

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF LAKE AND CALIFORNIA
HEARING OFFICERS, LLP FOR HEARING OFFICER SERVICES
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-25**

This Agreement is made and entered into by and between the County of Lake, hereinafter referred to as “County,” and California Hearing Officers, LLP, hereinafter referred to as “Contractor,” collectively referred to as the “parties.”

RECITALS

WHEREAS, County is required by California Assembly Bill 2275 to provide for mental health certification review hearings in accordance with California Welfare and Institutions Code §5250 *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, Contractor provides mental health certification review hearing officers for patients involuntarily detained.

NOW, THEREFORE, based on the forgoing recitals, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. SERVICES. Subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement, California Hearing Officers, LLP, provided to County the services described in the “**Scope of Services**” attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit A** at the time and place and in the manner specified therein. In the event of a conflict in or inconsistency between the terms of this Agreement and **Exhibits A/B/C/D**, the Agreement shall prevail.

2. TERM. **This Agreement shall commence on July 1, 2024, and shall terminate on June 30, 2025, unless earlier terminated as hereinafter provided.** In the event County desires to temporarily continue services after the expiration of this Agreement, such continuation shall be deemed on a month-to-month basis, subject to the same terms, covenants, and conditions contained herein.

3. COMPENSATION. Contractor provided the services described hereunder in **Exhibit A**, titled, “**Scope of Services.**” **Compensation to Contractor shall not exceed Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00).**

The County shall compensate Contractor for services rendered, in accordance with the provisions set forth in **Exhibit B**, titled “**Fiscal Provisions**” attached hereto and incorporated herein. Contractor is not in default under any provisions of this Agreement.

4. MODIFICATION. This Agreement may only be modified by a written amendment hereto, executed by both parties; however, matters concerning scope of services which do not affect the compensation may be modified by mutual written consent of Contractor and County executed by the Lake County Behavioral Health Services Director.

5. NOTICES. All notices that are required to be given by one party to the other under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been given if delivered personally or enclosed in a properly addressed envelope and deposited with the United States Post Office for delivery by registered or certified mail addressed to the parties at the following addresses, unless such addresses are changed by notice, in writing, to the other party.

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County of Lake
Lake County Behavioral Health Services
PO Box 1024
6302 Thirteenth Avenue
Lucerne, CA 95458-1024
Attn: Elise Jones,
Director, Lake County Behavioral Health

California Hearing Officers, LLP
101 Parkshore Drive
Folsom, CA 95630

Attn: Kamardeep Athwal
dathwal@cahearingofficers.com

7. **EXHIBITS**. The Agreement Exhibits, as listed below, are incorporated herein by reference:

- Exhibit A - Scope of Services
- Exhibit B - Fiscal Provisions
- Exhibit C - Compliance Provisions
- Exhibit D – Business Associate – Qualified Service Organization Agreement

8. **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**. Contractor warrants that it will comply with all terms and conditions of this Agreement and Exhibits, and all other applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and policies.

9. **INTEGRATION**. This Agreement, including attachments, constitutes the entire agreement between the parties regarding its subject matter and supersedes all prior Agreements, related proposals, oral and written, and all negotiations, conversations or discussions heretofore and between the parties.

County and Contractor have executed this Agreement on the day and year first written above.

COUNTY OF LAKE

CALIFORNIA HEARING OFFICERS, LLP

CHAIR, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

kamardeep athwal
kamardeep.athwal (Jun 13, 2024 09:21 GMT+1)

Kamardeep Athwal, Esq.

Date: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
LLOYD GUINTIVANO
County Counsel

ATTEST:
SUSAN PARKER
Clerk to the Board of Supervisors

By: 

By: _____

Date: 06/06/2024

Date: _____

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EXHIBIT “A” – SCOPE OF SERVICES

1. CONTRACTOR’S RESPONSIBILITIES.

- 1.1 Contractor, and Contractor’s officers, employees, and agents performing the work or services required by this agreement, shall possess and maintain all necessary licenses, permits, certificates, and credentials required by the laws of the United States, the State of California, County, and all other appropriate governmental agencies, including any certification and credentials required by County. Failure to maintain the licenses, permits, certificates, and credentials shall be deemed a breach of this agreement and constitutes grounds for the termination of this agreement by County.
- 1.2 Contractor shall perform the work or services required by this agreement in accordance with the industry and/or professional standards applicable to Contractor’s work or services.
- 1.3 Contractor shall cause an appropriately qualified hearing officer to provide 5150 certification review hearings for psychiatric patients that are involuntarily detained on a 5150 hold. Contractor shall cause hearing officer to provide written findings to County as to whether probable cause exists to continue to detain a patient ("Services"). Such Services shall include the following:
- 1. Contractor shall cause hearing officer to conduct hearing sessions at times mutually agreed upon with County in accordance with all applicable Laws (as defined below), including without limitation California Welfare & Institutions Code §5250 et seq, and
 - 2. Contractor shall maintain appropriate documentation relating to all hearings conducted by a hearing officer.
- 1.4 Contractor shall at all times during the term of this Agreement cause its hearing officers to have all appropriate license(s) to perform the Services, as may be required by applicable law, and to provide to County a copy of such current, valid license(s) upon request.
- 1.5 Contractor shall conduct certification hearings via HIPAA-secured video conferencing or telephone. County will provide Contractor with the HIPAA-secured video conference invitation.

