

APPENDIX F: BUSINESS ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT

1. The terms and conditions of this document entitled "*Appendix F, Business Associate Agreement*" ("Business Associate Agreement"), and attached to and incorporated in the Agreement, shall apply in the event that Protected Health Information is used or disclosed in connection with or in the course of Contractor's performance of the Agreement, and pursuant to which Contractor may be considered a "business associate" of the New York State Office of Mental Health as such term is defined in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA") including all pertinent regulations (45 CFR Parts 160 and 164) issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, as amended.
2. For purposes of this Business Associate Agreement, the term "Contractor" shall mean and include the term "Business Associate" as such term is defined in 45 CFR §164.103.
3. **Definitions:** Terms used, but not otherwise defined, in this Business Associate Agreement shall have the same meaning as those terms in 45 CFR §§160.103, 164.103, and 164.501.
 - a. *Breach* shall have the same meaning as the term "Breach" in §13400 of the HITECH Act and guidance issued by the Department of Health and Human Services, and shall include the unauthorized acquisition, use, or disclosure of Protected Health Information that compromises the privacy or security of such information.
 - b. *Covered Entity* shall mean the New York State Office of Mental Health.
 - c. *Data aggregation* shall mean, with respect to protected health information created or received by a business associate in its capacity as the business associate of a covered entity, the combining of such protected health information by the business associate with the protected health information received by the business associate in its capacity as a business associate of another covered entity, to permit data analyses that relate to the health care operations of the respective covered entities.
 - d. *Designated Record Set* shall have the same meaning as the term "Designated Record Set" in 45 CFR §164.501.
 - e. *HIPAA Rules* shall mean the Privacy, Security, Breach Notification, and Enforcement Rules at 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164.
 - f. *HITECH Act* shall mean the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act, Title XIII of Division A and Title IV of Division B of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. No. 111-5, 123 Stat. 226 (Feb. 17, 2009), codified at 42 U.S.C. §§300jj *et seq.*, §§17901 *et seq.*
 - g. *Individual* shall have the same meaning as the term "Individual" in 45 CFR §160.103 and shall include a person who qualifies as a personal representative in accordance with 45 CFR §164.502(g).
 - h. *Protected Health Information* shall have the same meaning as the term "Protected Health Information" in 45 CFR §160.103, but is limited to the protected health information created or received by Contractor from, for or on behalf of Covered Entity in connection with or in the course of Contractor's performance of the Agreement.
 - i. *Required by Law* shall have the same meaning as the term "Required by Law" in 45 CFR §164.103.

j. *Secretary* shall mean the Secretary of the Federal Department of Health and Human Services or his/her designee.

k. *Security Incident* shall have the same meaning as the term “Security Incident” in 45 CFR §164.304.

l. *Security Rule* shall mean the Security Standards for the Protection of Electronic Protected Health Information at 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164, subparts A and C.

m. *Unsecured Protected Health Information* shall mean Protected Health Information that is not secured through the use of a technology or methodology specified by the Secretary in guidance, or as otherwise defined in §13402(h) of the HITECH Act.

4. **Obligations and Activities of Contractor:**

a. Contractor agrees not to use or disclose Protected Health Information other than as permitted or required by the Agreement or as Required by Law.

b. Contractor agrees to use appropriate safeguards to prevent use or disclosure of the Protected Health Information other than as provided for by the Agreement, and to implement administrative, physical, and technical safeguards that reasonably and appropriately protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of any electronic Protected Health Information that it creates, receives, maintains, or transmits on behalf of Covered Entity pursuant to this Agreement. Contractor agrees to fully comply with the responsibilities of Business Associates as set forth in §13401 of the HITECH Act.

c. Contractor agrees to mitigate, to the extent practicable, any harmful effect that is known to Contractor of a use or disclosure of Protected Health Information by Contractor in violation of the requirements of the Agreement.

d. Contractor agrees to report to Covered Entity any use or disclosure of the Protected Health Information not provided for by the Agreement of which it becomes aware, including Breaches of Unsecured Protected Health Information as required at 45 CFR §164.410, and any Security Incident of which it becomes aware. In the event of a Breach of Unsecured Protected Health Information:

(1) Contractor shall promptly notify Covered Entity of the Breach when it is discovered, but no later than 30 days from the discovery of the Breach. A Breach is considered discovered on the first day on which Contractor knows or should have known of such Breach. Such notification shall identify the Individuals whose Unsecured Protected Health Information has, or is reasonably believed to have, been the subject of the Breach, and their contact information.

