
- E. Department and BLNC shall diligently provide all required services in a timely and professional manner in accordance with the terms and conditions stated in this Agreement.

6. NEGATION OF PARTNERSHIP

In the performance of the services under this Agreement, Contractor shall be, and acknowledges that Contractor is in fact and law, an independent contractor and not an agent or employee of County. Contractor has and retains the right to exercise full supervision and control over the manner and methods of providing services to County under this Agreement. Contractor retains full supervision and control over the employment, direction, compensation and discharge of all persons assisting Contractor in the provision of services under this Agreement. With respect to Contractor's employees, if any, Contractor shall be solely responsible for payment of wages, benefits and other compensation, compliance with all occupational safety, welfare and civil rights laws, tax withholding and payment of employment taxes whether federal, State or local, and compliance with any and all other laws regulating employment.

7. IMMIGRATION REFORM AND CONTROL ACT

Contractor acknowledges that Contractor, and all subcontractors hired by Contractor to perform services under this Agreement, are aware of and understand the Immigration Reform and Control Act (“IRCA”). Contractor is and shall remain in compliance with IRCA and shall ensure that any subcontractors hired by Contractor to perform services under this Agreement are in compliance with IRCA. In addition, Contractor agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the County, its agents, officers and employees, from any liability, damages or causes of action arising out of or relating to any claims that Contractor’s employees, or the employees of any subcontractor hired by Contractor, are not authorized to work in the United States for Contractor or its subcontractor and/or any other claims based upon alleged IRCA violations committed by Contractor or Contractor’s subcontractors.

8. INDEMNIFICATION

Contractor agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless County and County’s agents, Board members, elected and appointed officials and officers, employees, volunteers, and authorized representatives from any and all losses, liabilities, charges, damages, claims, liens, causes of action, awards, judgments, costs, and expenses (including, but not limited to, reasonable attorneys’ fees of County Counsel and counsel retained by County, expert fees, costs of staff time and investigation costs) of whatever kind or nature, which arise out of or are in any way connected with any act or omission of Contractor or Contractor’s officers, agents, employees, independent contractors, subcontractors of any tier, or authorized representatives. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the same shall include bodily and personal injury or death to any person or persons; damage to any property, regardless of where located, including the property of County; and any workers’ compensation claim or suit arising from or connected with any services performed pursuant to this Agreement on behalf of Contractor by any person or entity.

9. INSURANCE

Contractor, in order to protect County and its board members, officials, agents, officers, and employees against all claims and liability for death, injury, loss, and damage as a result of Contractor’s actions in connection with the performance of Contractor’s obligations, as required in this Agreement, shall secure and maintain insurance as described below. Contractor shall not perform any work under this Agreement until Contractor has obtained all insurance required under this section and the required certificates of insurance and all required endorsements have been filed with the County’s authorized insurance representative. Receipt of evidence of insurance that does not comply with all applicable insurance requirements shall not constitute a waiver of the insurance requirements set forth herein. The required documents must be signed by the authorized representative of the insurance company shown on the certificate. Upon request, Contractor shall supply proof that such person is an authorized representative thereof, and is authorized to bind the named underwriter(s) and their company to the coverage, limits, and termination provisions shown thereon. The Contractor shall promptly deliver the County’s authorized insurance representative a certificate of insurance, and all required endorsements, with respect to each renewal policy, as necessary to demonstrate the maintenance of the required insurance coverage for the term specified herein. Such certificates and endorsements shall be delivered to the County’s authorized representative prior to the expiration date of any policy and bear a notation evidencing payment of the premium thereof if so requested. Contractor shall immediately pay any deductibles and self-insured retentions under all required insurance policies upon the submission of any claim by Contractor or County as an additional insured.

- a. Workers' Compensation and Employers Liability Insurance Requirement. In the event Contractor has employees who may perform any services pursuant to this Agreement, Contractor shall submit written proof that Contractor is insured against liability for workers' compensation in accordance with the provisions of Section 3700 of the California Labor Code.

Contractor shall require any sub-contractors to provide workers' compensation for all of the subcontractors' employees, unless the sub-contractors' employees are covered by the insurance afforded by Contractor. If any class of employees engaged in work or services performed under this Agreement is not covered by California Labor Code section 3700, Contractor shall provide and/or require each sub-contractor to provide adequate insurance for the coverage of employees not otherwise covered.

Contractor shall also maintain employer's liability insurance with limits of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for bodily injury or disease.

- b. Liability Insurance Requirements:

- 1) Contractor shall maintain in full force and effect, at all times during the term of this Agreement, the following insurance:

- a) Commercial General Liability Insurance including, but not limited to, Contractual Liability Insurance (specifically concerning the indemnity provisions of this Agreement with the County), Products-Completed Operations Hazard, Personal Injury (including bodily injury and death), and Property Damage for liability arising out of Contractor's performance of work under this Agreement. The Commercial General Liability insurance shall contain no exclusions or limitation for independent contractors working on the behalf of the named insured. Contractor shall maintain the Products-Completed Operations Hazard coverage for the longest period allowed by law following termination of this Agreement. The amount of said insurance coverage required by this Agreement shall be the policy limits, which shall be at least one million dollars (\$1,000,000) each occurrence and two million dollars (\$2,000,000) aggregate.
- b) Automobile Liability Insurance against claims of Personal Injury (including bodily injury and death) and Property Damage covering any vehicle and/or all owned, leased, hired and non-owned vehicles used in the performance of services pursuant to this Agreement with coverage equal to the policy limits, which shall be at least one million (\$1,000,000) each occurrence.
- c) Professional Liability (Errors and Omissions) Insurance, for liability arising out of, or in connection with, the performance of all required services under this Agreement, with coverage equal to the policy limits, which shall not be less than one million (\$1,000,000) per occurrence and three million (\$3,000,000) aggregate.
- d) Cyber Liability Insurance/Technology Professional Liability Insurance, for liability arising out of, or in connection with, the performance of all required services under this Agreement, involving access to personal and or confidential information, software or

technology services where a data breach or exposure to personal and or confidential information could impact the County, coverage shall be equal to the policy limits, which shall not be less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence and two million dollars (\$2,000,000) aggregate. Coverage shall respond to the duties and obligations as is undertaken by Contractor in this agreement and shall include, but not limited to, claims involving security breach, system failure, data recovery, business interruption, cyber extortion, social engineering, infringement of intellectual property, including but not limited to infringement of copyright, trademark, trade dress, invasion of privacy violations, information theft, damage to or destruction of electronic information, release of private information, and alteration of electronic information. The policy shall provide coverage for breach response costs, regulatory fines and penalties as well as credit monitoring expenses.