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EXHIBIT “B” – FISCAL PROVISIONS

1. **CONTRACTOR’S FINANCIAL RECORDS.** Contractor shall keep financial records for funds received hereunder, separate from any other funds administered by Contractor, and maintained in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and Procedures and the Office of Management and Budget’s Cost Principles.

2. **INVOICES.**

2.1 Contractor’s invoices shall be submitted electronically to the link:
<https://filetransfer.co.lake.ca.us/filedrop/BHFiscalInvoicing>

2.2 Contractor shall bill County on or before the fifteenth (15th) working day of the month following the month in which services were provided.

2.3 Contractor and County shall each appoint one responsible representative for the purpose of resolving any billing questions or disputes which may arise during the term of this Agreement. Should such issues arise, County shall still be obligated to pay Contractor on a timely basis for those amounts and/or services which are not in dispute or with respect to which there are no questions. Questioned amounts, once adjusted (if necessary) as agreed by the two representatives, shall be paid to Contractor immediately after the Agreement is reached by the two representatives.

2.4 County shall make payment within 20 business days of an undisputed invoice for the compensation stipulated herein for supplies delivered and accepted or services rendered and accepted, less potential deductions, if any, as herein provided.

2.5 County shall not be obligated to pay Contractor for services provided which are the subject of any bill if Contractor submits such bill to County more than fifteen days (15) after the date Contractor provides the services, or more than fifteen (15) days after this Agreement terminates, whichever is earlier.

2.6 Monthly payment may vary based on actual services billed.

3. **PAYMENT TERMS.**

3.1 County shall pay a \$2,000.00 monthly service charge for hearing officer services. In addition to the monthly service charge, County shall reimburse Contractor at the rate of \$280.00 per hour for hearing officers conducting hearings and issuing written decisions for the services described in this Agreement.

The hourly rate includes overhead expenses such as scheduling, secretarial, telephone, photocopy, postage, and other administrative costs. Contractor shall charge County a minimum of one (1) hour for each day a hearing is scheduled; additional time is billed in 15-minute increments.

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3.2 Hearings canceled with less than 24 hours' notice will incur the one-hour minimum for that day.

3.3 In no event shall the maximum amount payable under this Agreement exceed \$25,000.00.

3.4 Any additional services not otherwise provided for herein shall not be provided by Contractor, or compensated by County, without written authorization by County. All unauthorized costs and expenses incurred above the maximum payable amount set forth herein shall be the responsibility of Contractor.

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EXHIBIT “C” – COMPLIANCE PROVISIONS

1. **INFORMATION INTEGRITY AND SECURITY.** Contractor shall immediately notify County of any known or suspected breach of personal, sensitive and confidential information related to Contractor’s work under this Agreement.

2. **NON-DISCRIMINATION.**

2.1 Contractor shall observe and comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, and codes that relate to the work or services to be provided pursuant to this agreement.

2.2 Contractor shall not discriminate in employment practices or in the delivery of services on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, medical condition (including cancer, HIV, and AIDS) physical or mental disability, use of family care leave under either the Family & Medical Leave Act or the California Family Rights Act, or on the basis of any other status or conduct protected by law.

2.3 Contractor represents that Contractor is in compliance with and agrees that Contractor shall continue to comply with the applicable provisions of: Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; the Food Stamp Act of 1977; Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; the California Fair Employment and Housing Act; California Civil Code Sections 51, et seq.; California Government Code Sections 4450, et seq., and regulations and guidelines issued pursuant thereto.

3. **DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS.**

3.1 The Contractor certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its subcontractors:

A. Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for disbarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any federal department or agency;

B. Have not, within a three-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 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;

C. Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in the preceding paragraph; and

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D. Have not, within a three-year period preceding this Agreement, had one or more public transactions terminated for cause or default.

3.2 Contractor shall report immediately to 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.

4. **INDEMNIFICATION AND HOLD HARMLESS.** Contractor shall indemnify and defend County and its officers, employees, and agents against and hold them harmless from any and all claims, losses, damages, and liability for damages, including attorney's fees and other costs of defense incurred by County, whether for damage to or loss of property, or injury to or death of person, including properties of County and injury to or death of County officials, employees or agents, arising out of, or connected with Contractor's operations hereunder or the performance of the work described herein, unless such damages, loss, injury or death is caused solely by the negligence of County.

5. **NONASSIGNMENT OF AGREEMENT; NON-WAIVER.** Inasmuch as this agreement is intended to secure the specialized services of Contractor, Contractor may not assign, transfer, delegate, or sublet any interest herein without the prior written consent of County. The waiver by County of any breach of any requirement of this agreement shall not be deemed to be a waiver of any other breach.

