



MSA Date: August 12, 2024

Master Services Agreement

This master service agreement (“MSA”) documents the terms, objectives, and the nature and limitations of the services CliftonLarsonAllen LLP (“CLA,” “we,” “us,” and “our”) will provide for County of Humboldt (“you,” or “your”). The terms of this MSA will apply to the initial and each subsequent statement of work (“SOW”), unless the MSA is changed in a communication that you and CLA both sign or is terminated as permitted herein.

1. Scope of Professional Services

CLA will provide services as described in one or more SOW that will reference this MSA. The SOW will describe the scope of professional services; the nature, limitations, and responsibilities related to the specific services CLA will provide; and the fees for such services.

If modifications or changes are required during CLA’s performance of requested services, or if you request that we perform any additional services, we will provide you with a separate SOW for your signature. Such SOW will advise you of the additional fee and time required for such services to facilitate a clear understanding of the services.

Our services cannot be relied upon to disclose all errors, fraud, or noncompliance with laws and regulations. Except as described in the scope of professional services section of this MSA or any applicable SOW, we have no responsibility to identify and communicate deficiencies in your internal controls as part of any services.

2. Management responsibilities

You acknowledge and understand that our role is to provide the services identified in an SOW and that management, and any other parties engaging CLA, have responsibilities that are fundamental to our undertaking to perform the identified services.

3. Fees and terms

See the applicable SOW for the fees for the services.

Work may be suspended if your account becomes 60 days or more overdue and will not be resumed until your account is paid in full. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagements will be deemed to have been completed even if we have not completed the services. You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket expenditures through the date of termination.

Payments may be made utilizing checks, Bill.com, your online banking platform, CLA's electronic payment platform, or any other client-initiated payment method approved by CLA. CLA's electronic online bill pay platform claconnect.com/billpay accepts credit card and Automated Clearing House (ACH) payments. Instructions for you to make direct bank to bank wire transfers or ACH payments will be provided upon request.

4. Other Fees

You agree to compensate us for reasonable time and expenses, including time and expenses of outside legal counsel, we may incur in responding to a subpoena, a formal third-party request for records or information, or participating in a deposition or any other legal, regulatory, or other proceeding relating to services we provide pursuant to a SOW.

5. Finance charges and collection expenses

You agree that if any statement is not paid within 30 days from its billing date, the unpaid balance shall accrue interest at the monthly rate of one and one-quarter percent (1.25%), which is an annual percentage rate of 15%. In the event that any collection action is required to collect unpaid balances due us, reasonable attorney fees and expenses shall be recoverable.

6. Dispute Resolution

Any disagreement, controversy, or claim ("Dispute") that may arise out of any aspect of our services or relationship with you shall be submitted to non-binding mediation by written notice ("Mediation Notice") to the other party. In mediation, we will work with you to resolve any differences voluntarily with the aid of an impartial mediator.

The mediation will be conducted as specified by the mediator and agreed upon by the parties (i.e., you and CLA). The parties agree to discuss their differences in good faith and to attempt, with the assistance of the mediator, to reach an amicable resolution of the Dispute.

Each party will bear its own costs in the mediation. The fees and expenses of the mediator will be shared equally by the parties.

7. Limitation of remedies

These limitation of remedies provisions are not applicable for any audit or examination services provided to you.

Our role is strictly limited to the services described in an SOW, and we offer no assurance as to the results or ultimate outcomes of any services or of any decisions that you may make based on our communications with you. You agree that it is appropriate to limit the liability of CLA, its partners, principals, directors, officers, employees, and agents (each a "CLA party").

You further agree that you will not hold CLA or any other CLA party liable for any claim, cost, or damage, whether based on warranty, tort, contract, or other law, arising from or related to this MSA, the services provided under an SOW, the work product, or for any plans, actions, or results of an SOW, except to the extent authorized by this MSA. In no event shall any CLA party be liable to you

for any indirect, special, incidental, consequential, punitive, or exemplary damages, or for loss of profits or loss of goodwill, costs, or attorney fees.

The exclusive remedy available to you shall be the right to pursue claims for actual damages that are directly caused by acts or omissions that are breaches by a CLA party of our duties owed under this MSA and the specific SOW thereunder, but any recovery on any such claims shall not exceed the fees actually paid by you to CLA pursuant to the SOW that gives rise to the claim.

