Human Services Department

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December 6, 2005

MEMO TO: Sutter County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Steve Marshall, Administrative Services Manager SM

SUBJECT: Designation of County Security Officer and Sutter-Yuba Mental Health Compliance Officer

Recommendation:
It is requested that the Sutter County Board of Supervisors designate Kent Yeargin as County Security Officer with respect to electronic Protected Health Information (ePHI) and as Compliance Officer for Sutter-Yuba Mental Health (SYMH). The Health Committee reviewed this action and recommended approval at its meeting of December 6, 2005.

Background:
Sutter County is required by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Security Rule[1] to designate a security official responsible for development and implementation of policies and procedures required to safeguard ePHI. At its meeting of April 19, 2005, your Board designated Steve Marshall as County Interim Security Officer.

The California Department of Mental Health requires[2] Medi-Cal Mental Health Plans to meet specific federal program integrity requirements designed to guard against fraud and abuse in the provision of specialty mental health services. One of these requirements is "[t]he designation of a compliance officer and a compliance committee that are accountable to senior management."[3] Ed Smith has been serving as the SYMH Compliance Officer on an interim basis.

Your board authorized in the budget for this fiscal year the creation of a new Information Security and Compliance Manager position in Human Services Administration to satisfy both of the above requirements. We have recently hired Kent Yeargin to fill this position.

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[1] Ref. 45 CFR 164.308(a)(2)
[2] Ref. 9 CCR 1840.112
[3] 42 CFR 438.608(b)(2)

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Impact on County Resources: Designation of Mr. Yeargin to fill these two requirements will have no direct fiscal impact beyond that already incurred through establishment of the new Information Security and Compliance Manager position.

Policy Action Requested: None.