6. **STANDARD OF CARE.** Contractor represents that it is specially trained, licensed, experienced and competent to perform all the services, responsibilities and duties specified herein and that such services, responsibilities and duties shall be performed.

7. **INTEREST OF CONTRACTOR.** Contractor assures that neither it nor its employees has any interest, and that it shall not acquire any interest in the future, direct or indirect, which would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of services hereunder.

8. **DUE PERFORMANCE – DEFAULT.** Each party agrees to fully perform all aspects of this agreement. If a default to this agreement occurs then the party in default shall be given written notice of said default by the other party. If the party in default does not fully correct (cure) the default within 30 days of the date of that notice (i.e. the time to cure) then such party shall be in default. The time period for corrective action of the party in default may be extended in writing executed by both parties, which must include the reason(s) for the extension and the date the extension expires.

Notice given under this provision shall specify the alleged default and the applicable Agreement provision and shall demand that the party in default perform the provisions of this Agreement within the applicable time period. No such notice shall be deemed a termination of this Agreement, unless the party giving notice so elects in that notice, or so elects in a subsequent written notice after the time to cure has expired.

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9. INSURANCE.

9.1 Contractor shall procure and maintain Workers' Compensation Insurance for all of its employees.

9.2 Contractor shall procure and maintain Comprehensive Public Liability Insurance, both bodily injury and property damage, in an amount of not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) combined single limit coverage per occurrence, including but not limited to endorsements for the following coverage: personal injury, premises-operations, products and completed operations, blanket contractual, and independent Contractor's liability.

9.3 Contractor shall procure and maintain Comprehensive Automobile Liability Insurance, both bodily injury and property damage, on owned, hired, leased and non-owned vehicles used in connection with Contractor's business in an amount of not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) combined single limit coverage per occurrence.

9.4 Contractor shall procure and maintain Professional Liability Insurance for the protection against claims arising out of the performance of services under this Agreement caused by errors, omissions or other acts for which Contractor is liable. Said insurance shall be written with limits of not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000).

9.5 Contractor shall not commence work under this Agreement until it has obtained all the insurance required hereinabove and submitted to County certificates of insurance naming the County of Lake as additional insured. Contractor shall provide County certificates of insurance within 30 days of the date of execution of the Agreement. Contractor agrees to provide to County, at least 30 days prior to expiration date, a new certificate of insurance.

9.6 In case of any subcontract, Contractor shall require each subcontractor to provide all of the same coverage as detailed hereinabove. Subcontractors shall provide certificates of insurance naming the County of Lake as additional insured and shall submit new certificates of insurance at least 30 days prior to expiration date. Contractor shall not allow any subcontractor to commence work until the required insurances have been obtained.

9.7 For any claims related to the work performed under this Agreement, the Contractor's insurance coverage shall be primary insurance as to the County, its officers, officials, employees, agents and volunteers. Any insurance or self-insurance maintained by County, its officers, officials, employees, agents or volunteers shall be in excess of the Contractor's insurance and shall not contribute with it.

9.8 The Commercial General Liability and Automobile Liability Insurance must each contain, or be endorsed to contain, the following provision:
The County, its officers, officials, employees, agents, and volunteers are to be covered as additional insureds and shall be added in the form of an endorsement to Contractor's insurance on Form CG 20 10 11 85. Contractor shall not commence work under this Agreement until Contractor has had delivered to County the Additional Insured Endorsements required herein.

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9.9 Insurance coverage required of Contractor under this Agreement shall be placed with insurers with a current A.M. Best rating of no less than A: VII.

Insurance coverage in the minimum amounts set forth herein shall not be construed to relieve the Contractor for liability in excess of such coverage, nor shall it preclude County from taking other action as is available to it under any other provision of this Agreement or applicable law. Failure of County to enforce in a timely manner any of the provisions of this section shall not act as a waiver to enforcement of any of these provisions at a later date.

9.10 Any failure of Contractor to maintain the insurance required by this section, or to comply with any of the requirements of this section, shall constitute a material breach of the entire Agreement.

10. ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS. If any action at law or in equity is necessary to enforce or interpret the terms of this Agreement, the prevailing party shall be entitled to reasonable attorney's fees, costs, and necessary disbursements in addition to any other relief to which such party may be entitled.

11. ASSIGNMENT. Contractor shall not assign any interest in this Agreement and shall not transfer any interest in the same without the prior written consent of County except that claims for money due or to become due Contractor from County under this Agreement may be assigned by Contractor to a bank, trust company, or other financial institution without such approval. Written notice of any such transfer shall be furnished promptly to County. Any attempt at assignment of rights under this Agreement except for those specifically consented to by both parties or as stated above shall be void.

12. PAYROLL TAXES AND DEDUCTIONS. Contractor shall promptly forward payroll taxes, insurances, and contributions to designated governmental agencies.

13. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR. It is specifically understood and agreed that, in the making and performance of this Agreement, Contractor is an independent Contractor and is not an employee, agent or servant of County. Contractor is not entitled to any employee benefits. County agrees that Contractor shall have the right to control the manner and means of accomplishing the result agreed for herein.

