

HIDALGO COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT BUSINESS ASSOCIATE ADDENDUM

This Business Associate Addendum ("BAA" or "Addendum") to the Underlying Agreement as referenced below is made and entered into as of the 3rd day of July, 2023 (the "Effective Date"), by and between the County of Hidalgo, Texas by and through the Hidalgo County Health and Human Services Department ("Covered Entity") and CITY OF WESLACO ("Business Associate") (as defined below and collectively the "Parties") to comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), privacy standards adopted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as they may be amended from time to time, 45 C.F.R. parts 160 and 164 subparts A and E ("the Privacy Rule") and security standards adopted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as they may be amended from time to time, 45 C.F.R. parts 160, 162 and 164, subpart C ("the Security Rule"), and the modifications to HIPAA provided by Division A, Title XIII of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, known as The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health, Act 42 U.S.C. §3000 et. seq., and implementing regulations and guidance, including the regulations implemented in 78 Fed. Reg. 5566 (January 25, 2013).

WHEREAS, Covered Entity and Business Associate have entered or are entering into an Agreement (the "Underlying Agreement") by which the Covered Entity has engaged Business Associate to perform services;

WHEREAS, Covered Entity possesses and is permitted to manage Protected Health Information (PHI) that is protected under HIPAA, House Bill 300 (HB 300)¹ and the HIPAA Regulations, HITECH Act and state law, including the Texas Medical Records Privacy Act (MRPA)², and Parties desire to comply with the privacy and security protections contained therein;

WHEREAS, Business Associate may receive such information from Covered Entity, or create, receive, maintain or transmit such information on behalf of Covered Entity, in order to perform certain of the services under the Underlying Agreement;

WHEREAS, Covered Entity wishes to ensure that Business Associate will appropriately safeguard Protected Health Information;

WHEREAS, the HIPAA Rules require that Covered Entity receive adequate assurances that Business Associate will comply with certain obligations with respect to the PHI received in the course of providing services to or on behalf of Covered Entity; and

WHEREAS, parties desire and agree to enter into this Addendum to the Underlying Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE, Covered Entity and Business Associate agree as follows:

A. Definitions. For purposes of this BAA:

1. **"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 Addendum, shall mean the person or entity indicated above.
2. **"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 Addendum, shall mean the County of Hidalgo
3. **"Individual"** shall have the same meaning as the term "individual" in 45 CFR § 164.103 and shall include a person who qualifies as a personal representative in accordance with 45 CFR § 164.502(g).
4. **"HIPAA Rules"** shall mean the Privacy, Security, Breach Notification, and Enforcement Rules and amendments codified and promulgated at 45 CFR Parts 160, 162, and 164 and the HITECH Act.
5. **"Protected Health Information"** or "PHI" shall have the same meaning as the term "protected health information" in 45 CFR § 164.103, limited to the information created or received by Business Associate from or on behalf of Covered Entity.
6. **"Required By Law"** shall have the same meaning as the term "required by law" in 45 CFR § 164.103.
7. **"Secretary"** shall mean the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services or his or her designee.
8. **Breach** shall have the meaning given such term under 45 C.F.R. § 164.402 as such regulation is revised from time to time.
9. **Breach of System Security** means unauthorized acquisition of computerized data that compromises the security, confidentiality, or integrity of Sensitive Personal Information maintained by a person, including data that is encrypted if the person accessing the data has the key required to decrypt the data.
10. All other capitalized terms used in this Addendum shall have the meanings set forth in the applicable definitions under the HIPAA Rules and the HITECH Act, as amended.

B. Obligations and Activities of Business Associate

¹ House Bill 300 passed by Texas Legislature on September 1, 2012, to enhance safeguards for Protected Health Information (PHI).

² Texas Medical Records Privacy Act, codified in Section 181 et seq. of the Texas Health and Safety Code and as implemented through regulations including the Standards Relating to the Electronic Exchange of Health Information, codified at Title 1, Section 390.1 et seq. of the Texas Administrative Code.