- 2) The Commercial General Liability and Automobile liability Insurance required in this sub-paragraph B. shall include an endorsement naming the County and County's board members, officials, officers, agents and employees as additional insureds for liability arising out of this Agreement and any operations related thereto. Said endorsement shall be provided using one of the following three options: (i) on ISO form CG 20 10 11 85; or (ii) on ISO form CG 20 37 10 01 plus either ISO form CG 20 10 10 01 or CG 20 33 10 01; or (iii) on such other forms which provide coverage at least equal to or better than form CG 20 10 11 85.
- 3) The Contractor may use Umbrella or Excess Policies to provide the liability limits as required in this agreement. This form of insurance will be acceptable provided that all of the Primary and Umbrella or Excess Policies shall provide all of the insurance coverages herein required, including, but not limited to, primary and non-contributory, additional insured, Self-Insured Retentions (SIRs), indemnity, and defense requirements. The Umbrella or Excess policies shall be provided on a true "following form" or broader coverage basis, with coverage at least as broad as provided on the underlying Commercial General Liability insurance. No insurance or self-insurance maintained by the County, whether primary or excess, and which also apply to a loss covered hereunder, shall be called upon to contribute to a loss.
- 4) Contractor shall require and verify that all subcontractors maintain insurance meeting all requirements stated herein, and Contractor shall ensure that the County is an additional insurance required from subcontractors.
- 5) Any self-insured retentions in excess of \$100,000 must be declared on the Certificate of Insurance or other documentation provided to County and must be approved by the County Risk Manager.

- 6) If any of the insurance coverages required under this Agreement is written on a claims-made basis, Contractor, at Contractor's option, shall either (i) maintain said coverage for at least three years following the termination of this Agreement with coverage extending back to the effective date of this Agreement; (ii) purchase an extended reporting period of not less than three years following the termination of this Agreement; or (iii) acquire a full prior acts provision on any renewal or replacement policy.
- c. All insurance afforded by Contractor pursuant to this Agreement shall be primary to and not contributing to all insurance or self-insurance maintained by the County. An endorsement shall be provided on all policies, except professional liability/errors and omissions, which shall waive any right of recovery (waiver of subrogation) against the County.**
- d. All insurance shall be issued by a company or companies admitted to do business in California and listed in the current "Best's Key Rating Guide" publication with a minimum rating of A-; VII. Any exception to these requirements must be approved by the County Risk Manager.
- e. If Contractor is, or becomes during the term of this Agreement, self-insured or a member of a self-insurance pool, Contractor shall provide coverage equivalent to the insurance coverages and endorsements required above. The County will not accept such coverage unless the County determines, in its sole discretion and by written acceptance, that the coverage proposed to be provided by Contractor is equivalent to the above-required coverages.
- f. Insurance coverages in the minimum amounts set forth herein shall not be construed to relieve Contractor for any liability, whether within, outside, or in excess of such coverage, and regardless of solvency or insolvency of the insurer that issues the coverage; nor shall it preclude the County from taking such other actions as are available to it under any other provision of this Agreement or otherwise in law.
- g. Failure by Contractor to maintain all such insurance in effect at all times required by this Agreement shall be a material breach of this Agreement by Contractor. County, at its sole option, may terminate this Agreement and obtain damages from Contractor resulting from said breach. Alternatively, County may purchase such required insurance coverage, and without further notice to Contractor, County shall deduct from sums due to Contractor any premiums and associated costs advanced or paid by County for such insurance. If the balance of monies obligated to Contractor pursuant to this Agreement are insufficient to reimburse County for the premiums and any associated costs, Contractor agrees to reimburse County for the premiums and pay for all costs associated with the purchase of said insurance. Any failure by County to take this alternative action shall not relieve Contractor of its obligation to obtain and maintain the insurance coverages required by this Agreement.
- h. Cancellation of Insurance -- The above stated insurance coverages required to be maintained by Contractor shall be maintained until the completion of all of Contractor's obligations under this Agreement except as otherwise indicated herein. Each insurance policy supplied by the Contractor shall not be suspended, voided, cancelled or reduced in coverage or in limits except after 10 days written notice by Contractor in the case of non-payment of premiums, or 30 days written notice in all other cases. This notice requirement does not waive the insurance requirements stated herein.

Contractor shall immediately obtain replacement coverage for any insurance policy that is terminated, canceled, non-renewed, or whose policy limits have been exhausted or upon insolvency of the insurer that issued the policy.

10. CONTRACT DISPUTE

Should a dispute arise between Contractor and County relating to performance under this Agreement, Contractor will, prior to exercising any other remedy which may be available, provide County with written notice of the particulars of the dispute within 30 calendar days of the dispute. County will meet with Contractor, review the factors in the dispute, and recommend a means of resolving the dispute before a written response is given to Contractor. County will provide a written response to Contractor within 30 days of receipt of Contractor's written notice.

11. TERMINATION

Either Party may terminate this Agreement, with or without cause, upon 30 days prior written notice to the other Party.

12. NOTICES

Notices to be given by one Party to the other under this Agreement shall be given in writing by personal delivery, by certified mail, return receipt requested, or express delivery service at the addresses specified below. Notices delivered personally shall be deemed received upon receipt; mailed or expressed notices shall be deemed received four days after deposit. A Party may change the address to which notice is to be given by giving notice as provided above.

Notice to County shall be addressed as follows:

Director
Kern County Department of Human Services
P.O. Box 511
Bakersfield, CA 93302

Notice to Contractor shall be addressed as follows:

Timothy Huynh | Chief Program Officer
Mercy HOUSE
P.O Box 1905
Santa Ana, CA 92702

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to prevent or render ineffective delivery of notices required or permitted under this Agreement by personal service.

13. OWNERSHIP OF DOCUMENTS

All reports, documents, and other items generated or gathered in the course of providing services to County under this Agreement are and shall remain the property of County, and

if so requested by County, shall be returned to County upon full completion of all services by Contractor or termination of this Agreement, whichever first occurs.

14. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Parties to this Agreement have read and are aware of the provisions of Section 1090 et seq. and Section 87100 et seq. of the Government Code relating to conflict of interest of public officers and employees. Contractor agrees that they are unaware of any financial or economic interest of any public officer or employee of County relating to this Agreement. It is further understood and agreed that if such a financial interest does exist at the inception of this Agreement, County may immediately terminate this Agreement by giving written notice thereof. Contractor shall comply with the requirements of Government Code Section 87100 et seq. during the term of this Agreement.

15. SOLE AGREEMENT

This document, including all attachments hereto, contains the entire agreement between the Parties relating to the services, rights, obligations, and covenants contained herein and assumed by the Parties respectively. No inducements, representations, or promises have been made, other than those recited in this Agreement. No oral promise, modification, change, or inducement shall be effective or given any force or effect.

16. AUTHORITY TO BIND COUNTY

It is understood that Contractor, in Contractor's performance of any and all duties under this Agreement, has no authority to bind County to any agreements or undertakings.

17. MODIFICATION OF AGREEMENT

This Agreement may be modified in writing only, signed by the parties in interest at the time of the modification.

18. NON-WAIVER

No covenant or condition of this Agreement can be waived except by the written consent of County. Forbearance or indulgence by County in any regard whatsoever shall not constitute a waiver of the covenant or condition to be performed by Contractor. County shall be entitled to invoke any remedy available to County under this Agreement or by law or in equity despite said forbearance or indulgence.

19. CHOICE OF LAW/VENUE

The Parties hereto agree that the provisions of this Agreement will be construed pursuant to the laws of the State of California. This Agreement has been entered into and is to be performed in the County of Kern. Accordingly, the Parties agree that the venue of any action relating to this Agreement shall be in the County of Kern.

20. CONFIDENTIALITY

No Party to this Agreement shall, without the written consent of the other Party, communicate confidential information, designated in writing or identified in this Agreement as such, to any third party and shall protect such information from inadvertent disclosure to any third party in the same manner that they protect their own confidential information,

unless such disclosure is required in response to a validly issued subpoena or other process of law. Upon completion of this Agreement, the provisions of this paragraph shall continue to survive.

- A. During the term of this Agreement, Parties may receive or create certain confidential health or medical information (“Protected Health Information” or “PHI”). This PHI is subject to protection under State and federal law, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Public Law 104-191 (“HIPAA”), the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act, Public Law 111-005 (“the HITECH Act”), and regulations promulgated thereunder by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (“HIPAA Regulations”) and other applicable laws. The Parties represent that the Parties have in place policies and procedures that will adequately safeguard any PHI the Parties receive or create, and the Parties specifically agree, on behalf of themselves, the Parties’ subcontractors and agents, to safeguard and protect the confidentiality of PHI consistent with applicable law, including currently effective provisions of HIPAA, the HITECH Act, and the HIPAA Regulations.
- B. For purposes of this section, PHI means any information, whether oral or recorded in any form or medium: (a) that relates to the past, present or future physical or mental health or condition of an individual; the provision of health care to an individual; or the past, present or future payment for the provision of health care to an individual, and (b) that identifies the individual or with respect to which there is a reasonable basis to believe the information can be used to identify the individual.
- C. The Parties acknowledge that State and federal laws relating to electronic data security and privacy are rapidly evolving and that amendment of this Agreement may be required to provide for procedures to ensure compliance with such developments. The Parties hereto specifically agree to take such action as is necessary to implement the requirements of HIPAA, the HITECH Act, and HIPAA Regulations and other applicable laws relating to the security or confidentiality of PHI. The Parties understand and agree that the Parties must provide, when requested, written evidence that the Parties are in compliance with the HITECH Act, and applicable HIPAA Regulations.
- D. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, the Parties may terminate this Agreement upon twenty (20) days’ notice in the event: (a) the Parties do not promptly provide written evidence of compliance with the HITECH Act, and applicable HIPAA Regulations, or (b) the Parties become aware that the Parties or any of the Parties’ subcontractors or agents discloses PHI in a manner that is not authorized by the Parties or by applicable law.
- E. During the term of this Agreement, the contractor agrees to abide by the Information Exchange Agreement between the Social Security Administration (“SSA”) and the California Department of Health Care Services “DHCS”), the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act Agreement between the Social Security Administration and the Health and Human Services Agency of California, the Electronic Information Exchange Security Requirement and Procedures for State and Local Agencies Exchanging Electronic Information with the Social Security Administration-Technical Systems Security Requirements (“TSSR”), and the Computer Matching Agreement between the Department of Homeland Security United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and the California Department of Health Care Services. **These documents contain sensitive material and the Contractor agrees not to**

post these documents in a public viewing area including any public Internet site. Contractor agrees to abide by all relevant requirements in the National Institute of Standards and Technology (“**NIST**”) Special Publications (“**SP**”) 800-122 and 800-53 (<https://www.nist.gov/>), and the Memorandums of Understanding that the County has with DHCS and CDSS regarding all Personally Identifiable Information (“**PII**”).

CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1) Contractor will provide a list of all employees who will have access to SSA data to the County prior to County giving Contractor access to such data. See **Exhibit “B”**.
- 2) Contractor and their staff will be required to complete an initial and annual confidentiality training. Each staff member, who handles SSA information, will sign a non-disclosure agreement stating they are aware of the requirements to maintain the confidentiality and non-disclosure of any SSA related information that is used by them to complete their daily duties and any sanctions and penalties that can follow any wrongful disclosure of PII/PHI information will be the responsibility of the Contractor. Contractor will maintain the non-disclosure statements for their employees for the required five years as stated in the TSSR and NIST guidelines. Additionally, if requested, Contractor will provide proof of such training to the Department as required by the MOUs.
- 3) Contractor agrees to allow the County to complete periodic onsite reviews of their facility to ensure that the following steps meet SSA’s requirements:
 - a) Safeguards for sensitive information;
 - b) Technological safeguards on computer(s) that have access to SSA-provided information;
 - c) Security controls and measures to prevent, detect, and resolve unauthorized access to, use of, and re-disclosure of SSA-provided information, and;
 - d) Continuous monitoring of the Contractor’s or agent’s network and infrastructure and assets.
 - e) Compliance with all applicable TSSR and NIST guidelines.
- 4) Contractor will maintain records of all PII and PHI exchanges under this contract for a period of five years and will provide such records upon request to the County for evidentiary purposes.
- 5) Contractor agrees no PII or PHI record will be stored outside the Contractor’s information system without approval by County. Contractor will physically control and securely store information system media, both paper and digital, based on the highest Federal Information Processing Standard (“**FIPS**”) 199 security category of the information recorded on the media. Contractor will restrict the pickup, receipt, transfer, and delivery of such media to authorized personnel.