Contractor is solely responsible for the payment of all federal, state and local taxes, charges, fees, or contributions required with respect to Contractor and Contractor's officers, employees, and agents who are engaged in the performance of this Agreement (including without limitation, unemployment insurance, social security and payroll tax withholding.)

14. OWNERSHIP OF DOCUMENTS. All non-proprietary reports, drawings, renderings, or other documents or materials prepared by Contractor hereunder are the property of County.

15. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this Agreement is held to be unenforceable, the remainder of this Agreement shall be severable and not affected thereby.

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16. ADHERENCE TO APPLICABLE DISABILITY LAW. Contractor shall be responsible for knowing and adhering to the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, (42 U.S.C. Sections 12101, et seq.). California Government Code Sections 12920 et seq., and all related state and local laws.

17. HIPAA COMPLIANCE. Contractor will adhere to Titles 9 and 22 and all other applicable Federal and State statutes and regulations, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and will make his best efforts to preserve data integrity and the confidentiality of protected health information.

18. SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES. Contractor will adhere to all applicable CalOSHA requirements in performing work pursuant to this Agreement. Contractor agrees that in the performance of work under this Agreement, Contractor will provide for the safety needs of its employees and will be responsible for maintaining the standards necessary to minimize health and safety hazards.

19. JURISDICTION AND VENUE. This Agreement shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California and the parties hereto agree that venue of any action or proceeding regarding this Agreement or performance thereof shall be in Lake County, California. Contractor waives any right of removal it might have under California Code of Civil Procedure Section 394.

If any claim for damages is filed with Contractor or if any lawsuit is instituted concerning Contractor's performance under this agreement and that in any way, directly or indirectly, contingently or otherwise, affects or might reasonably affect County, Contractor shall give prompt and timely notice thereof to County. Notice shall be prompt and timely if given within 30 days following the date of receipt of a claim or 10 days following the date of service of process of a lawsuit. This provision shall survive the termination, expiration, or cancellation of this agreement.

Any dispute between the parties, and the interpretation of this agreement, shall be governed by the laws of the State of California. Any litigation shall be venued in Sacramento County.

20. RESIDENCY. All independent Contractors providing services to County for compensation must file a State of California Form 590, certifying California residency or, in the case of a corporation, certifying that they have a permanent place of business in California.

21. NO THIRD-PARTY BENEFICIARIES. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed to create, and the parties do not intend to create, any rights in or for the benefit of third parties.

22. UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE REPORTING. Contractor is required to have procedures for reporting unusual occurrences relating to health and safety issues. Contractor shall report to County any unusual events, accidents, or injuries requiring medical treatment for clients, staff, or members of the community. An unusual occurrence shall be reported to the County in writing (or electronic mail) as soon as possible but no later than three (3) working days of the

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Contractor's knowledge of the event. An unusual occurrence is subject to investigation by Lake County Behavioral Health Services; and upon a request, a copy of the County's investigation shall be made available to the State Department of Behavioral Health, which may subsequently conduct its own investigation.

23. COMPLIANCE WITH POLITICAL REFORM ACT. Contractor shall comply with the California Political Reform Act (Government Code, sections 81000, *et seq.*), with all regulations adopted by the Fair Political Practices Commission pursuant thereto, and with the County's Conflict of Interest Code, with regard to any obligation on the part of Contractor to disclose financial interests and to recuse from influencing any County decision which may affect Contractor's financial interests. If required by the County's Conflict of Interest Code, Contractor shall comply with the ethics training requirements of Government Code sections 53234, *et seq.*

24. TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT.

- A. If Contractor materially fails to preside over a matter when requested by County, or if Contractor fails to fulfill in a timely and professional manner Contractor's responsibilities under this agreement, then County shall have the right to terminate this agreement for cause effective immediately upon the County giving written notice thereof to Contractor. In no event shall County terminate this agreement because of Contractor's ruling on any particular case.
- B. Without Cause. County or Contractor may terminate this Agreement without cause upon thirty (30) days advance written notice to the other party. Such notice shall state the effective date of the termination.
- C. Insufficient Funding. County's obligations under this Agreement are contingent upon the availability of local, state and/or federal funds. In the event such funding is reduced or eliminated, County shall, at its sole discretion, determine whether this Agreement shall be terminated. County shall provide Contractor seven (7) days advance written notice of its intent to terminate this Agreement due to insufficient funding.
- D. Should this agreement be terminated, Contractor shall promptly provide to County any and all finished and unfinished reports, data, studies, photographs, charts, and other documents prepared by Contractor pursuant to this agreement.
- E. If this agreement is terminated, Contractor shall only be paid for services satisfactorily completed and provided prior to the effective date of termination.
- F. Contractor shall have a right to terminate this Agreement in the event of the County's material breach hereof; provided, however, the termination of the breach of this Agreement will not become effective unless and until the Contractor has given the County written notice of breach, which notice shall state the nature of said breach, and the County shall thereafter have a period of ten (10) days following the giving of said notice in which to remedy said default to the reasonable satisfaction of the Contractor.