(2) Covered Entity shall promptly notify Individuals about a Breach of their Unsecured Protected Health Information as soon as possible, but not later than 60 calendar days after discovery of the Breach, except where a law enforcement official determines that a notification would impede a criminal investigation or cause damage to national security. Notification shall meet the requirements of §13402 of the HITECH Act.

e. In accordance with 45 CFR §164.502(e)(1)(ii) and §164.308(b)(2), if applicable, Contractor agrees to ensure that any agent or subcontractor of Contractor to whom Contractor provides

Protected Health Information received from, or created or received by Contractor on behalf of Covered Entity pursuant to the Agreement agrees to at least the same restrictions and conditions that apply through this Business Associate Agreement to Contractor with respect to such Protected Health Information. Contractor will ensure that Business Associate Agreements are executed with all subcontractors that will perform functions or activities on behalf of Contractor that involve the use or disclosure of Protected Health Information received from, or created or received by Contractor on behalf of, Covered Entity.

f. To the extent that the information made available to Contractor under the Agreement includes Protected Health Information in a Designated Record Set, Contractor agrees to provide access, at the request of Covered Entity, and in the time and manner designated by Covered Entity, to Protected Health Information in a Designated Record Set, to Covered Entity or, as directed by Covered Entity, to an Individual in order to meet the requirements under 45 CFR §164.524.

g. To the extent that the information made available to Contractor in connection with or in the course of Contractor's performance of the Agreement includes Protected Health Information in a Designated Record Set, Contractor agrees to make any amendment(s) to Protected Health Information in a Designated Record Set that the Covered Entity directs or agrees to pursuant to 45 CFR §164.526 at the request of Covered Entity or an Individual, and in the time and manner designated by Covered Entity.

h. Contractor agrees to document such disclosures of Protected Health Information under the Agreement and information related to such disclosures as would be required for Covered Entity to respond to a request by an Individual for an accounting of disclosures of Protected Health Information in accordance with 45 CFR §164.528.

i. Contractor agrees to provide to Covered Entity or an Individual, in a time and manner designated by Covered Entity, information collected in accordance with paragraph (i) of Section 4 of this Business Associate Agreement, to permit Covered Entity to respond to a request by an Individual for an accounting of disclosures of Protected Health Information in accordance with 45 CFR §164.528. If Contractor assists Covered Entity in maintaining an electronic health record (EHR), Contractor shall support Covered Entity in providing, upon the request of the Individual, an accounting of disclosures of Protected Health Information in the EHR within the prior three years, as well as an electronic copy of Protected Health Information that is part of an EHR.

j. To the extent Contractor is to carry out one or more of Covered Entity's obligations under Subpart E of 45 CFR Part 164, Contractor shall comply with the requirements of Subpart E that apply to the Covered Entity in the performance of such obligations; and shall be directly responsible for full compliance with the relevant requirements of the Privacy Rule to the same extent that Covered Entity is responsible for compliance with such rule.

k. Contractor agrees to make its internal practices, books, and records, including policies and procedures and Protected Health Information, relating to the use and disclosure of Protected Health Information received from, or created or received by Contractor on behalf of Covered Entity pursuant to the Agreement, available to the Covered Entity, or at the request of the Covered Entity to the Secretary, in a time and manner as designated by the Covered Entity, for purposes of the Secretary's determining Covered Entity's compliance with the HIPAA Rules.

l. Contractor shall make its internal practices, books, and records available to the Secretary for purposes of determining its compliance with the HIPAA Rules.

5. Permitted Uses and Disclosures by Contractor

Except as otherwise limited in the Agreement and this Business Associate Agreement, Contractor may use or disclose Protected Health Information to perform functions, activities, or services for, or on behalf of, Covered Entity as specified in the Agreement, provided that such use or disclosure would not violate the HIPAA Rules if done by Covered Entity or the minimum necessary policies and procedures of the Covered Entity.

6. Specific Use and Disclosure Provisions

a. Except as otherwise limited in the Agreement or this Business Associate Agreement, Contractor may use Protected Health Information for the proper management and administration of the Contractor or to carry out the legal responsibilities of the Contractor.

b. Except as otherwise limited in the Agreement and this Business Associate Agreement, Contractor may disclose Protected Health Information for the proper management and administration of the Contractor, provided that disclosures are Required by Law, or Contractor obtains reasonable assurances from the person to whom the Protected Health Information is disclosed that it will remain confidential and shall be used or further disclosed only as Required by Law or for the purpose for which it was disclosed to the person, and the person notifies the Contractor of any instances of which it is aware in which the confidentiality obligations under this Business Associate Agreement have been breached.

c. Except as otherwise limited in the Agreement and this Business Associate Agreement, Contractor may use Protected Health Information to provide Data Aggregation services relating to the health care operations of Covered Entity as permitted in 45 CFR §164.504(e)(2)(i)(B).

d. Contractor may use Protected Health Information to report violations of law to appropriate Federal and State authorities, consistent with New York State Mental Hygiene Law and 45 CFR §164.502(j)(1).

7. Obligations of Covered Entity

a. Covered Entity shall notify Contractor of any limitation(s) in its Notice of Privacy Practices produced in accordance with 45 CFR §164.520, to the extent that such limitation may affect Contractor's use or disclosure of Protected Health Information.

b. Covered Entity shall notify Contractor of any changes in, or revocation of, permission by an Individual to use or disclose Protected Health Information, to the extent that such changes may affect Contractor's permitted or required uses and disclosures.

c. Covered Entity shall notify Contractor of any restriction to the use or disclosure of Protected Health Information that Covered Entity has agreed to in accordance with 45 CFR §164.522, to the extent that such restriction may affect Contractor's use or disclosure of Protected Health Information.