1. Business Associate agrees to not use or disclose PHI other than as permitted or required by this BAA or as Required by Law.
2. Business Associate agrees to use appropriate safeguards and comply with Subpart C of 45 CFR Part 164 with respect to electronic protected health information to prevent the use or disclosure of PHI other than as provided for by this BAA. Business Associate shall implement administrative, physical and technical safeguards that reasonably and appropriately protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of any paper or electronic PHI it creates, receives, maintains, or transmits on behalf of Covered Entity.
3. Business Associate shall have procedures in place to mitigate and agrees to mitigate, to the extent practicable, any harmful effect that is known to Business Associate of a use or disclosure of PHI by Business Associate in violation of the requirements of this BAA.
4. Business Associate agrees to report immediately, but no later than three (3) days, to Covered Entity any use or disclosure of PHI not provided for by this BAA 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. Breach notification will be written in plain language and will include, to the extent possible or available, the following:
 - a. The identification of the individual whose Unsecured PHI has been, or is reasonably believed by Business Associate to have been, accessed, acquired or disclosed during the Breach;
 - b. A brief description of what happened, including the date of the Breach and the date of the discovery of the Breach;
 - c. A description of the types of Unsecured Protected Health Information that were involved in the Breach (such as whether the full name, social security number, date of birth, home address, account number, diagnosis, disability code, or other types of information were involved);
 - d. Any steps Individuals who were subjects of the Breach should take to protect themselves from potential harm that may result from the Breach;
 - e. A brief description of what Business Associate is doing to investigate the Breach, to mitigate the harm to individuals, and to protect against further Breaches; and
 - f. Contact procedures for individuals to ask questions or learn additional information, including a toll free telephone number, an email address, Web site, or postal address.
5. Business Associate will pay or reimburse Covered Entity for all costs and penalties incurred by Covered Entity in connection with any incident giving rise to a Breach of PHI and/or a Breach of System Security, including without limitation all costs related to any investigation, any notices to be given, reasonable legal fees, credit monitoring (where applicable), and other efforts to mitigate the harm to Individuals or other actions taken to comply with HIPAA, the HITECH Act, or any other applicable law or regulation, where (i) the PHI was in the custody or control of Business Associate when the Breach of PHI and/or Breach of System Security occurred, or (ii) the Breach of PHI and/or Breach of System Security was caused by the negligence or wrongful acts or omissions of Business Associate and its employees, directors, officers, subcontractors, agents or other members of its workforce.
6. Business Associate agrees to ensure that any agents or subcontractors that create, receive, maintain, or transmit protected health information on behalf of the Business Associate agree to the same restrictions, conditions, and requirements that apply to the business associate with respect to such information.
7. Business Associate agrees to provide access, at the request of Covered Entity, in a reasonable time and manner, to PHI 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.
8. Business Associate agrees to make any amendment(s) to PHI 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 a reasonable time and manner.
9. Business Associate agrees to make internal practices, books, and records including policies and procedures and PHI relating to the use and disclosure of PHI received from, or created or received by Business Associate on behalf of, Covered Entity available to the Secretary, in a reasonable time and manner, for the purpose of permitting the Secretary to determine Covered Entity's compliance with the HIPAA Rules.

10. Business Associate agrees to document such disclosures of PHI 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 PHI in accordance with 45 CFR §164.528.
11. Business Associate agrees to provide to Covered Entity or an Individual, in a reasonable time, information collected in accordance with Section B.(10) of this BAA, to permit Covered Entity to respond to a request by an Individual for an accounting of disclosures of PHI in accordance with 45 CFR § 164.528.
12. Business Associate agrees, to the extent the Business Associate is to carry out one or more of Covered Entity's obligation(s) under Subpart E of 45 CFR Part 164, to comply with the requirements of Subpart E that apply to the Covered Entity in the performance of such obligation(s).
13. Training. Business Associate shall provide such training in the privacy and security of PHI to its Workforce (as that term is defined by 45 C.F.R. § 160.103) as is required for Business Associate's compliance with HIPAA, HIPAA Regulations, HITECH, and the MRPA.
14. Sanctions. Business Associate shall apply appropriate sanctions in accordance with Business Associate's policies against any employee, subcontractor or agent who uses or discloses Covered Entity's PHI in violation of this Addendum or applicable law.