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25. AGREEMENT PREPARATION. It is agreed and understood by the parties that this agreement has been arrived at through negotiation and that neither Party is to be deemed the Party which created any uncertainty in this agreement within the meaning of section 1654 of the Civil Code.

26. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST. Contractor and Contractor's officers and employees shall not have a financial interest, or acquire any financial interest, direct or indirect, in any business, property, or source of income that could be financially affected by or otherwise conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of the work or services required under this agreement.

27. COMPLIANCE WITH CHILD, FAMILY, AND SPOUSAL SUPPORT REPORTING OBLIGATIONS. Contractor's failure to comply with state and federal child, family, and spousal support reporting requirements regarding Contractor's employees or failure to implement lawfully served wage and earnings assignment orders or notices of assignment relating to child, family, and spousal support obligations shall constitute a default under this agreement. Contractor's failure to cure such default within 90 days of notice by County shall be grounds for termination of this agreement.

28. ACCESS TO RECORDS; RECORDS RETENTION.

County, federal, and state officials shall have access to any books, documents, papers, and records of Contractor that are directly pertinent to the subject matter of this agreement for the purpose of auditing or examining the activities of Contractor or County. Except where longer retention is required by federal or state law, Contractor shall maintain all records for five years after County makes final payment hereunder. This provision shall survive the termination, expiration, or cancellation of this agreement.

Contractor shall maintain appropriate records to ensure a proper accounting of all funds and expenditures pertaining to the work performed or the services provided pursuant to this agreement. Contractor shall maintain records providing information that account for all funds and expenses related to the provision of services provided pursuant to this agreement. Access to these records shall be provided to County during working days, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and at other times upon reasonable notice by County, and upon request of state and federal agencies charged with the administration of programs related to the work or services to be provided pursuant to this agreement.

Contractor agrees to accept responsibility for receiving, replying to, and/or complying with any audit exception by appropriate federal, state, or County audit directly related to the provisions of this agreement. Contractor agrees to repay County the full amount of payment received for duplicate billings, erroneous billings, audit exceptions, or false or deceptive claims. Contractor agrees that County may withhold any money due and recover through any appropriate method any money erroneously paid under this agreement if evidence exists of less than full compliance with this agreement including, but not limited to, exercising a right of set-off against any compensation payable to Contractor.

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29. **EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF CONTRACTOR.** Contractor shall, during the entire term of this agreement, be construed to be an independent contractor, and nothing in this agreement is intended nor shall be construed to create an employer-employee relationship, a joint venture relationship, or to allow County to exercise discretion or control over the professional manner in which Contractor performs the work or services that are the subject matter of this agreement; provided, however, that the work or services to be provided by Contractor shall be provided in a manner consistent with the professional standards applicable to such work or services. The sole interest of County is to ensure that the work or services shall be rendered and performed in a competent, efficient, and satisfactory manner. Contractor shall be fully responsible for payment of all taxes due to the State of California or the federal government that would be withheld from compensation if Contractor were a County employee. County shall not be liable for deductions for any amount for any purpose from Contractor's compensation. Contractor shall not be eligible for coverage under County's workers' compensation insurance plan nor shall Contractor be eligible for any other County benefit. Contractor must issue W-2 and 941 Forms for income and employment tax purposes for all of Contractor's assigned personnel under the terms and conditions of this agreement.

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**EXHIBIT “D” – BUSINESS ASSOCIATE – QUALIFIED SERVICE ORGANIZATION
AGREEMENT**

THIS HIPAA BUSINESS ASSOCIATE and QUALIFIED SERVICE ORGANIZATION AGREEMENT (the "Agreement") is entered into effective July 1, 2023 (the “Effective Date”), by and between **California Hearing Officers, LLP**, ("Business Associate/Qualified Service Organization") and **Lake County Behavioral Health Services** (the "Covered Entity").

Business Associate/Qualified Service Organization and Covered Entity have a business relationship (the “Relationship” or the “Agreement”) in which Business Associate/Qualified Service Organization may perform functions or activities on behalf of Covered Entity involving the use and/or disclosure of protected health information received from, or created or received by, Business Associate/Qualified Service Organization on behalf of Covered Entity. Business Associate is also a Qualified Service Organization (QSO) under 42 CFR, Part 2 and agrees to certain mandatory provisions regarding the use and disclosure of substance abuse treatment information. Therefore, if Business Associate is functioning as a Business Associate or QSO to Covered Entity, Business Associate agrees to the following terms and conditions set forth in this Business Associate/Qualified Service Organization Agreement.

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. Terms used, but not otherwise defined, in this agreement shall have the same meaning as those terms in the HIPAA and CFR 42 Part 2 Regulations. Protected Health Information (PHI) includes electronic Protected Health Information (ePHI).

