



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Human Services Department

Subject: Approve Privacy and Security Agreement with California Department of Social Services

Meeting Date: June 24, 2025

Formal Title: Approve the Privacy and Security Agreement with the California Department of Social Services to ensure the privacy and security of personally identifiable information

Recommended Actions

Approve the Privacy and Security Agreement with the California Department of Social Services.

Executive Summary

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) requires all County welfare departments to enter into privacy and security agreements (PSA) to ensure the privacy and security of personally identifiable information (PII) used by the County welfare departments during the eligibility determination process. On August 27, 2024 (DOC-2024-664), the Board of Supervisors authorized the Human Services Department (HSD) to execute the agreement. CDSS went through an extensive revision process of the PSA, which caused a delay in Counties receiving the final version. HSD had to defer the ratification of this agreement on November 19, 2024 (DOC-2024-906) and on January 28, 2025 (DOC-2025-058). The PSA for CDSS was released by the State department at the end of March, and HSD has signed the agreement and returned to CDSS for execution.

Discussion

The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) require all County welfare departments to execute PSAs to ensure the privacy and security of personally identifiable information (PII) used by the County welfare departments during the eligibility determination process. The purpose of the renewed PSAs is to ensure the privacy and security of PII contained in the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS), the Applicant Income and Eligibility Verification System (IEVS), and data received from the Social Security Administration (SSA) or other sources.

HSD received the final PSA agreement from CDSS on March 27, 2025. The new term of the agreements is from September 1, 2024, through September 1, 2028, with minor language changes to meet current standards.

After internal Human Services Department, County Counsel and Risk Management review of the revised agreement, the PSA was executed in early May and returned to CDSS. We have been informed by CDSS that they are short-staffed, and the processing of the agreements will take longer than usual. Given that the County has reviewed, approved and signed the PSA, we are presenting the agreement as a ratification, as we wait for CDSS to return the fully executed agreement.

Financial Impact

Approving the CDSS PSA does not require a General Fund contribution, as it is a non-monetary agreement.

Strategic Initiatives

Operational Plan - Operational Excellence

Submitted By:

Randy Morris, Director of Human Services

Recommended By:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Executive Officer

Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this agenda item.