



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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November 19, 2012

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

## **COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS RELATED TO ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD SYSTEMS FOR THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, PROBATION DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES (ITEMS NO. 11 AND 36, AGENDA OF NOVEMBER 20, 2012)**

On November 7, 2012, your Board directed the Chief Executive Office (CEO) to work with the Sheriff's Department (LASD), the Department of Health Services (DHS), and the Probation Department (Probation) to confirm their collaboration regarding the Cerner Corporation (Cerner) electronic health record systems the Departments have in place or are proposing to implement. Further, the CEO was directed to establish a Memorandum of Understanding between the three Departments which speaks to their commitment to work together collaboratively on the Cerner Agreements and options for sharing patient information between their respective electronic health record systems.

Items Number 11 and 36 on the November 20, 2012 Agenda relate to the Cerner Corporation Agreements for DHS and the Sheriff's Jail Health Information System (JHIS), respectively.

### **County Department Workgroup on Electronic Health Record Systems**

As we advised your Board at the November 7 meeting, the CEO and Chief Information Office (CIO) met with representatives from DHS, LASD and Probation last week, on November 13, 2012, to discuss how the Departments would coordinate efforts regarding their respective electronic health record systems. Specifically, the discussion focused on developing options for sharing patient information between the systems.

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Representatives from County Counsel and Foley & Lardner, LLP, which has assisted with the DHS Electronic Health Record System Agreement, also participated in the meeting. Other County Departments will be invited to participate in the workgroup meetings, as needed. This would include, for example, the Auditor-Controller's office on privacy issues regarding the sharing of protected health information.

The participants at this meeting will serve as the interdepartmental workgroup assigned to this collaborative effort moving forward. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been drafted (Attachment 1) and is being circulated for signatures by DHS, LASD and Probation to formalize their commitment to this effort. The MOU will be fully executed by November 20 when the Board considers both the DHS and LASD Cerner Agreements.

We are working to schedule the next workgroup meeting following the Board's consideration of the DHS and LASD Cerner Agreements on November 20.

While the information below provides a general framework and potential timelines for electronic sharing of patient information by DHS, LASD and Probation, the plan for moving forward will require substantial discussions among the workgroup members and other technical staff in order to develop a detailed implementation plan, including specific tasks, responsible parties, and a timeline for all deliverables. We anticipate the discussions to continue over the coming weeks, and we will report back to the Board on progress within 90 days.

### **System Requirements to Share Patient Information**

As discussed at the November 7 meeting, both the Sheriff's JHIS and the Probation Department's Probation Electronic Medical Records System (PEMRS) require code upgrades for their systems to be able to exchange patient information with other systems.

The LASD JHIS renewal Agreement (Item 36) includes provisions for the necessary upgrades, as well as other important changes, as discussed in the LASD Board letter. If the LASD JHIS Agreement with Cerner is approved by the Board, work for the upgrades will begin immediately and is expected to take nine months to complete, with anticipated completion by late summer/early fall 2013.

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For Probation, its current Agreement with Cerner for PEMRS includes the necessary system code upgrades which will begin in March 2013 and is expected to be completed by June, 2013.

The pending DHS Cerner Agreement (Item 11) will develop a system with the necessary codes already part of the infrastructure. Further, the DHS Cerner Agreement includes provisions which will allow, at no additional cost to LASD and Probation, Cerner to Cerner connection and connections to LANES, as specified. Other connectivity is possible with additional fees. Additional information is provided in the MOU (Attachment 1).

Under the pending DHS Agreement with Cerner, the first DHS facility is planned to "go live" in June/July of 2014, with all facilities on the system by February 2016.

### **Preliminary Timeline**

As noted in separate communications with the Board offices, the Los Angeles Network for Health Services (LANES) Health Data Highway Project (HDHP) is targeted to go live with DHS patient information by June 2013. The LANES HDHP would allow participating agencies to share patient information via the LANES health information exchange (HIE). Currently scheduled participants include DHS, L.A. Care, and up to approximately 30 community clinics. Discussions are underway with private hospitals and other medical organizations to participate in the LANES HIE. Further, LANES is currently reviewing the June 13, 2013 timeline in an effort to have DHS go live on the LANES HIE earlier in the calendar year.