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 ***California Hearing Officers, LLP***.
- (b) **Qualified Service Organization**. “Qualified Service Organization” shall generally have the same meaning as defined in 42 CFR 2.11, and in reference to the party to this agreement, shall mean ***California Hearing Officers, LLP***.
- (c) **Covered Entity**. “Covered Entity” 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 ***Lake County Behavioral Health Services***.
- (d) **HIPAA Rules**. “HIPAA Rules” shall mean the Privacy, Security, Breach Notification, and Enforcement Rules at 45 CFR Part 160 and Part 164 as well as the HITECH Act.

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- (e) **CFR 42 Part 2.** “CRF 42 Part 2” shall mean the federal law governing Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patient Records and its implementing regulations.

Obligations and Activities of Business Associate/Qualified Service Organization

Business Associate/QSO agrees to:

- (a) **Limitations on Uses and Disclosures of PHI.** Business Associate/QSO shall not, and shall ensure that its directors, officers, employees, and agents do not, use or disclose PHI in any manner that is not permitted or required by the Relationship, this Agreement, or required by law. All uses and disclosures of, and requests by Business Associate/QSO, for PHI are subject to the minimum necessary rule of the Privacy Standards and shall be limited to the information contained in a limited data set, to the extent practical, unless additional information is needed to accomplish the intended purpose, or as otherwise permitted in accordance with Section 13405(b) of HITECH and any implementing regulations. See Permitted Uses and Disclosures by Business Associate below.
- (b) **Required Safeguards To Protect PHI.** Use, and document the implementation of, 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 this Agreement;
- (c) **Reporting of Improper Use and Disclosures or Breaches of Unsecured PHI.** Report to Covered Entity within 24 business hours of Business Associate/QSO becoming aware of any use or disclosure of protected health information not provided for by the Agreement. Business Associate/QSO shall also report to Covered Entity within 24 business hours any breaches of unsecured protected health information as required at 45 C.F.R. §§ 164.400-414, and any security incident of which it becomes aware. Report should be made to:
- Compliance Officer
Lake County Behavioral Health Services
1-877-610-2355
- (d) **Mitigation of Harmful Effects.** Business Associate/QSO agrees to mitigate, to the extent practicable, any harmful effect of a use or disclosure of PHI by Business Associate/QSO in violation of the requirements of this Agreement, including, but not limited to, compliance with any state law or contractual data breach requirements. Business Associate/QSO shall cooperate with Covered Entity's breach notification and mitigation activities, and shall be responsible for all costs incurred by Covered Entity for those activities.
- (e) **Access to Information.** Within five (5) business days of a request by the Covered Entity, make available protected health information in a designated record set as necessary to satisfy Covered Entity's obligations under 45 CFR 164.524. In the event an individual delivers directly to the Business Associate/QSO a request for access to protected health information, the Business Associate/QSO shall within two (2) business days forward such request to the Covered Entity;
- (f) **Availability of PHI for Amendment.** Within five (5) business days of request of a Covered Entity, make 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. This includes, but is

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not limited to, the Business Associate/QSO providing such information to the Covered Entity for amendment and incorporation of any such amendment(s) in the protected health information. In the event an individual delivers directly to the Business Associate/QSO a request for amendment(s) to protected health information, the Business Associate/QSO shall within two (2) business days forward such request to the Covered Entity;

- (g) **Documentation of Disclosures.** Maintain a record of all disclosures of protected health information and information related to such disclosures, including the name of the recipient and the date of disclosure. If known, the records shall also include, the address of the recipient of the protected health information, a brief description of the protected health information disclosed, and the purpose of the disclosure which includes an explanation of the basis of such disclosure;
- (h) **Accounting of Disclosures.** Within five (5) days of notice by Covered Entity to Business Associate/QSO that it has received a request for an accounting of disclosures of PHI regarding an individual during the six (6) years prior to the date on which the accounting was requested, Business Associate/QSO shall make available to Covered Entity information to permit Covered Entity to respond to the request for an accounting of disclosures of PHI, as required by 45 C.F.R. § 164.528. In the case of an electronic health record maintained or hosted by Business Associate/QSO on behalf of Covered Entity, the accounting period shall be three (3) years and the accounting shall include disclosures for treatment, payment and healthcare operations, in accordance with the applicable effective date of Section 13402(a) of HITECH. In the event the request for an accounting is delivered directly to Business Associate/QSO, Business Associate/QSO shall within two (2) days forward such request to Covered Entity;
- (i) **Availability of Books and Records.** Business Associate/QSO shall make its internal practices, books, and records relating to the use and disclosure and privacy protection of PHI received from Covered Entity, or created, maintained or received by Business Associate/QSO on behalf of the Covered Entity, available to the Covered Entity, the State of California, and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, in the time and manner designated by the Covered Entity, State or Secretary, for purposes of determining Covered Entity's compliance with the Privacy Standards. Business Associate/QSO shall notify the Covered Entity upon receipt of such a request for access by the State or Secretary, and shall provide the Covered Entity with a copy of the request as well as a copy of all materials disclosed.
- (j) **Electronic PHI.** To the extent that Business Associate/QSO creates, receives, maintains or transmits electronic PHI on behalf of Covered Entity, Business Associate/QSO shall:
 - (I) Comply with 45 C.F.R. §§164.308, 312, and 316 in the same manner as such sections apply to Covered Entity, pursuant to Section 13401(a) of HITECH, and otherwise implement administrative, physical and technical safeguards that reasonably and appropriately protect the confidentiality, integrity and availability of electronic PHI;
 - (II) Ensure that any agent to whom Business Associate/QSO provides electronic PHI agrees to implement reasonable and appropriate safeguards to protect it; and
 - (III) Report to Covered Entity any security incident of which Business Associate/QSO becomes aware.
- (k) **Business Associate/QSO as Agent of Covered Entity.** To the extent the Business Associate/QSO is to carry out one or more of Covered Entity's obligation(s) under Subpart E of