- 6) Contractor is required to encrypt any PHI/PII information prior to transmission to the County as outlined in the TSSR and NIST guidelines. If encryption is not available, Contractor will work with County on alternate methods to receive any PII/PHI documents.
- 7) Contractor is required to report any breach or loss of PII/PHI within 24 hours to the appropriate County Security Officers. See **Exhibit "B"**.
- 8) Contractor will institute a destruction policy for the handling of all PII/PHI information including shredding, burning, and pulverizing of records to avoid any accidental disclosure of such information along with purging and sanitizing digital media using approved equipment, techniques, and procedures. Contractor will track, document, and verify media sanitization actions.
- 9) Contractor and their employees who wrongfully disclose PII/PHI information are subject to criminal and civil sanctions including but not limited to suspension of all access to PII information provided by the County, jail time, and court actions by the person(s) whose information was disclosed.

COUNTY RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1) County will provide Contractor with training materials which the Contractor will use to assist in completing their initial and annual training. See **Exhibit "B"** for access instructions.
- 2) County will provide Contractor access to the TSSR guidelines and the Memorandums of Understanding with DHCS and CDSS to assist them in meeting the requirements for maintaining confidentiality of all PII/PHI records. See **Exhibit "B"** for access instructions.
- 3) County will maintain records of all Contractor's and employees who handle PII/PHI as part of their daily duties and will only give access to SSA provided information as outlined in this Agreement.
- 4) If necessary, County will request records for evidentiary purposes when needed from the Contractor.
- 5) County agrees to provide a copy of their Breach Reporting Incident Policy to the Contractor along with contact names and telephone numbers for all County Privacy Officers.

21. BUSINESS ASSOCIATE ADDENDUM

Each Party agrees to execute the Business Associate Addendum attached hereto as **Exhibit "C"**, which covers obligations under HIPAA and HITECH, so that County may comply with its obligations under the HIPAA laws and Regulations.

22. ENFORCEMENT OF REMEDIES

No right or remedy herein conferred on or reserved to County is exclusive of any other right or remedy herein or by law or equity provided or permitted, but each shall be cumulative of

every other right or remedy given hereunder or now or hereafter existing by law or in equity or by statute or otherwise, and may be enforced concurrently or from time to time.

23. SEVERABILITY

Should any part, term, portion, or provision of this Agreement be decided finally to be in conflict with any law of the United States or the State of California, or otherwise be unenforceable or ineffectual, the validity of the remaining parts, terms, such portions, or provisions shall be deemed severable and shall not be affected thereby, provided remaining portions or provisions can be construed in substance to constitute the agreement which the Parties intended to enter into in the first instance.

24. COMPLIANCE WITH LAW

Contractor shall observe and comply with all applicable County, State and federal laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations now in effect or hereafter enacted, each of which are hereby made a part hereof and incorporated herein by reference.

25. CAPTIONS AND INTERPRETATION

Paragraph headings in this Agreement are used solely for convenience, and shall be wholly disregarded in the construction of this Agreement.

No provision of this Agreement shall be interpreted for or against a Party because that Party or its legal representative drafted such provision, and this Agreement shall be construed as if jointly prepared by the Parties.

26. TIME OF ESSENCE

Time is hereby expressly declared to be of the essence of this Agreement and of each and every provision hereof, and each such provision is hereby made and declared to be a material, necessary and essential part of this Agreement.

27. COUNTERPARTS

This Agreement may be executed simultaneously in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

28. FORCE MAJEURE

County shall exercise every reasonable effort to meet its obligations hereunder and shall not be liable for delays resulting from force majeure or other causes beyond its reasonable control including, but not limited to, compliance with any government law or regulation, acts of God, fires, strikes, lockouts, natural disasters, wars, riots, and/or any other cause whatsoever beyond the reasonable control of County. Any such cause will extend the performance of the delayed obligation to the extent of the delay so incurred.

29. NONDISCRIMINATION

Neither Contractor, nor any officer, agent, employee, servant or subcontractor of Contractor, shall discriminate in the treatment or employment of any individual or groups of individuals

on the grounds of age, sex, color, disability, national origin, race, marital status, sexual orientation, religion, political affiliation, or any other classification protected by law, either directly, indirectly or through contractual or other arrangements.

30. DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, and OTHER RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS

- A. Contractor certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its subcontractors [45 CFR 92.35]:
1. Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for disbarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any federal department or agency; and
 2. Have not within a three (3) year period preceding this Agreement been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, State, or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property; and
 3. Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (federal, State, or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1)(b) of this certification; and
 4. Have not within a three-year period preceding this Agreement had one or more public transactions (federal, State, or local) terminated for cause or default.
 5. Contractor shall report immediately to the County in writing any incidents of alleged fraud and/or abuse by either Contractor or Contractor's subcontractor. Contractor shall maintain any records, documents, or other evidence of fraud and abuse until otherwise notified by County.
- B. The Contractor agrees to timely execute any and all amendments to this Agreement or other required documentation relating to their subcontractor's debarment/suspension status.

31. POLITICAL OR RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY

No person performing any service or providing any goods designated under this Agreement shall participate in any political or religious activity on County time or in any manner involving the use of county property or expenditure of public funds nor conveying the implication of County endorsement or support for a candidate for local, state, or federal office.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to unlawfully limit an individual's Constitutional rights. Accordingly, the limitations contained in this section are for the sole purpose of preventing proselytizing and politicking while engaged in the performance of services under this Agreement.

32. NON-COLLUSION COVENANT

Contractor represents and agrees that it has in no way entered into any contingent fee arrangement with any firm or person concerning the obtaining of this Agreement with

County. Contractor has received from County no incentive or special payments or considerations related to the provision of services under this Agreement.

33. NO THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES

It is expressly understood and agreed that the enforcement of these terms and conditions and all rights of action relating to such enforcement shall be strictly reserved to County and Contractor. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall give or allow any claim or right of action whatsoever by any other third person. It is the express intention of County and Contractor that any such person or entity, other than County or Contractor, receiving services or benefits under this Agreement shall be deemed an incidental beneficiary only.

34. SIGNATURE AUTHORITY

Each Party represents that they have full power and authority to enter into and perform this Agreement, and the person signing this Agreement on behalf of each Party has been properly authorized and empowered to enter into this Agreement.