C. Permitted Uses and Disclosures of PHI by Business Associate

1. Parties agree to comply with HIPAA, HIPAA Rules, HB 300, the HITECH Act, and the MRPA.
2. Performance of Services. Except as otherwise permitted by this Addendum, Business Associate may create, receive, maintain or transmit PHI on behalf of Covered Entity only in connection with the performance of the services contracted for in the Underlying Agreement or as Required by Law (as that term is defined by 45 C.F.R. § 164.103).
3. Business Associate may only use or disclose PHI as permitted by the HIPAA Rules. Business Associate may use or disclose PHI to perform, manage and administer the activities or services required under the Underlying Agreement or other such arrangement between Covered Entity and Business Associate, including the de-identification of PHI, provided that such use or disclosure would not violate the HIPAA Rules if done by Covered Entity.
4. Business associate agrees to make uses and disclosures and requests for protected health information consistent with covered entity's minimum necessary policies and procedures.
4. Business Associate may use PHI for the proper management and administration of the Business Associate or to carry out the legal responsibilities of the Business Associate.
5. Business Associate may disclose PHI for the proper management and administration of the Business Associate, provided that disclosures are Required By Law, or Business Associate obtains reasonable assurances from the person to whom the information is disclosed that it will remain confidential and 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 Business Associate of any instances of which it is aware in which the confidentiality of the information has been breached.
6. Minimum Necessary. Business Associate shall limit its uses and disclosures of, and requests for, PHI, to the minimum amount of PHI necessary to accomplish the intended purpose of the use, disclosure or request.
7. Business Associate may use PHI to report violations of law to appropriate Federal and State authorities, consistent with §164.502(j)(1).
8. Business associate may not use or disclose protected health information in a manner that would violate Subpart E of 45 CFR Part 164, or MRPA, if done by the Covered Entity itself, except for the specific uses and disclosures set forth above.

D. Obligations of Covered Entity

1. Covered Entity shall notify Business Associate of any limitations in its notice(s) of privacy practices in accordance with 45 CFR § 164.520 to the extent that such limitations may affect Business Associate's use or disclosure of PHI.

2. Covered Entity shall notify Business Associate of any changes in, or revocation of, permission by Individual to use or disclose PHI, to the extent such changes may affect Business Associate's use and disclosure of PHI.
3. Covered Entity shall notify Business Associate of any restriction to the use or disclosure of PHI that Covered Entity has agreed to in accordance with 45 CFR § 164.522 to the extent that such restriction may affect Business Associate's use or disclosure of PHI.

E. Restriction on Covered Entity

Covered Entity shall not request Business Associate to use or disclose PHI in any manner that would not be permissible under the HIPAA Rules if done by Covered Entity, except Business Associate may use or disclose PHI for data aggregation or management and administrative activities of Business Associate.

F. Term and Termination

1. Term. The Term of this BAA and the obligations herein shall be deemed effective on the Effective Date and shall continue unless or until this Addendum terminates, the Underlying Agreement terminates, or the Business Associate has completed performance of the services in the Underlying Agreement, whichever is earlier.
2. Termination for Cause. Upon Covered Entity's knowledge of a material breach by Business Associate, Covered Entity shall either:
 - a. Provide an opportunity for Business Associate to cure the material breach or end the violation and terminate this BAA and Covered Entity's participation in the Addendum if Business Associate does not cure the material breach or end the violation within the reasonable time specified by Covered Entity; or
 - b. Immediately terminate this BAA and Covered Entity's participation in the Addendum if Business Associate has breached a material term of this BAA and a cure is not possible.
3. Effect of Termination.
 - a. Upon termination of this BAA for any reason, Business Associate shall return or destroy all PHI received from Covered Entity, or created or received by Business Associate on behalf of Covered Entity. This provision shall apply to PHI that is in the possession of subcontractors or agents of Business Associate.
 - b. In the event that Business Associate determines that returning or destroying the PHI is not feasible, Business Associate shall provide to Covered Entity notification of the conditions that make return or destruction not feasible, including the need to retain PHI for audit, justification of work product or compliance with pharmacy or other applicable law. Business Associate shall extend the protections of this BAA to such PHI and limit further uses and disclosures of such PHI to those purposes that make the return or destruction not feasible, for so long as Business Associate maintains such PHI.
 - c. Injunctions. Covered Entity and Business Associate agree that any violation of the provisions of this Addendum may cause irreparable harm to Covered Entity. Accordingly, in addition to any other remedies available to Covered Entity at law or in equity, Covered Entity shall be entitled to seek an injunction or other decree of specific performance with respect to any violation of this Addendum or explicit threat thereof, without any bond or other security being required and without the necessity of demonstrating actual damages.
 - e. **Indemnification. This indemnification provision is enforceable against the Parties only to the extent authorized under the constitution and laws of the State of Texas. The Parties will indemnify, defend and hold harmless each other and each other's respective employees, directors, officers, subcontractors, agents or other members of its workforce, each of the foregoing hereinafter referred to as "indemnified party," against all actual and direct losses suffered by the indemnified party and all liability to third parties arising from or in connection with any breach of this Addendum or of any warranty hereunder or from any negligence or wrongful acts or omissions, including failure to perform its obligations under MRPA, HIPAA, the HIPAA Rules, and the HITECH Act by the indemnifying party or its employees, directors, officers, subcontractors, agents or other members of its workforce.**