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45 CFR Part 164, Business Associate/QSO shall comply with the requirements of Subpart E that apply to the Covered Entity in the performance of such obligation(s).

Permitted Uses and Disclosures by Business Associate/QSO

- (a) Business Associate/QSO may only use or disclose protected health information:
 - (i) To carry out its duties to the Covered Entity pursuant to the terms of the Relationship;
 - (ii) For its own proper management and administration; and
 - (iii) To carry out its legal responsibilities.
- (b) Business Associate/QSO may use or disclose protected health information as required by law.
- (c) Business Associate/QSO agrees to limit uses and disclosures and requests for protected health information to the minimum amount necessary to accomplish the purpose of the request, use, or disclosure, and consistent with the Covered Entity's minimum necessary policies and procedures.
- (d) Business Associate/QSO may disclose protected health information for the proper management and administration of the Business Associate/QSO or to carry out the legal responsibilities of the Business Associate/QSO, provided the disclosures are required by law, or Business Associate/QSO 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. Additionally, Business Associate/QSO must obtain an agreement from the receiving party to immediately notify the Business Associate/QSO of any instances of which it is aware in which the confidentiality of the information has been breached.
- (e) Business Associate/QSO may provide data aggregation services relating to the health care operations of the Covered Entity.

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

- (a) Covered Entity shall notify Business Associate/QSO within five (5) business days of notice 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/QSO's use or disclosure of protected health information.
- (b) Covered Entity shall notify Business Associate/QSO within five (5) business days of notice 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/QSO's use or disclosure of protected health information.
- (c) Covered Entity shall notify Business Associate/QSO within five (5) business days of notice 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/QSO's use or disclosure of protected health information.

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42 CFR Part 2 – Substance Abuse Treatment PHI

- (a) **Qualified Service Organization Status.** To the extent that in performing its services for or on behalf of Covered Entity, Business Associate/QSO uses, discloses, maintains, or transmits protected health information that is protected by 42 CFR, Part 2, Business Associate/QSO acknowledges and agrees that it is a QSO for the purpose of such federal law. Business Associate/QSO acknowledges that in receiving, storing, processing or otherwise dealing with any PHI from the Covered Entity, it is fully bound by 42 C.F.R. Part 2.
- (b) **Judicial and Administrative Proceedings.** Business Associate/QSO will resist any efforts, including judicial proceedings, to obtain PHI except as provided in 42 C.F.R. Part 2. In the event Business Associate/QSO receives a subpoena, court or administrative order or other discovery request or mandate for release of PHI, Covered Entity shall have the right to control Business Associate/QSO's response to such request. Business Associate/QSO shall notify Covered Entity of the request as soon as reasonably practicable, but in any event within two (2) days of receipt of such request.
- (c) **Limitations.** Business Associate/QSO may use and/or disclose PHI within BA/QSO for the proper management and administration of its business, except as otherwise limited by the Agreement or 42 C.F.R. Part 2. Business Associate/QSO may use and/or disclose PHI within BA/QSO to carry out its legal responsibilities, except as otherwise limited by the Agreement or 42 C.F.R. Part 2. Re-disclosure of client information to third party is prohibited by 42 CFR Part 2 except to report violations of law as permitted by HIPAA and 42 C.F.R. Part 2.
- (d) **Notification.** Covered Entity will notify Business Associate/QSO of any changes in or revocation of, authorization by an Individual to use or disclose PHI. Covered Entity will notify Business Associate/QSO of any Individual requests for restrictions to the use or disclosure of PHI. Business Associate/QSO acknowledges it is fully bound by HIPAA and 42 C.F.R. Part 2.
- (e) **CFR 42 Part 2 Precedence.** Mandatory provisions of HIPAA preempt provisions of the Agreement. Provisions of the Agreement not mandated by HIPAA but nonetheless permitted by HIPAA will control. In the event of inconsistencies between HIPAA and 42 C.F.R. Part 2, the more restrictive rule will control.

Parties will comply with any and all federal, state and local laws pertaining to client confidentiality including, but not limited to, state mental health and developmental disability confidentiality law, state and federal drug and alcohol confidentiality laws and state AIDS/HIV confidentiality laws.