Based on the timeline for the required system upgrades, the Sheriff's JHIS and Probation's PEMRS could be ready to begin working on the system changes necessary to exchange patient information between their two systems by the fall of 2013. Prior to that point, the County workgroup will review the relative merits for connecting the JHIS and PEMRS systems directly or via the LANES HIE as part of the workgroup discussions mentioned above, on developing the plan for sharing of patient information.

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If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me or your staff may contact Sheila Shima at (213) 974-1160 or [sshima@ceo.lacounty.gov](mailto:sshima@ceo.lacounty.gov), or Georgia Mattera at (213) 893-2374 or [gmattera@ceo.lacounty.gov](mailto:gmattera@ceo.lacounty.gov).

WTF:SAS:MLM  
MM:hd

Attachment

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Auditor-Controller  
Sheriff  
Chief Information Office  
Health Services  
Probation

111912\_HMHS\_MBS\_Cerner

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
SERVICES, PROBATION DEPARTMENT  
AND SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
TO ENSURE  
ELECTRONIC SHARING OF PATIENT  
HEALTH INFORMATION**

This memorandum of understanding ("MOU") is entered into this        day of November 2012, by and between the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department ("LASD"), the Department of Health Services ("DHS") and the Probation Department ("Probation") (collectively, the "COUNTY Departments").

Whereas Probation and LASD have implemented electronic health record (EHR) systems developed and maintained by Cerner Corporation ("Cerner"); and

Whereas the COUNTY, through DHS, has completed negotiations with Cerner for an electronic health record system for DHS and has secured provisions which would allow for sharing of certain health information between the DHS, Probation and LASD electronic health record systems at no additional cost; and

Whereas the COUNTY Departments provide services to the same patients and, therefore, need to share patient information to better coordinate patient care; and

Whereas the COUNTY is a member of the governance of the Los Angeles Network for Enhanced Services ("LANES") and actively participates in efforts to establish the LANES Health Data Highway Project, a health information exchange ("HIE");

Now, therefore, each party agrees to enter into this MOU, and abide by its provisions, to demonstrate their commitment to working together collaboratively to develop and implement an effective and cost-efficient option for the secure sharing of patient information either through a health information exchange or through system to system interfaces as described below.

**I. GENERAL TERMS**

1. The term of this MOU shall commence upon full execution by all parties and shall remain in effect until the parties have achieved communication between their respective electronic health record systems, either directly or through participation in a health information exchange.
2. It is mutually agreed that this MOU may be modified or amended upon the written mutual consent of the parties hereto, and review and approval by County Counsel.

## II. PARTICIPATION BY COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

The following COUNTY Departments have implemented or propose to implement electronic health record systems developed by or to be developed by Cerner, as described below.

### 1. Department of Health Services:

The DHS Electronic Health Record System ("EHR") provides a wide range of functions, including: (1) on-line clinical documentation by care providers; (2) electronic order entry for care delivery orders; (3) medical coding for documentation; (4) decision support for documentation and electronic order entry; (5) integration of ancillary systems such as Pharmacy, Laboratory, and Radiology; and (6) management of the admission, discharge, and transfer cycles, including patient scheduling, registration and a Master Patient Index.

The EHR System will enable the exchange of patient and other health information, including clinical, administrative, outcome and encounter (e.g., payor and eligibility coverage) information at the patient and community-wide levels. DHS is committed to the exchange of information to further the patient care goals that it shares with its Safety Net providers. The EHR System will enable DHS to achieve those goals by linking to LANES, the local Health Information Exchange project involving the COUNTY and many of its Safety Net providers.

As to the LASD and Probation, the DHS Electronic Health Records System and service Agreement ("EHR Agreement") with Cerner includes, at no charge, an interoperability toolkit to be used under the Sheriff's Jail Health Information Services ("JHIS") Agreement and Probation Department's Probation Electronic Medical Record System Agreement ("PEMRS"), and which comprises solutions, including software and services, that will allow DHS, LASD and Probation, using Cerner electronic health records system, to query and respond with patient documents automatically to:

A. DHS EHR System, JHIS, PEMRS

B. LANES, if it complies with national connectivity standards - Integrating Healthcare Enterprise standard profiles, and Cross Community Access Gateway standards.

C. Other Cerner clients' electronic health records systems.

Cerner refers to the solution it is providing at no charge (Interoperability Functionality) as the "Clinical Exchange Network."