G. Miscellaneous

1. Regulatory References. A reference in this BAA to a section in the HIPAA Rules means the section as in effect, or as amended, and for which compliance is required.
2. Amendment. The Parties agree to take such action as is necessary to amend this BAA from time to time as is necessary for Covered Entity to comply with the requirements of and changes in state and federal laws and regulations relating to the privacy, security and confidentiality of PHI. This BAA may be amended only in writing when signed by a duly authorized representative of each Party.
3. Survival. The respective rights and obligations of Business Associate under Section F.(3) of this BAA shall survive the termination of this BAA.
4. Interpretation. Any ambiguity in this BAA or in the Underlying Agreement shall be resolved in favor of a meaning that permits Covered Entity to comply with the HIPAA Rules.
5. Conflicts. To the extent that this BAA may conflict with the Underlying Agreement, this BAA shall govern.
6. Governing Law. This Addendum is governed by, and shall be construed in accordance with, applicable federal law and the laws of the State of Texas without regard to choice of law principles.
7. Notice. Except as may be otherwise specifically provided in this Addendum, all notices, demands, requests or communications required or permitted hereunder shall be in writing and shall either be (i) personally delivered against a written receipt, or (ii) sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid and addressed to the parties at the addresses set forth in the Underlying Agreement with copy to:

The Hidalgo County Health and Human Services Department
 Attn: Chief Administrative Officer
 1304 S. 25th Ave.
 Edinburg, Texas 78539

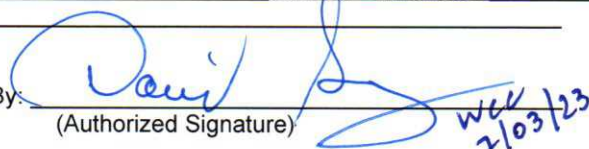
Each notice, demand, request or communication which shall be delivered or mailed in the manner described above shall be deemed sufficiently given for all purposes at such time as it is personally delivered to the addressee or, if mailed, at such time as it is deposited in the United States mail.

8. No Third Party Beneficiaries. Nothing express or implied in this Addendum is intended or shall be deemed to confer upon any person other than Covered Entity, Business Associate, and their respective successors and assigns, any rights, obligations, remedies or liabilities.
9. Written Authorization. Nothing in this Addendum shall be construed to require Business Associate to use or disclose PHI without written authorization from an individual who is a subject of the PHI, or written authorization from any other person, where such authorization would be required under state law for such use or disclosure.
10. Offshore Work. In performing the functions, activities or services for, or on behalf of Covered Entity, Business Associate shall not, and shall not permit any of its agents or subcontractors who receive Covered Entity's PHI to, transmit or make available any PHI to any entity or individual outside the United States without prior written consent of Covered Entity.
11. Privilege. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Addendum, this Addendum shall not be deemed to be an agreement by Business Associate to disclose information that is privileged, protected, or confidential under applicable law to the extent that such privilege, protection or confidentiality (a) has not been waived or (b) is not superseded by applicable law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this Addendum to be executed by their respective duly authorized representatives in the manner legally binding upon them as of the effective date first written above.

BUSINESS ASSOCIATE:

 CITY OF WESLACO

 By: 
 (Authorized Signature) WKS
7/03/23
 Name: David Suarez
 (Type or Print)
 Title: _____ MAYOR
 Date: 7/24/23

COVERED ENTITY:
 THE HIDALGO COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
 DEPARTMENT
 By: _____
 (Authorized Signature)
 Name: _____
 (Type or Print)
 Title: _____
 Date: _____