Term and Termination

- (a) **Term.** The Term of this Agreement shall be effective as of **July 1, 2020** and shall terminate at the time **California Hearing Officers, LLP (Business Associate/QSO)** ceases to provide **MIS Support Services for Lake County Behavioral Health Services** or on the date Covered Entity terminates for cause as authorized in paragraph (b) of this Section, whichever is sooner.
- (b) **Termination for Cause.** Business Associate/QSO authorizes termination of this Agreement by Covered Entity, if Covered Entity determines Business Associate/QSO has violated a material term of the Agreement. At the Covered Entity's option, the Covered Entity may permit the Business Associate/QSO to cure or end any such violation within the time specified by the Covered Entity. Covered Entity's option to have cured a breach of this Agreement shall not be

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construed as a waiver of any other rights Covered Entity has in the Relationship, this Agreement or by operation of law or in equity.

(c) Obligations of Business Associate/QSO Upon Termination.

- (i) Upon termination of this Agreement for any reason, Business Associate/QSO shall return to Covered Entity or, at the Covered Entity's discretion and direction, destroy all protected health information received from Covered Entity, or created, maintained, or received by Business Associate/QSO on behalf of Covered Entity, that the Business Associate/QSO still maintains in any form. This provision shall apply to protected health information that is in the possession of the Business Associate/QSO or agents of the Business Associate/QSO. Business Associate/QSO shall retain no copies of the protected health information.

- (ii) Upon termination of this Agreement for any reason, Business Associate/QSO may retain certain protected health information for its own management and administration or to carry out its legal responsibilities at the discretion of the Covered Entity. With respect to such protected health information necessary for Business Associate/QSO's own management and administration or to carry out its legal responsibilities which was received from Covered Entity, or created, maintained, or received by Business Associate/QSO on behalf of Covered Entity, Business Associate/QSO shall:
 - 1) Retain only that protected health information which is necessary for Business Associate/QSO to continue its proper management and administration or to carry out its legal responsibilities;
 - 2) Return to Covered Entity, or if agreed to by Covered Entity, destroy the remaining protected health information that the Business Associate/QSO 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/QSO retains the protected health information;
 - 4) Not use or disclose the protected health information retained by Business Associate/QSO other than for the purposes for which such protected health information was retained and subject to the same conditions set out at paragraph (d) above under "Permitted Uses and Disclosures By Business Associate/QSO" 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/QSO when it is no longer needed by Business Associate/QSO for its proper management and administration or to carry out its legal responsibilities.

- (d) **Survival.** The obligations of Business Associate/QSO under this Section shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

Miscellaneous

- (a) **Regulatory References.** A reference in this Agreement to a section in the HIPAA Rules means the section as in effect or as amended.
- (b) **Amendment.** The Parties agree to take such action as is necessary to amend this Agreement from time to time as is necessary for compliance with the requirements of the HIPAA, CFR 42 Part 2, HITECH, the Privacy Standards, Security Standards or Transactions Standards and any other applicable law.

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- (c) **Interpretation.** Any ambiguity in this Agreement shall be interpreted to permit compliance with the HIPAA Rules and CFR 42, Part 2.
- (d) **Injunctive Relief.** Business Associate/QSO stipulates that its unauthorized use or disclosure of protected health information while performing services pursuant to this Agreement would cause irreparable harm to Covered Entity, and in such event, Covered Entity shall be entitled to institute proceedings in any court of competent jurisdiction to obtain damages and injunctive relief.
- (e) **Indemnification.** Business Associate/QSO shall indemnify and hold harmless Covered Entity and its officers, trustees, employees, and agents from any and all claims, penalties, fines, costs, liabilities or damages, including but not limited to reasonable attorney fees, incurred by Covered Entity arising from a violation by Business Associate/QSO of its obligations under this Agreement.
- (f) **Exclusion from Limitation of Liability.** To the extent that Business Associate/QSO has limited its liability under the terms of this Agreement, whether with a maximum recovery for direct damages or a disclaimer against any consequential, indirect or punitive damages, or other such limitations, all limitations shall exclude any damages to Covered Entity arising from Business Associate/QSO's breach of its obligations relating to the use and disclosure of protected health information.
- (g) **Owner of Protected Health Information.** Under no circumstances shall Business Associate/QSO be deemed in any respect to be the owner of any protected health information used or disclosed by or to Business Associate/QSO by Covered Entity.
- (h) **Third Party Rights.** The terms of this Agreement do not grant any rights to any parties other than Business Associate/QSO and Covered Entity.
- (i) **Independent Contractor Status.** For the purposed of this Agreement, Business Associate/QSO is an independent contractor of Covered Entity, and shall not be considered an agent of Covered Entity.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each Party hereby executes this Agreement as of the Effective Date.

California Hearing Officers

Lake County Behavioral Health Services

By: _____

By: _____

Name: Kamardeep Athwal, Esq.

Name: Elise Jones

Title: Behavioral Health Services Director

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