35. EXHIBITS

Each Exhibit attached to this Agreement is incorporated into this Agreement by reference.

[Remainder of this page is intentionally left blank.]

The Parties have executed this Agreement on the Execution Date.

COUNTY OF KERN

Dated: _____


By

Chairman, Board of Supervisors
"County"

MERCY HOUSE, Brundage Lane Navigation Center

Dated: 11/12/2025

By

DocuSigned by:

2250C27D19FA444...

Patti Long, Deputy CEO
"Contractor"

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:
Kern County Department of Human Services

Dated: 11/17/2025

By

DocuSigned by:

1797CC5A27C0405...

Lito Morillo, Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Office of the County Counsel

Dated: 11/17/2025

By

DocuSigned by:

0BBD1B479AE44B3...

Jennifer Feige, Deputy County Counsel

EXHIBIT "A"

Name _____	Relationship _____	SSN # _____
Name _____	Relationship _____	SSN # _____
Name _____	Relationship _____	SSN # _____
Name _____	Relationship _____	SSN # _____
Name _____	Relationship _____	SSN # _____
Name _____	Relationship _____	SSN # _____

I authorize the agencies listed below to exchange or obtain records/information obtained during the course of my CalWORKs/CalFresh/Health Care eligibility, case and/or service plan. I understand that the sharing of information is deemed necessary to plan or provide needed services to establish eligibility or continuing eligibility. This authorization includes all individuals listed above for whom services are provided.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Community Connection for Child Care | Kern County Mental Health Department |
| Department of Rehabilitation | KC Department of Mental Health: Children's System of Care |
| Employment Development Department | KC Superintendent of Schools/District School of Attendance |
| Employer's Training Resource | Kern County Department of Public Health |
| Housing Authority of the County of Kern | The Work Number Services |
| Kern County Department of Human Services | Kern Medical Center |
| Kern County Child Support Services | Kern County Probation Department |
| Kern County Aging & Adult Services Department | Kern Community College District |
| Other: Mercy House Brundage Lane Navigation Center | |

Restrictions of Records or Information: No Yes _____

CONSENT	
I understand that this Consent for Release of Exchange of Records and Information is effective until such time as consent is withdrawn by the undersigned or one year. I have read this consent carefully.	
Print your name _____	
Signature _____	Date _____
<small>(Participant, Parent/Caretaker, Relative/Guardian)</small>	
Print your name _____	
Signature _____	Date _____
<small>(Participant, Parent/Caretaker, Relative/Guardian)</small>	
AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE/WITNESS	
Print Agency Representative Name _____	
<small>(Eligibility technician, Social Services Worker)</small>	
Signature _____	Date _____

Original: Case Record
 Copy: Social Service Worker
 Copy: Client Copy

Obtain at application, redetermination, and when adding additional persons
 KCDHS 694-Gen (9/14)

EXHIBIT "A - 1"



Nombre _____	Parentesco _____	NSS # _____
Nombre _____	Parentesco _____	NSS # _____
Nombre _____	Parentesco _____	NSS # _____
Nombre _____	Parentesco _____	NSS # _____
Nombre _____	Parentesco _____	NSS # _____
Nombre _____	Parentesco _____	NSS # _____

Doy mi autorización para que las agencias nombradas a continuación intercambien u obtengan archivos/información obtenida durante el transcurso de la elegibilidad, mi caso y/o el plan de servicio de CalWORKs/CalFresh/Cuidado de la salud. Entiendo que compartir información es necesario para planear o proveer los servicios necesarios a fin de establecer la elegibilidad o la elegibilidad continua. Esta autorización incluye a todas las personas que aparecen arriba a quienes se les presta servicios.

Conexión Comunitaria para el Cuidado de Niños
 Departamento de Rehabilitación
 Departamento de Desarrollo de Empleos
 Recurso de Capacitación para Empleadores
 Autoridad de la Vivienda del Condado de Kern
 Departamento de Servicios Humanos del Condado de Kern
 Departamento de Servicios de Manutención de Niños del Condado de Kern
 Departamento de Servicios para Ancianos y Adultos del Condado de Kern

Departamento de Salud Mental del Condado de Kern
 Departamento de Salud Mental: Sistema de Cuidado para Niños del Condado de Kern
 Superintendente Escolar/Distrito Escolar de Asistencias del Condado de Kern
 Servicios de The Work Number
 Centro Médico Kern
 Departamento de Probación del Condado de Kern
 Distrito del Colegio Comunitario de Kern
 Otro: Mercy House Brundage Lane Navigation Center

Limitación de los archivos o la información: No Sí _____

CONSENTIMIENTO	
Yo entiendo que este consentimiento para liberar o intercambiar archivos e información es vigente hasta que dicho consentimiento sea retirado por el abajo firmante o por un año. He leído este consentimiento con cuidado.	
Escriba su nombre con letra de molde _____	
Firma _____	Fecha _____
<small>(Participante, Padre/Cuidador, Pariente/Guardián)</small>	
Escriba su nombre con letra de molde _____	
Firma _____	Fecha _____
<small>(Participante, Padre/Cuidador, Pariente/Guardián)</small>	
REPRESENTANTE/TESTIGO DE LA AGENCIA	
Escriba el nombre de la Agencia con letra de molde _____	
<small>(Técnico de Elegibilidad/Trabajador de Servicios Sociales)</small>	
Firma _____	Fecha _____

Original: Case Record
 Copy: Social Service Worker
 Copy: Client Copy

Obtain at application, redetermination, and when adding additional persons
 KCDHS 694-Gen (Sp) (9/14)

EXHIBIT B

The Department of Human Services (DHS) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the California Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS), effective September 2, 2016, and with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), effective May 18, 2017, regarding the protection of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) that we share with our Contractors. The definition of PII covered by these MOUs refers to “specific information about an individual used to trace that individual’s identity. Information such as his/her name, Social Security number (SSN), date and place of birth, mother’s maiden name or biometric records, alone, or when combined with other personal of identifying information is linkable or linked to a specific individual’s medical, educational, financial, and employment information.”

DHS’ agreements with these entities require DHS to provide a copy or access to both MOUs as well as the Technical System Security Requirements (TSSRs) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to each Contractor. DHS is required to inform Contractors of the specific information that applies to those who receive and send PII information and will provide training materials to assist the Contractors in initial and annual training requirements. Information to obtain copies of the confidential MOUs and security documents, as well as training materials, via secure file transfer, will be provided upon request by contacting BAAContracts@kerndhs.com. **You may not post any of the MOUs or the TSSR/NIST documents in a public place as specified by the Social Security Administration.**

Below are highlights of requirements outlined in the Agreement. This is not a comprehensive list, so please ensure you are familiar with responsibilities outlined in the Agreement relating to PII.