8. Time limitations

The nature of our services makes it difficult, with the passage of time, to gather and present evidence that fully and fairly establishes the facts underlying any dispute that may arise between you and any CLA party. The parties (you and CLA) agree that, notwithstanding any statute or law of limitations that might otherwise apply to a dispute, including one arising out of this MSA or the services performed under an SOW, for breach of contract or fiduciary duty, tort, fraud, misrepresentation or any other cause of action or remedy, any action or legal proceeding by you against any CLA party must be commenced as provided below, or you shall be forever barred from commencing a lawsuit or obtaining any legal or equitable relief or recovery. An action to recover on a dispute shall be commenced within these periods ("Limitation Period"), which vary based on the services provided, and may be modified as described in the following paragraph:

Service	Time after the date we deliver the services or work product*
Tax Consulting Services	36 months
Tax Return Preparation	36 months
Examination, compilation, and preparation services related to prospective financial statements	12 months
Audit, review, examination, agreed-upon procedures, compilation, and preparation services other than those related to prospective financial information	24 months
All Other Services	12 months

* pursuant to the SOW on which the dispute is based

If the MSA is terminated or your ongoing relationship with CLA is terminated, then the applicable Limitation Period is the lesser of the above periods or 12 months after termination of MSA or your ongoing relationship with CLA. The applicable Limitation Period applies and begins to run even if you have not suffered any damage or loss, or have not become aware of the existence or possible existence of a dispute.

9. Confidentiality

Except as permitted by the “Consent” section of this MSA, CLA will not disclose any of your confidential, proprietary, or privileged information to any person or party, unless you authorize us to do so, it is published or released by you, it becomes publicly known or available other than through disclosure by us, or disclosure is required by law, regulation, or professional standard. This confidentiality provision does not prohibit us from disclosing your information to one or more of our affiliated companies in order to provide services that you have requested from us or from any such affiliated company. Any such affiliated company shall be subject to the same restrictions on the use and disclosure of your information as apply to us. You also consent to our disclosure of information regarding the nature of services we provide to you to another independent network member of CLA Global, for the limited purpose of complying with professional obligations regarding independence and conflicts of interest.

The Internal Revenue Code contains a limited privilege for confidentiality of tax advice between you and our firm. In addition, the laws of some states likewise recognize a confidentiality privilege for some accountant-client communications. You understand that CLA makes no representation, warranty or promise, and offers no opinion with respect to the applicability of any confidentiality privilege to any information supplied or communications you have with us, and, to the extent that we follow instructions from you to withhold such information or communications in the face of a request from a third party (including a subpoena, summons or discovery demand in litigation), you agree to hold CLA harmless should the privilege be determined not to apply to particular information or communications.

The workpapers and files supporting the services we perform are the sole and exclusive property of CLA and constitute confidential and proprietary information. We do not provide access to our workpapers and files to you or anyone else in the normal course of business. Unless required by law or regulation to the contrary, we retain our workpapers and files in accordance with our record retention policy that typically provides for a retention period of seven years. After this period expires, our workpapers and files will be destroyed. Furthermore, physical deterioration or catastrophic events may shorten the time our records are available. The workpapers and files of our firm are not a substitute for your records.

Pursuant to authority given by law, regulation, or professional standards we may be requested to make certain workpapers and files available to a regulator for its regulatory oversight purposes. We will notify you of any such request, if permitted by law. Access to the requested workpapers and files will be provided to the regulator under the supervision of CLA personnel and at a location designated by our firm. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected workpapers and files to such regulator. The regulator may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

10. Other provisions

You agree that CLA will not be assuming any fiduciary responsibility on your behalf during the course of this MSA, except as may be assumed in an SOW.

CLA may, at times, utilize external web applications to receive and process information from our

clients; however, any sensitive data, including protected health information and personally identifiable information, must be redacted by you to the maximum extent possible prior to uploading the document or file. In the event that you are unable to remove or obscure all sensitive data, please contact us to discuss other potential options for transmitting the document or file.

CLA and certain owners of CLA are licensed by the California State Board of Accountancy. However, CLA has owners not licensed by the California State Board of Accountancy who may provide services under this MSA. If you have any questions regarding licensure of the personnel performing services under this MSA, please do not hesitate to contact us.

