MEMORANDUM
PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Community Health

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Richard J. Burton, M.D., M.P.H.
Placer County Health Officer and Director of Health and Human Services
Michael P. Mulligan, M.D., M.B.A., Assistant Health Officer

DATE: August 1, 2006

SUBJECT: Appointment of Dennis Cain as the County Privacy & Security Officer for HIPAA

ACTION REQUESTED:

Appoint Dennis Cain, Utilization Review/Quality Assurance Coordinator, as the County Privacy & Security Officer as required by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

BACKGROUND:

On September 10, 2002, your Board appointed Larry Anderson, Client Services Program Manager, as the County's first Privacy & Security Officer, pursuant to the Federal requirements set forth in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Placer County is covered by the regulations contained in this broad patient information privacy and security law, because of our roles as both a healthcare provider and a healthcare plan (serving the Medi-Cal population).

We are recommending that Dennis Cain, an existing HHS employee, assume these responsibilities, in addition to his present role. Mr. Cain is assigned to our Community Health/Clinics Division, working with Clinic medical and administrative staff to ensure that that outside primary care offered to County patients enrolled in our Medically Indigent Adult program is appropriate and cost-effective. He is particularly well suited for this added role, having dealt with patient information privacy issues throughout his nursing background and his administrative experience in mental health services for another California county for over 20 years.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The ongoing HIPAA implementation tasks are being performed with existing administrative staff and, therefore, do not represent additional costs. HHS is tracking these costs to accurately account for and document our compliance effort and to optimize any future reimbursement potential.

51

58