- All Contractors must provide the Department of Human Services with a list of their employees who will have access to PII information exchanged under its Agreement. Please send listing to BAAContracts@kerndhs.com.
- If there is a data breach of your technical system or any loss of PII information by you or your staff, this must be immediately reported to the Department of Human Services Security Officers. You must work with the Department’s Security Officers to determine if the breach is reportable to the State and provide evidence and a report of how the loss occurred, if requested.
- It is important to note that any PII violation carries civil and criminal sanctions for Contractors as well as employees if the SSA information is used in a manner or purpose not authorized under your Agreement with the County. Additionally, violations may result in a suspension of all SSA related documents being provided to the Contractor.

The Department of Human Services is committed to protecting all PII information that is shared with Contractors and trust Contractors share in this commitment.

Department of Human Services Security Officers:

- Technology Services Manager (661-334-3432) BAAContracts@kerndhs.com
- Human Resources Manager (661-633-7373) BAAContracts@kerndhs.com

EXHIBIT C

BUSINESS ASSOCIATE ADDENDUM

This Business Associate Addendum ("Addendum") supplements and is made a part of the contract ("Contract") by and between County of Kern, by and through the Department of Human Services ("CE") and Mercy House Living Centers – Brundage Lane Navigation Center ("BA").

RECITALS

- A. CE wishes to disclose certain information, some of which may constitute Protected Health Information ("PHI") (defined below), to BA pursuant to the terms of the Contract.
- B. CE and BA intend to protect the privacy and provide for the security of PHI disclosed to BA pursuant to the Contract in compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Public Law 104-191 ("HIPAA"), the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act, Public Law 111-005 ("the HITECH Act"), and regulations promulgated thereunder by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (the "HIPAA Regulations") and other applicable laws.
- C. As part of the HIPAA Regulations, the Privacy Rule and the Security Rule (defined below) require CE to enter into a contract containing specific requirements with BA prior to the disclosure of PHI, as set forth in, but not limited to, Title 45, Sections 164.314(a), 164.502(e) and 164.504(e) of the Code of Federal Regulations ("C.F.R.") and contained in this Addendum.

In consideration of the mutual promises below and the exchange of information pursuant to this Addendum, the parties agree as follows:

1. Definitions

Catch-all definition:

The following terms used in this Agreement shall have the same meaning as those terms in the HIPAA Rules: Breach, Data Aggregation, Designated Record Set, Disclosure, Health Care Operations, Individual, Minimum Necessary, Notice of Privacy Practices, Protected Health Information, Required by Law, Secretary, Security Incident, Subcontractor, Unsecured Protected Health Information, and Use.

Specific definitions:

- (a) Business Associate. "Business Associate" shall generally have the same meaning as the term "business associate" at 45 CFR 160.103, and in reference to the party to this agreement, shall mean the name of the Business Associate listed above.
- (b) Covered Entity. "Covered Entity" or "CE" shall generally have the same meaning as the term "covered entity" at 45 CFR 160.103, and in reference to the party to this agreement, shall mean the Kern County Department of Human Services.

- (c) HIPAA Rules. “HIPAA Rules” shall mean the Privacy, Security, Breach Notification, and Enforcement Rules at 45 CFR Part 160 and Part 164.
- (d) **Electronic Health Record** shall have the meaning given to such term in the HITECH Act, including, but not limited to, 42 U.S.C. Section 17921.
- (e) **Privacy Rule** shall mean the HIPAA Regulation that is codified at 45 C.F.R. Parts 160 and 164 (Subparts A and E).

2. **Obligations and Activities of Business Associate**

Business Associate agrees to:

- (a) Not use or disclose protected health information other than as permitted or required by the Agreement or as required by law;
- (b) Use appropriate safeguards, and comply with Subpart C of 45 CFR Part 164 with respect to electronic protected health information, to prevent use or disclosure of protected health information other than as provided for by the Agreement;
- (c) Report to covered entity any use or disclosure of protected health information not provided for by the Agreement of which it becomes aware, including breaches of unsecured protected health information as required at 45 CFR 164.410, and any security incident of which it becomes aware;
- (d) In accordance with 45 CFR 164.502(e)(1)(ii) and 164.308(b)(2), if applicable, ensure that any subcontractors that create, receive, maintain, or transmit protected health information on behalf of the business associate agree to the same restrictions, conditions, and requirements that apply to the business associate with respect to such information;
- (e) Make available protected health information in a designated record set to the “covered entity” as necessary to satisfy covered entity’s obligations under 45 CFR 164.524;
- (f) Make any amendment(s) to protected health information in a designated record set as directed or agreed to by the covered entity pursuant to 45 CFR 164.526, or take other measures as necessary to satisfy covered entity’s obligations under 45 CFR 164.526;
- (g) Maintain and make available the information required to provide an accounting of disclosures to the “covered entity” as necessary to satisfy covered entity’s obligations under 45 CFR 164.528;
- (h) To the extent the business associate is to carry out one or more of covered entity's obligation(s) under Subpart E of 45 CFR Part 164, comply with the requirements of Subpart E that apply to the covered entity in the performance of such obligation(s); and

- (i) Make its internal practices, books, and records available to the Secretary for purposes of determining compliance with the HIPAA Rules.

Permitted Uses and Disclosures by Business Associate

- (a) Business associate may only use or disclose protected health information as necessary to perform the services set forth in the attached Agreement
- (b) Business associate may use or disclose protected health information as required by law.
- (c) Business associate agrees to make uses and disclosures and requests for protected health information consistent with covered entity's minimum necessary policies and procedures.
- (d) Business associate may not use or disclose protected health information in a manner that would violate Subpart E of 45 CFR Part 164 if done by covered entity except for the specific uses and disclosures set forth below.
- (e) Business associate may use protected health information for the proper management and administration of the business associate or to carry out the legal responsibilities of the business associate.
- (f) Business associate may disclose protected health information for the proper management and administration of business associate or to carry out the legal responsibilities of the business associate, provided the disclosures are required by law, or business associate obtains reasonable assurances from the person to whom the information is disclosed that the information will remain confidential and used or further disclosed only as required by law or for the purposes for which it was disclosed to the person, and the person notifies business associate of any instances of which it is aware in which the confidentiality of the information has been breached.
- (g) Business associate may provide data aggregation services relating to the health care operations of the covered entity.