During the course of the engagement, there may be communication via fax or email. You are responsible to ensure that communications received by you or your personnel are secured and not shared with unauthorized individuals.

11. Consent to use financial information

We regularly aggregate anonymized client data and perform a variety of analyses using that aggregated data. Some of these analyses are published to clients or released publicly. However, we are always careful to preserve the confidentiality of the separate information that we obtain from each client, as required by the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct and various laws. Your acceptance of this MSA will serve as your consent to our use of County of Humboldt anonymized data in performing and reporting on these cost comparison, performance indicator and/or benchmarking analyses.

Unless authorized by law or the client consents, we cannot use a client's tax return information for purposes other than the preparation and filing of the client's tax return. By signing and dating this MSA, you authorize CLA to use any and all information furnished to CLA for or in connection with the preparation of the tax returns under this MSA, for a period of up to six (6) years from the date of this MSA, in connection with CLA's preparation of the types of reports described in the foregoing paragraph.

12. Consent to send you publications and other materials

For your convenience, CLA produces a variety of publications, hard copy and electronic, to keep you informed about pertinent business and personal financial issues. This includes published articles, invitations to upcoming seminars, webinars and webcasts, newsletters, surveys, and press releases. To determine whether these materials may be of interest to you, CLA will need to use your tax return information. Such tax information includes your name and address as well as the business and financial information you provided to us.

By signing and dating this MSA, you authorize CLA to use the information that you provide to CLA during the preparation of your tax returns to determine whether to offer you relevant materials. Your consent is valid until further notice.

13. Subcontractors

CLA may, at times, use subcontractors to perform services under this MSA, and they may have access to your information and records. Any such subcontractors will be subject to the same restrictions on

the use of such information and records as apply to CLA under this MSA.

14. Technology

CLA may, at times, use third-party software applications to perform services under this MSA. You acknowledge the software vendor may have access to your data.

15. Termination of MSA

This MSA shall continue for five years from August 12, 2024, unless terminated earlier by giving appropriate notice. Either party may terminate this MSA at any time by giving 30 days written notice to the other party.

Upon termination of the MSA, the provisions of this MSA shall continue to apply to all services rendered prior to termination.

16. Agreement

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you and believe this MSA and the related appendices accurately summarizes the significant terms of our relationship. This MSA, along with the applicable addendum(s) and SOW(s), constitute the entire agreement regarding services to be performed and supersedes all prior agreements (whether oral or written), understandings, negotiations, and discussions between you and CLA. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our relationship as described in this MSA, please sign, date, and return.

17. Nuclear Free Humboldt County Ordinance Compliance

By executing this Agreement, CLA certifies that it is not a Nuclear Weapons Contractor, in that CLA is not knowingly or intentionally engaged in the research, development, production or testing of nuclear warheads, nuclear weapons systems or nuclear weapons components, as defined by the Nuclear Free Humboldt County Ordinance. CLA agrees to notify the County of Humboldt immediately if it becomes a Nuclear Weapons Contractor as defined above. The County of Humboldt may immediately terminate this Agreement if it determines that the foregoing certification is false or if CLA subsequently becomes a Nuclear Weapons Contractor.

18. Indemnification and Insurance

CLA hereby agrees to terms and conditions regarding indemnification and insurance set forth in Appendix 1 which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as if set forth in full.

19. HIPAA Business Associate Agreement

CLA hereby agrees to adhere to the terms and conditions set forth in Appendix 2 - County of Humboldt HIPAA Business Associate Agreement, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as if set forth in full.

Response:

This MSA correctly sets forth the understanding of County of Humboldt.

CLA
CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Brianne Wiese

Brianne Wiese, Principal

SIGNED 8/29/2024, 2:58:39 PM PDT

Client
County of Humboldt

SIGN:

Elishia Hayes, County Administrative Officer

DATE:

APPENDIX I

INDEMNIFICATION:

- A. Hold Harmless, Defense and Indemnification. CLA shall hold harmless, defend and indemnify COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT and its agents, officers, officials, employees and volunteers from and against any and all claims, demands, losses, damages and liabilities of any kind or nature, including, without limitation, attorney's fees and other costs of litigation, directly arising out of, or directly in connection with, CLA's gross negligence or willful misconduct in the performance of its duties and/or obligations contained herein, except such loss or damage which was caused by the sole negligence or willful misconduct of COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT.
- B. Effect of Insurance. Acceptance of the insurance required by this Agreement shall not relieve CLA from liability under this provision. This provision shall apply to all claims for damages related to CLA's performance hereunder, regardless of whether any insurance is applicable or not. The insurance policy limits set forth herein shall not act as a limitation upon the amount of indemnification or defense to be provided hereunder.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS:

This Agreement shall not be executed by COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, and CLA is not entitled to any rights hereunder, unless certificates of insurance, or other proof that the following provisions have been complied with, are filed with the Humboldt County Office of Risk Management.

