



# County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY  
ADMINISTRATION

## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

P.O. BOX 962, 1080 EMELINE AVENUE  
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(831) 454-4000 FAX: (831) 454-4770

January 9, 2006

**AGENDA: January 24, 2006**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
County of Santa Cruz  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**RE: Patient Confidentiality**

Dear Members of the Board:


On November 22, 2005, your Board approved submission of a grant application to the Robert Woods Johnson Foundation for establishment of a Health Information Exchange in Santa Cruz County, with additional direction that the Health Services Agency (HSA) report back on the issue of patient confidentiality in January, 2006.

Patient confidentiality is of paramount importance to HSA, and we have invested considerable time and resources into building a HIPAA compliance program that protects the rights of our patients. At the same time, the health of our clients is dependent on rapid exchange of information between providers within the community.

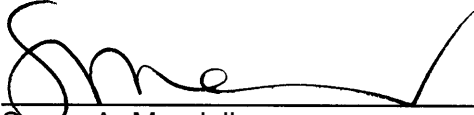
More time is needed to prepare HSA's response on this complex issue and HSA requests to defer this report until your Board's February 14, 2006 agenda.

It is, therefore, **RECOMMENDED** that your Board direct the HSA to return on February 14, 2006 with a report on patient confidentiality as relates to information exchange in our County.

Sincerely,

  
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Rama Khalsa, Ph.D.  
Health Services Agency Director

**RECOMMENDED:**

  
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Susan A. Mauriello  
County Administrative Officer

Cc: County Administrative Office  
County Counsel  
HSA Administration