Provisions for Covered Entity to Inform Business Associate of Privacy Practices and Restrictions

- (a) Covered entity shall notify business associate of any limitation(s) in the notice of privacy practices of covered entity under 45 CFR 164.520, to the extent that such limitation may affect business associate's use or disclosure of protected health information.
- (b) Covered entity shall notify business associate of any changes in, or revocation of, the permission by an individual to use or disclose his or her protected health information, to the extent that such changes may affect business associate's use or disclosure of protected health information.

- (c) Covered entity shall notify business associate of any restriction on the use or disclosure of protected health information that covered entity has agreed to or is required to abide by under 45 CFR 164.522, to the extent that such restriction may affect business associate's use or disclosure of protected health information.
- (d) **Reporting of Improper Access, Use or Disclosure.** BA shall report to CE in writing of any access, use or disclosure of Protected Information not permitted by the Contract and Addendum, and any Breach of Unsecured PHI of which it becomes aware without unreasonable delay and in no case later than 10 calendar days after discovery [42 U.S.C. Section 17921; 45 C.F.R. Section 164.504(e)(2)(ii)(C); 45 C.F.R. Section 164.308(b)].
- (e) **Business Associate's Agents.** BA shall ensure that any agents, including subcontractors, to whom it provides Protected Information, agree in writing to the same restrictions and conditions that apply to BA with respect to such PHI and implement the safeguards required by paragraph (c) above with respect to Electronic PHI [45 C.F.R. § 164.504(e)(2)(ii)(D); 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(b)]. BA shall implement and maintain sanctions against agents and subcontractors that violate such restrictions and conditions and shall mitigate the effects of any such violation (see 45 C.F.R. §§ 164.530(f) and 164.530(e)(1)).
- (f) **Amendment of PHI.** If applicable within ten (10) days of receipt of a request from CE for an amendment of Protected Information or a record about an individual contained in a Designated Record Set, BA or its agents or subcontractors shall make such Protected Information available to CE for amendment and incorporate any such amendment to enable CE to fulfill its obligations under the Privacy Rule, including, but not limited to, 45 C.F.R. Section 164.526. If any individual requests an amendment of Protected Information directly from BA or its agents or subcontractors. BA must notify CE in writing within five (5) days of the request. Any approval or denial of amendment of Protected Information maintained by BA or its agents or subcontractors shall be the responsibility of CE [45 C.F.R. Section 164.504(e)(2)(ii)(F)].
- (g) **Accounting Rights.** Within ten (10) days of notice by CE of a request for an accounting of disclosures of Protected Information BA and its agents or subcontractors shall make available to CE the information required to provide an accounting of disclosures to enable CE to fulfill its obligations under the Privacy Rule, including, but not limited to, 45 C.F.R. Section 164.528, and the HITECH Act, including but not limited to 42 U.S.C. Section 17935(c), as determined by CE. BA agrees to implement a process that allows for an accounting to be collected and maintained by BA and its agents or subcontractors for at least six (6) years prior to the request. However, accounting of disclosures from an Electronic Health Record for treatment, payment or health care operations purposes are required to be collected and maintained for only three (3) years prior to the request, and only to the extent that BA maintains an electronic health record and is subject to this requirement. At a minimum, the information collected and maintained shall include: (i) the date of disclosure; (ii) the name of the entity or person who received Protected Information and, if known, the address of the entity or person; (iii) a brief description of Protected Information disclosed; and (iv) a brief statement of purpose of the disclosure that

reasonably informs the individual of the basis for the disclosure, or a copy of the individual's authorization, or a copy of the written request for disclosure. In the event that the request for an accounting is delivered directly to BA or its agents or subcontractors, BA shall within five (5) days of a request forward it to CE in writing. It shall be CE's responsibility to prepare and deliver any such accounting requested. BA shall not disclose any Protected Information except as set forth in Sections 2.b. of this Addendum [45 C.F.R. Sections 164.504(e)(2)(ii)(G) and 165.528]. The provisions of this subparagraph shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

- (h) **Governmental Access to Records.** BA shall make its internal practices, books and records relating to the use and disclosure of Protected Information available to CE and to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (the "Secretary") for purposes of determining BA's compliance with the Privacy Rule [45 C.F.R. Section 164.504(e)(2)(ii)(H)]. BA shall provide to CE a copy of any Protected Information that BA provides to the Secretary concurrently with providing such Protected Information to the Secretary.
- (i) **Data Ownership.** BA acknowledges that BA has no ownership rights with respect to the Protected Information.
- (j) **Notification of Breach.** During the term of the Contract, BA shall notify CE within twenty-four (24) hours of any suspected or actual breach of security, intrusion or unauthorized use or disclosure of PHI of which BA becomes aware and/or any actual or suspected use or disclosure of data in violation of any applicable federal or state laws or regulations. BA shall take (i) prompt corrective action to cure any such deficiencies and (ii) any action pertaining to such unauthorized disclosure required by applicable federal and state laws and regulations.
- (k) **Breach Pattern or Practice by Covered Entity.** Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Section 17934(b), if the BA knows of a pattern of activity or practice of the CE that constitutes a material breach or violation of the CE's obligations under the Contract or Addendum or other arrangement, the BA must take reasonable steps to cure the breach or end the violation. If the steps are unsuccessful, the BA must terminate the Contract or other arrangement if feasible, or if termination is not feasible, report the problem to the Secretary of DHHS. BA shall provide written notice to CE of any pattern of activity or practice of the CE that BA believes constitutes a material breach or violation of the CE's obligations under the Contract or Addendum or other arrangement within five (5) days of discovery and shall meet with CE to discuss and shall attempt to resolve the problem as one of the reasonable steps to cure the breach or end the violation.
- (l) **Audits, Inspection and Enforcement.** Within ten (10) days of a written request by CE, BA and its agents or subcontractors shall allow CE to conduct a reasonable inspection of the facilities, systems, books, records, agreements, policies and procedures relating to the use or disclosure of Protected Information pursuant to this Addendum for the purpose of determining whether BA has complied with this Addendum; provided, however, that (i) BA and CE shall mutually agree in advance upon the scope, timing and location of such an inspection. (ii) CE shall protect the confidentiality of all confidential and proprietary information of BA to which CE has

access during the course of such inspection; and (iii) CE shall execute a nondisclosure agreement, upon terms mutually agreed upon by the parties. If requested by BA. The fact that CE inspects, or fails to inspect, or has the right to inspect, BA's facilities, systems, books, records, agreements, policies and procedures does not relieve BA of its responsibility to comply with this Addendum, nor does CE's (i) failure to detect or (ii) detection, but failure to notify BA or require BA's remediation of any unsatisfactory practices, constitute acceptance of such practice or a waiver of County's enforcement rights under the Contract or Addendum, BA shall notify CE within ten (10) days of learning that BA has become the subject of an audit, compliance review, or complaint investigation by the Office for Civil Rights.