- A. General Insurance Requirements. Without limiting CLA's indemnification obligations set forth herein, CLA, and its subcontractors hereunder, shall take out and maintain, throughout the entire term of this Agreement, and any extensions thereof, the following policies of insurance, placed with insurers authorized to do business in the State of California with a current A.M. Bests rating of no less than A: VII or its equivalent against personal injury, death and property damage which may arise from, or in connection with, the activities of CLA or its agents, officers, directors, employees, licensees, invitees, assignees or subcontractors:
 - 1. Comprehensive or Commercial General Liability Insurance at least as broad as Insurance Services Office Commercial General Liability Coverage (occurrence form CG 0001), in an amount of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) per occurrence for any one (1) incident, including, without limitation, personal injury, death and property damage. If a general aggregate limit is used, such limit shall apply separately hereto or shall be twice the required occurrence limit.
 - 2. CLA will not drive an automobile in the performance of the services provided pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Agreement. If CLA's responsibilities are changed in such a way that driving will be required during the performance of the services set forth herein, CLA shall take out and maintain Automobile/Motor Liability Insurance with a limit of liability not less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) combined single limit coverage. Such insurance shall include coverage of all owned, hired and non-owned vehicles, and be at least as broad as Insurance Service Offices Form Code 1 (any auto).
 - 3. Workers' Compensation Insurance, as required by the California Labor Code, with statutory limits, and Employers Liability Insurance with a limit of no less than One

Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) per accident for bodily injury or disease. Said policy shall contain, or be endorsed to contain, a waiver of subrogation against COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT and its agents, officers, officials, employees and volunteers.

4. Professional Liability Insurance – Error and Omission Coverage including coverage in an amount no less than Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) per claim (Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000.00) general aggregate). Said insurance shall be maintained for the statutory period during which CLA may be exposed to liability regarding the services provided pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Agreement. CLA shall require that such coverage be incorporated into its professional services agreements with any other entities.
- B. Special Insurance Requirements. Said policies shall, unless otherwise specified herein, be endorsed with the following provisions:
1. The Comprehensive or Commercial General Liability Policy shall provide that COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, and its agents, officers, officials, employees and volunteers, are covered as additional insured for liability arising out of the operations performed by, or on behalf of, CLA. The coverage shall contain no special limitations on the scope of protection afforded to COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT or its agents, officers, officials, employees and volunteers. Said policy shall also contain a provision stating that such coverage:
 - a. Includes contractual liability.
 - b. Does not contain exclusions as to property damage caused by explosion or collapse of structures or underground damage, commonly referred to as “XCU Hazards.”
 - c. Is the primary insurance with regard to COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT.
 - d. Does not contain a pro-rata, excess only and/or escape clause.
 - e. Contains a cross liability, severability of interest or separation of insureds clause.
 2. The above-referenced policies shall not be canceled, non-renewed or materially reduced in coverage without prior written notice being provided to COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT within 72 hours of CLAs notification of the change in coverage in accordance with the notice requirements set forth herein. It is further understood that CLA shall not terminate such coverage until COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT receives adequate proof that equal or better insurance has been secured.
 3. The inclusion of more than one (1) insured shall not operate to impair the rights of one (1) insured against another insured, and the coverage afforded shall apply as though separate policies had been issued to each insured, but the inclusion of more than one (1) insured shall not operate to increase the limits of the insurer’s liability.

