



Media Release

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For Immediate Release

Kern Regional Center notifies current and former consumers of IT security incident.

Bakersfield, CA — Working with the California Department of Developmental Services, Kern Regional Center (KRC) develops innovative services and supports responsive to the needs and aspirations of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in the Kern, Inyo and Mono counties. KRC announced today that it recently learned of an incident that may affect the security of personal and protected health information of some of the individuals it serves. KRC has sent notification of this incident to potentially impacted individuals.

On December 1, 2023, KRC became aware that a former KRC employee had emailed selected information regarding some of the individuals served by KRC, to a personal email account. KRC immediately commenced an investigation to determine what information was retained by the employee and the identity of current and former individuals who may be affected. Based upon KRC's investigation conducted to date, it appears that personal and protected health information of some of its consumers was retained by the employee after employment by KRC. The information impacted include names, KRC-issued unique client identifier (UCI), and medical information.

KRC has not received any information which suggests the former employee used or further disseminated the information to anyone for an improper purpose. Nevertheless, KRC is taking this issue extremely seriously and is attempting to recover the records; in addition, KRC is in the process of reviewing its internal policies and procedures and will be taking additional steps to ensure that company information is not retained by employees following the end of their employment by KRC.

Currently, there is no evidence of the misuse of any information potentially involved in this incident. Yet out of an abundance of caution, notice of this incident was sent to the potentially impacted individuals on January 30, 2024. In addition to informing potentially impacted individuals about the incident, the notification letter includes steps that potentially impacted individuals can take to protect their information.

In addition to working diligently to recover and/or secure the information retained by the former employee, KRC has reported this incident to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Office of Civil Rights, and the California Attorney General's Office, as required.

KRC is committed to the welfare of the individuals it serves and to protecting their information and has a dedicated assistance line for individuals seeking additional information regarding this incident. Individuals seeking additional information may call 1-661-873-4575. This line is available from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. PT, Monday through Friday, excluding U.S. holidays.

Individuals seeking to contact KRC directly may also write to us at 3200 N. Sillect Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93308 or email us at isis.rasmussen@kernrc.org