8. Permissible Requests by Covered Entity

Covered Entity shall not request Contractor to use or disclose Protected Health Information in any manner that would not be permissible under the HIPAA Rules if done by Covered Entity. Covered Entity may permit Contractor to use or disclose Protected Health Information for Data Aggregation or management and administrative activities of Contractor, if the Agreement includes provisions for same.

9. Remedies in Event of Breach/Indemnification

a. In the event of breach by Contractor of any of the covenants and assurances contained in this Business Associate Agreement, Contractor hereby agrees that immediate and irreparable harm may result to Covered Entity, and to the business of Covered Entity, which harm would not be adequately compensated by monetary damages. As such, in the event of breach of any of the covenants and assurances contained in Sections 4, 5, or 6 above, Covered Entity shall be entitled to enjoin and restrain Contractor from any continued violation of such Sections.

b. Contractor shall defend, indemnify and hold Covered Entity harmless against all claims, losses, liability, costs and other expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees), without limitation (collectively, "Liability"), resulting from or arising out of the acts or omissions of Contractor in the performance of its duties and obligations under this Business Associate Agreement, except to the extent that such Liability results from or arises out of the acts or omissions of Covered Entity. Contractor's Liability under the foregoing provision shall include responsibility to pay, or where appropriate, to reimburse Covered Entity, for all costs associated with notification required by HIPAA or HITECH due to a Breach within the meaning of this Business Associate Agreement, except to the extent that such Liability results from or arises out of the acts or omissions of Covered Entity. Contractor shall be fully liable for the actions of its agents, employees and subcontractors.

c. The terms of this Section 9 shall survive expiration or termination of the Agreement.

10. Consideration

Contractor acknowledges that the promises it has made in this Business Associate Agreement shall, henceforth, be relied upon by Covered Entity in choosing to continue or commence a business relationship with Contractor.

11. Interpretation of this Business Associate Agreement in Relation to Other Contracts Between the Parties

Should there be any conflict between the language of this Business Associate Agreement and any other contract or agreement entered into between the Parties (either prior or subsequent to the date of this Business Associate Agreement), the language and provisions of this Business Associate Agreement shall control and prevail unless, in a subsequent written agreement, the Parties specifically refer to this Business Associate Agreement by its title and date, and specifically state that the provisions of the later written agreement shall control over this Business Associate Agreement; except that in the event of a conflict with Appendix A (Standard Terms and Conditions of New York State Contracts) in any agreement to which such Appendix A applies (either prior or subsequent to the date of this Business Associate Agreement), Appendix A shall govern.

12. Term and Termination

a. Term. The provisions of this Business Associate Agreement shall be effective as of the effective date of the Agreement and shall survive termination of the Agreement and shall not terminate unless and until all Protected Health Information is destroyed, or returned to Covered Entity or, if it is infeasible to return or destroy Protected Health Information, in accordance with the termination provisions in Section (c)(2) of this Section, in which case Contractor's obligations hereunder shall continue for so long as Contractor maintains the Protected Health Information.

b. Termination for Cause. A breach of this Business Associate Agreement by either party shall be considered a material breach of the Agreement and may be grounds for termination of the Agreement for cause.

c. Effect of Termination.

(1) Except as provided in subparagraph (2) of this paragraph, upon termination of the Agreement for any reason, Contractor shall return to Covered Entity or destroy all Protected Health Information received from Covered Entity, or created or received by Contractor on behalf of Covered Entity. This provision shall apply to all Protected Health Information that is in the possession of subcontractors or agents of Contractor. Contractor shall retain no copies of the Protected Health Information. Upon request by Covered Entity, Contractor shall certify in writing to Covered Entity that all Protected Health Information has been returned or destroyed as required by this section.

(2) In the event that Contractor determines that returning or destroying the Protected Health Information is infeasible, Contractor shall provide to Covered Entity notification of the conditions that make return or destruction infeasible. Upon mutual agreement of the Parties that return or destruction of Protected Health Information is infeasible, Contractor shall extend the protections of this Business Associate Agreement to such Protected Health Information and limit further uses and disclosures of such Protected Health Information to those purposes that make the return or destruction infeasible, for so long as Contractor maintains such Protected Health Information. Upon request by Covered Entity, Contractor shall certify in writing to Covered Entity that it has taken all the steps required by this section to protect Protected Health Information which could not feasibly be returned or destroyed.

13. Miscellaneous

a. Regulatory References. A reference in this Business Associate Agreement to the HIPAA Rules means the rules as in effect or amended, and for which compliance by a Covered Entity and/or Business Associate is required.

b. Amendment. The Parties agree to take such action as is necessary to amend this Business Associate Agreement from time to time as is necessary for compliance with the requirements of the HIPAA Rules and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Public Law 104-191.

c. Survival. The respective rights and obligations of Contractor under Section 9 of this Business Associate Agreement shall survive the termination of this Business Associate Agreement.

d. Interpretation. Any ambiguity in this Business Associate Agreement shall be resolved in favor of a meaning that permits compliance with the HIPAA Rules.