4. For claims related to this Agreement, CLA's insurance is the primary coverage to COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, and any insurance or self-insurance programs maintained thereby are excess to CLA's insurance and will not be used to contribute therewith.
 5. Any failure to comply with the terms and conditions of this Agreement shall not affect the coverage provided to COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT or its agents, officers, officials, employees and volunteers.
 6. CLA shall furnish COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT with certificates and original endorsements effecting the required coverage prior to execution of this Agreement. The endorsements shall be on forms approved by the Humboldt County Risk Manager. Any deductible or self-insured retention over One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) shall be disclosed to, and approved by, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT. If CLA does not keep all required policies in full force and effect, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT may, in addition to any other available remedies, take out the necessary insurance and deduct the cost of said insurance from the monies owed to CLA under this Agreement.
- C. Insurance Notices. Any and all insurance notices required to be given pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Agreement shall be sent to the addresses set forth below in accordance with the notice requirements contained herein.

COUNTY: County of Humboldt
Attention: Risk Management
825 Fifth Street, Room 131
Eureka, California 95501

CLA: Clifton Larson Allen
Attention: Brianne Wiese, Principal
301 N. Lake Ave
Pasadena, California 91101

APPENDIX 2
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT HIPAA BUSINESS ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT
CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, COUNTY, as a “Covered Entity” wishes to disclose certain information to CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, hereafter referred to as “BUSINESS ASSOCIATE” pursuant to the terms of the Agreement, some of which may constitute Protected Health Information (“PHI”).

WHEREAS, COUNTY and BUSINESS ASSOCIATE intend to protect the privacy and provide for the security of PHI disclosed to BUSINESS ASSOCIATE pursuant to the Agreement in compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Public Law 104-191 (“HIPAA”), the Health Information and 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.

WHEREAS, pursuant to HIPAA Regulations, the Privacy Rule and Security Rule (defined below) COUNTY is required to enter into an Agreement containing specific requirements with BUSINESS ASSOCIATE 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 Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties hereto mutually agree as follows:

1. DEFINITIONS:

- A. Breach.** As used herein, the term “Breach” shall have the meaning given to such term under the HITECH Act and HIPAA Regulations [42 U.S.C. Section 17921 and 45 C.F.R. Section 164.402].
- B. Breach Notification Rule.** As used herein, the term “Breach of Notification Rule” shall mean the HIPAA Regulation that is codified at 45 C.F.R. Parts 160 and 164, Subparts A and D.
- C. Business Associate.** As used herein, the term “Business Associate” shall have the meaning given to such term under the Privacy Rule, the Security Rule, and the HITECH Act, including, but not limited to, 42 U.S.C. Section 17938 and 45 C.F.R. Section 160.103.
- D. Covered Entity.** As used herein, the term “Covered Entity” shall have the meaning given to such term under the Privacy and Security Rules, including, without limitation, 45 C.F.R. Section 160.103.
- E. Designated Record Set.** As used herein, the term “Designated Record Set” shall have the meaning given to such term under the Privacy Rule, including, but not limited to, 45 C.F.R. Section 164.501.
- F. Electronic Protected Health Information.** As used herein, the term “Electronic Protected Health Information” means Protected Health Information that is maintained in or transmitted by electronic media.
- G. Electronic Health Record.** As used herein, the term “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.

- H. **Health Care Operations.** As used herein, the term “Health Care Operations” shall have the meaning given to such term under the Privacy Rule, including, but not limited to, 45 C.F.R. Section 164.501.
- I. **Privacy Rule.** As used herein, the term “Privacy Rule” shall mean the HIPAA Regulation that is codified at 45 C.F.R. Parts 160 and 164, Subparts A and E.
- J. **Protected Health Information.** As used herein, the term “Protected Health Information” (“PHI”) means any information, whether oral or recorded in any form or medium: (i) that relates to the past, present or future physical or mental 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 (ii) 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, and shall have the meaning given to the term under the Privacy Rule, including, but not limited to, 45 C.F.R. Section 164.501. Protected Health Information includes Electronic Protected Health Information [45 C.F.R. Sections 160.103, 164.501].
- K. **Protected Information.** As used herein, the term “Protected Information” shall mean PHI provided by COUNTY to BUSINESS ASSOCIATE or created, maintained, received, or transmitted by BUSINESS ASSOCIATE on COUNTY’s behalf.
- L. **Security Incident.** As used herein, the term “Security Incident” shall have the same meaning given to such term under the Security Rule, including, but not limited to, 45 C.F.R. Section 164.304.
- M. **Security Rule.** As used herein, the term “Security Rule” shall mean the HIPAA Regulation that is codified at 45 C.F.R. Parts 160 and 164, Subparts A and C.
- N. **Unsecured PHI.** As used herein, the term “Unsecured PHI” shall have the meaning given to such term under the HITECH Act and any guidance issued pursuant to such Act including, but not limited to, 42 U.S.C. Section 17932(h) and 45 C.F.R. Section 164.402.