3. Termination

- (a) **Material Breach.** A breach by BA of any provision of this Addendum, as determined by CE, shall constitute a material breach of the Contract and shall provide grounds for immediate termination of the Contract, any provision in the Contract to the contrary notwithstanding. [45 C.F.R. Section 164.504(e)(2)(iii)].
- (b) **Judicial or Administrative Proceedings.** CE may terminate the Contract, effective immediately, if (i) BA is named as a defendant in a criminal proceeding for a violation of HIPAA, the HITECH Act, the HIPAA Regulations or other security or privacy laws or (ii) a finding or stipulation that the BA has violated any standard or requirement of HIPAA, the HITECH Act, the HIPAA Regulations or other security or privacy laws is made in any administrative or civil proceeding in which the party has been joined.
- (c) Obligations of Business Associate Upon Termination.

Upon termination of this Agreement for any reason, business associate, with respect to protected health information received from covered entity, or created, maintained, or received by business associate on behalf of covered entity, shall:

1. Retain only that protected health information which is necessary for business associate to continue its proper management and administration or to carry out its legal responsibilities;
2. Return to covered entity the remaining protected health information that the business associate still maintains in any form;
3. Continue to use appropriate safeguards and comply with Subpart C of 45 CFR Part 164 with respect to electronic protected health information to prevent use or disclosure of the protected health information, other than as provided for in this Section, for as long as business associate retains the protected health information;
4. Not use or disclose the protected health information retained by business associate other than for the purposes for which such protected health information was retained and subject to the same conditions set out in this Agreement above which applied prior to termination; and

5. Return to covered entity or, if agreed to by covered entity, destroy the protected health information retained by business associate when it is no longer needed by business associate for its proper management and administration or to carry out its legal responsibilities.

4. **Indemnification**

BA agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless CE and CE's agents, board members, elected and appointed officials and officers, employees, volunteers and authorized representatives from any and all losses, liabilities, charges, damages, claims, liens, causes of action, awards, judgments, costs, and expenses (including, but not limited to, reasonable attorneys' fees of County Counsel and counsel retained by CE, expert fees, costs of staff time, and investigation costs) of whatever kind or nature, which arise out of or are in any way connected with any negligent act or omission of BA or BA's officers, agents, employees, independent BAs, sub-contractor of any tier, or authorized representatives. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the same shall include injury or death to any person or persons; damage to any property, regardless of where located, including the property of CE; and any workers' compensation claim or suit arising from or connected with any services performed pursuant to this Agreement on behalf of BA by any person or entity.

5. **Disclaimer**

CE makes no warranty or representation that compliance by BA with this Addendum, HIPAA, the HITECH Act, or the HIPAA Regulations will be adequate or satisfactory for BA's own purposes. BA is solely responsible for all decisions made by BA regarding the safeguarding of PHI.

6. **Certification**

To the extent that CE determines that such examination is necessary to comply with CE's legal obligations pursuant to HIPAA relating to certification of its security practices, CE or its authorized agents or contractors, may, at CE's expense, examine BA's facilities, systems, procedures and records as may be necessary for such agents or contractors to certify to CE the extent to which BA's security safeguards comply with HIPAA, the HITECH Act, the HIPAA Regulations or this Addendum.

7. **Amendment**

a. **Amendment to Comply with Law.** The parties acknowledge that state and federal laws relating to data security and privacy are rapidly evolving and that amendment of the Contract or Addendum may be required to provide for procedures to ensure compliance with such developments. The parties specifically agree to take such action as is necessary to implement the standards and requirements of HIPAA, the HITECH Act, the Privacy Rule, the Security Rule and other applicable laws relating to the security or confidentiality of PHI. The parties understand and agree that CE must receive satisfactory written assurance from BA that BA will adequately safeguard all Protected Information. Upon the request of either party, the other party agrees to promptly enter into negotiations concerning the terms of an

amendment to this Addendum embodying written assurances consistent with the standards and requirements of HIPAA, the HITECH Act, the Privacy Rule, the Security Rule or other applicable laws. CE may terminate the Contract upon thirty (30) days written notice in the event (i) BA does not promptly enter into negotiations to amend the Contract or Addendum when requested by CE pursuant to this Section or (ii) BA does not enter into an amendment to the Contract or Addendum providing assurances regarding the safeguarding of PHI that CE, in its sole discretion, deems sufficient to satisfy the standards and requirements of applicable laws.

8. Assistance in Litigation or Administrative Proceedings

BA shall make itself, and any subcontractors, employees or agents assisting BA in the performance of its obligations under the Contract or Addendum, available to CE. at no cost to County, to testify as witnesses, or otherwise, in the event of litigation or administrative proceedings being commenced against County, its directors, officers or employees based upon a claimed violation of HIPAA, the HITECH Act, The Privacy Rule, the Security Rule, or other laws relating to security and privacy, except where BA or its subcontractor, employee or agent is a named adverse party.

9. No Third-Party Beneficiaries

Nothing express or implied in the Contract or Addendum is intended to confer, nor shall anything herein confer, upon any person other than County, BA and their respective successors or assigns, any rights, remedies, obligations or liabilities whatsoever.

10. Effect on Contract

Except as specifically required to implement the purposes of this Addendum, or to the extent inconsistent with this Addendum, all other terms of the Contract shall remain in force and effect.

11. Interpretation

The provisions of this Addendum shall prevail over any provisions in the Contract that may conflict or appear inconsistent with any provision in this Addendum. This Addendum and the Contract shall be interpreted as broadly as necessary to implement and comply with HIPAA, the HITECH Act, the Privacy Rule and the Security Rule. The parties agree that any ambiguity in this Addendum shall be resolved in favor of a meaning that complies and is consistent with HIPAA, the HITECH Act, the Privacy Rule and the Security Rule.