These terms are set forth in the DHS EHR Agreement as Exhibit EE. (Attached hereto as Attachment 1.)

Finally, the following capabilities would require payment of additional fees:

- A. Pushing of patient data from JHIS and PEMRS to LANES HIE;
- B. If LANES does not use the national interoperability standards described above; or
- C. Connecting to HIEs other than LANES, and the ability to connect to an HIE that does not use the national interoperability standards described above.

2. **Sheriff's Department:**

The JHIS has been in operation for over ten years and is utilized by LASD Custody Division, Medical Services Bureau to, among other functions, track the delivery of health care services and maintain a centralized clinical data repository for all inmates. There are over 150,000 inmates admitted annually and housed in LASD custody facilities which are geographically dispersed throughout the County. There are now medical records for over 1 million inmate patients in JHIS. Currently, several patient information exchanges have been implemented in JHIS to other LASD systems as well as external health care providers. LASD will fully participate in the Countywide initiative for electronic sharing of patient information.

3. **Probation Department:**

The PEMRS is an application that stores and maintains electronic medical records for all detained minors in the care and custody of Los Angeles County. The PEMRS project is a three-Department collaboration between DHS, the Department of Mental Health and Probation. This system enables health and mental health providers to improve the quality of care, reduce the risk of medical error or injury, and increase the efficiency of operations through improved information management and documentation.

Cerner is a major participant in the national and state HIE programs and development efforts. It plans to continue to support high levels of interoperability and data exchange, and it is obligated by the recommended PEMRS contract to maintain compliance with national standards of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), Health Level Seven (HL7) and other federally designated standards development organizations. Therefore, on the basis of the recommended Agreement with Cerner, the PEMRS implementation is expected to support and

participate in LANES and the County HIE working group (CWG). The PEMRS Statement of Work also identifies a standards-based effort to implement interfaces to the extent feasible within the budget, and Probation and Cerner have identified a starting set which all the agencies can prioritize and jointly implement.

### **III. SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES**

The participating COUNTY Departments shall assign a lead staff person who will ensure active participation by Departmental representatives in developing and evaluating options for electronic sharing of patient information between the Departments. Options currently identified include: 1) Cerner to Cerner system connections between the DHS, LASD and Probation electronic health record systems which would allow sharing of COUNTY patient information; 2) connectivity through an electronic health information exchange, such as LANES, which would allow for sharing of patient information, as appropriate, with non-COUNTY providers also serving COUNTY patients; and/or 3) alternate models that would allow for sharing of patient information.

A workgroup shall be established consisting of Departmental representatives, chaired by the Chief Executive Office ("CEO") and including participation by the Chief Information Office ("CIO") and County Counsel. Workgroup meetings shall occur initially at least twice a month until a plan for connectivity using the recommended option(s) is established and communicated to the Board of Supervisors. The plan shall identify detailed action steps, responsible parties, and implementation timelines. Workgroup meetings shall then occur on an as needed basis to ensure timely implementation of the action plan.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Sheriff's Department, Department of Health Services and the Probation Department have caused this MOU to be subscribed by their duly authorized representatives, the day, month, and year first above written.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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Leroy D. Baca  
Sheriff

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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Mitchell H. Katz, M.D.  
DHS Director

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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Jerry Powers  
Chief Probation Officer



Exhibit EE (Interoperability Functionality)  
to the  
Electronic Health Records System and Services Agreement

Contractor's offering to County includes, at no charge, an interoperability toolkit to be used under the Existing Agreements and which comprises solutions, including software and services, that will allow the various County organizations, using Contractor's EHR to query and respond with patient documents automatically to:

1. LAC DHS EHR System, Sheriff Jail Health Information System ("JHIS"), Probation Electronic Medical Record System ("PEMRS")
2. LANES, if it complies with national connectivity standards - Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise ("IHE") standard profiles, and Cross Community Access ("XCA") Gateway standards.
3. other Contractor clients EHR systems

The following capabilities would require payment of additional fees:

1. Pushing of patient data from JHIS and PEMRS to LANES HIE;
2. If LANES does not use the national interoperability standards described above; or
3. Connecting to HIEs other than LANES, and the ability to connect to an HIE that does not use the national interoperability standards described above.

Contractor refers to the solution it is providing at no charge as set forth in this Exhibit EE (Interoperability Functionality) as the "Clinical Exchange Network."