2. **OBLIGATIONS OF BUSINESS ASSOCIATE:**

- A. **Permitted Uses.** BUSINESS ASSOCIATE shall use Protected Information only for the purpose of performing BUSINESS ASSOCIATE’s obligations under the Agreement and as permitted or required under the Agreement, or as required by law. Further, BUSINESS ASSOCIATE shall not use Protected Information in any manner that would constitute a violation of the Privacy Rule or the HITECH Act if so used by COUNTY. However, BUSINESS ASSOCIATE may use Protected Information as necessary (i) for the proper management and administration of BUSINESS ASSOCIATE; (ii) to carry out the legal responsibilities of BUSINESS ASSOCIATE; or (iii) as required by law. [45 C.F.R. Sections 164.504(e)(2), 164.504(e)(4)(i)].
- B. **Permitted Disclosures.** BUSINESS ASSOCIATE shall disclose Protected Information only for the purpose of performing BUSINESS ASSOCIATE’s obligations under the Agreement and as permitted or required under the Agreement, or as required by law. BUSINESS ASSOCIATE shall not disclose Protected Information in any manner that would constitute a violation of the Privacy Rule or the HITECH Act if so disclosed by COUNTY. However, BUSINESS ASSOCIATE may disclose Protected Information as necessary (i) for the proper management and administration of BUSINESS ASSOCIATE; (ii) to carry out the legal responsibilities of BUSINESS ASSOCIATE; or (iii) as required by law. If BUSINESS ASSOCIATE discloses Protected Information to a third-party, BUSINESS ASSOCIATE must obtain, prior to making

any such disclosure, (i) reasonable *written* assurances from such third-party that such Protected Information will be held confidential as provided pursuant to this Agreement and used or disclosed only as required by law or for the purposes for which it was disclosed to such third-party, and (ii) a written agreement from such third-party to immediately notify BUSINESS ASSOCIATE of any breaches, suspected breaches, security incidents, or unauthorized uses or disclosures of the Protected Information in accordance with paragraph 2.1. of the Agreement, to the extent it has obtained knowledge of such occurrences [42 U.S.C. Section 17932; 45 C.F.R. Section 164.504(e)].

- C. **Prohibited Uses and Disclosures.** BUSINESS ASSOCIATE shall not use or disclose PHI other than as permitted or required by the Agreement, or as required by law. BUSINESS ASSOCIATE shall not use or disclose Protected Information for fundraising or marketing purposes. BUSINESS ASSOCIATE shall not disclose Protected Information to a health plan for payment or health care operations purposes if the patient has requested this special restriction, and has paid out of pocket in full for the health care item or service to which PHI solely relates [42 U.S.C. Section 17935(a) and 45 C.F.R. Section 164.522(a)(vi)]. BUSINESS ASSOCIATE shall not directly or indirectly receive remuneration in exchange for Protected Information, except with prior written consent of COUNTY and as permitted by the HITECH Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 17935(d)(2), and the HIPAA regulations, 45 C.F.R. Section 164.502(a)(5)(ii); however this prohibition shall not affect payment by COUNTY to BUSINESS ASSOCIATE for services provided pursuant to the Agreement.
- D. **Appropriate Safeguards.** BUSINESS ASSOCIATE shall implement appropriate safeguards as are necessary to prevent the use or disclosure of Protected Information otherwise than as permitted by the Agreement, including, but not limited to, administrative, physical and technical safeguards in accordance with the Security Rule, including but not limited to, 45 C.F.R. Sections 164.308, 164.310, and 164.312. [45 C.F.R. Section 164.504(e)(2)(ii)(B); 45 C.F.R. Section 164.308(b)]. BUSINESS ASSOCIATE shall comply with the policies, procedures and documentation requirements of the Security Rule, including, but not limited to, 45 C.F.R. Section 164.316. [42 U.S.C. Section 17931].
- E. **Business Associate's Subcontractors and Agents.** BUSINESS ASSOCIATE shall ensure that any agents and subcontractors that create, receive, maintain or transmit Protected Information on behalf of COUNTY, agree in writing to the same restrictions and conditions that apply to COUNTY with respect to such Protected Information and implement the safeguards required by paragraph 2(D) above with respect to Electronic PHI [45 C.F.R. Section 164.504(e)(2)(ii)(D); 45 C.F.R. Section 164.308(b)]. BUSINESS ASSOCIATE 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. Sections 164.530(f) and 164.530(e)(1)).
- F. **Access to Protected Information.** If BUSINESS ASSOCIATE maintains a designated record set on behalf of COUNTY, BUSINESS ASSOCIATE shall make Protected Information maintained by BUSINESS ASSOCIATE or its agents or subcontractors in Designated Record Sets available to COUNTY for inspection and copying within five (5) days of a request by COUNTY to enable COUNTY to fulfill its obligations under California Health and Safety Code Section 123110 and the Privacy Rule, including, but not limited to, 45 C.F.R. Section 164.524 [45 C.F.R. Section 164.504(e)(2)(ii)(e)]. If BUSINESS ASSOCIATE maintains Protected Information in electronic format, BUSINESS ASSOCIATE shall provide such information in electronic format as necessary to enable COUNTY to fulfill its obligations under the HITECH Act and HIPAA Regulations, including, but not limited to, 42 U.S.C. Section 17935(e) and 45 C.F.R. Section 164.524.

- G. Amendment of PHI.** If BUSINESS ASSOCIATE maintains a designated record set on behalf of COUNTY, within ten (10) days of a request by COUNTY for an amendment of Protected Information or a record about an individual contained in a Designated Record Set, BUSINESS ASSOCIATE and its agents and subcontractors shall make such Protected Information available to COUNTY for amendment and incorporate any such amendment or other documentation to enable COUNTY to fulfill its obligations under the Privacy Rule, including, but not limited to, 45 C.F.R. Section 164.526. If an individual requests an amendment of Protected Information directly from BUSINESS ASSOCIATE or its agents or subcontractors, BUSINESS ASSOCIATE must notify COUNTY in writing within five (5) days of the request and of any approval or denial of amendment of Protected Information maintained by BA or its agents or subcontractors [45 C.F.R. Section 164.504(e)(2)(ii)(F)].
- H. Accounting of Disclosures.** Within ten (10) days of a request by COUNTY for an accounting of disclosures of Protected Information, BUSINESS ASSOCIATE and its agents and subcontractors shall make available to COUNTY the information required to provide an accounting of disclosures to enable COUNTY 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 COUNTY. BUSINESS ASSOCIATE agrees to implement a process that allows for an accounting to be collected and maintained by BUSINESS ASSOCIATE and its agents and 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 BUSINESS ASSOCIATE maintains an Electronic Health Record. 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. If a patient submits a request for an accounting directly to BUSINESS ASSOCIATE or its agents or subcontractors, BUSINESS ASSOCIATE shall within five (5) days of the request forward it to COUNTY in writing.
- I. Governmental Access to Records.** BUSINESS ASSOCIATE shall make its internal practices, books and records relating to the use and disclosure of Protected Information available to COUNTY and to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (the "Secretary") for purposes of determining BUSINESS ASSOCIATE's compliance with HIPAA [45 C.F.R. Section 164.504(e)(2)(ii)(I)]. BUSINESS ASSOCIATE shall concurrently provide COUNTY with copies of any Protected Information and other records that BUSINESS ASSOCIATE provides to the Secretary.
- J. Minimum Necessary.** BUSINESS ASSOCIATES and its agents and subcontractors shall request, use and disclose only the minimum amount of Protected Information necessary to accomplish the purpose of the request, use or disclosure. [42 U.S.C. Section 17935(b); 45 C.F.R. Section 164.514(d)]. BUSINESS ASSOCIATE understands and agrees that the definition of "minimum necessary" is in flux and shall keep itself informed of guidance issued by the Secretary with respect to what constitutes "minimum necessary."
- K. Data Ownership.** BUSINESS ASSOCIATE understands that BUSINESS ASSOCIATE has no ownership rights with respect to the Protected Information.
- L. Notification of Possible Breach.** BUSINESS ASSOCIATE shall notify COUNTY within twenty-four (24) hours of any suspected or actual breach of Protected Information; any use or

disclosure of Protected Information not permitted by the Agreement; any security incident (i.e., any attempted or successful unauthorized access, use, disclosure, modification, or destruction of information or interference with system operations in an information system) related to Protected Information, and any actual or suspected use or disclosure of data in violation of any applicable federal or state laws by BUSINESS ASSOCIATE or its agents or subcontractors. The notification shall include, to the extent possible, the identification of each individual whose unsecured Protected Information has been, or is reasonably believed by the BUSINESS ASSOCIATE to have been accessed, acquired, used, or disclosed, as well as any other available information that COUNTY is required to include in notification to the individual, the media, the Secretary, and any other entity under the Breach Notification Rule and any other applicable state or federal laws, including, but not limited, to 45 C.F.R. Section 164.404 through 45 C.F.R. Section 164.1408, at the time of the notification required by this paragraph or promptly thereafter as information becomes available. BUSINESS ASSOCIATE shall take (i) prompt corrective action to cure any deficiencies and (ii) any action pertaining to unauthorized uses or disclosures required by applicable federal and state laws. [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)]. Any and all notices required pursuant to the terms and conditions of this provision shall be submitted to COUNTY at the following address:

COUNTY: Humboldt County DHHS Compliance and Quality Assurance Office
Attention: Compliance and Quality Assurance Administrator & Privacy Officer
507 F Street
Eureka, California 95501
(707) 441-5410
Email: dhhscompliance@co.humboldt.ca.us

M. Breach Pattern or Practice by Business Associate's Subcontractors and Agents. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Section 17934(b) and 45 C.F.R. Section 164.504(e)(1)(ii), if BUSINESS ASSOCIATE knows of a pattern or activity or practice of a subcontractor or agent that constitutes a material breach or violation of the subcontractor or agent's obligations under the Agreement or other arrangement, BUSINESS ASSOCIATE must take reasonable steps to cure the breach or end the violation. If the steps are unsuccessful, BUSINESS ASSOCIATE must terminate the Agreement or other arrangement if feasible. BUSINESS ASSOCIATE shall provide written notice to COUNTY of any pattern of activity or practice of a subcontractor or agent that BUSINESS ASSOCIATE believes constitutes a material breach or violation of the subcontractor or agent's obligations under the Agreement or other arrangement within five (5) days of discovery and shall meet with COUNTY to discuss and attempt to resolve the problem as one (1) of the reasonable steps to cure the breach or end the violation.

N. Audits, Inspection and Enforcement. Within ten (10) days of a request by COUNTY, BUSINESS ASSOCIATE and its agents and subcontractors shall allow COUNTY or its agents or subcontractors 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 Agreement for the purpose of determining whether BUSINESS ASSOCIATE has complied with this Agreement or maintains adequate security safeguards. BUSINESS ASSOCIATE shall notify COUNTY within five (5) days of learning that BUSINESS ASSOCIATE has become the subject of an audit, compliance review, or complaint investigation by the Office for Civil Rights or other state or federal government entity.

3. TERMINATION:

A. Material Breach. A breach by BUSINESS ASSOCIATE of any provision of this Agreement,

as determined by COUNTY, shall constitute a material breach of the Agreement and shall provide grounds for *immediate* termination of the Agreement, any provision in the Agreement to the contrary notwithstanding. [45 C.F.R. Section 164.504(e)(2)(iii)].

- B. Effect of Termination.** Upon termination of the Agreement for any reason, BUSINESS ASSOCIATE shall, at the option of COUNTY, return or destroy all Protected Information that BUSINESS ASSOCIATE or its agents or subcontractors still maintain in any form, and shall retain no copies of such Protected Information. If return or destruction is not feasible, as determined by COUNTY, BUSINESS ASSOCIATE shall continue to extend the protections of Section 2 of this Agreement to such information, and limit further use and disclosure of such PHI to those purposes that make the return or destruction of the information infeasible [45 C.F.R. Section 164.504(e)(ii)(2)(J)]. If COUNTY elects destruction of the PHI, BUSINESS ASSOCIATE shall certify in writing to COUNTY that such PHI has been destroyed in accordance with the Secretary's guidance regarding proper destruction of PHI.

4. INTERPRETATION:

Any ambiguity in this Agreement shall be resolved in favor of a meaning that complies and is consistent with HIPAA, the HITECH Act, and the HIPAA regulations.