

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Lorna Waggoner

Email: Lorna.Waggoner@ecfirst.com

Phone: +1.515.987.4044 x25

Website: www.ecfirst.com

HIPAA Settlement Underscores the Vulnerability of Unpatched & Unsupported Software

IRVINE, CALIFORNIA, USA – December 9, 2014: Anchorage Community Mental Health Services (ACMHS) has agreed to settle potential violations of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Security Rule with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR). ACMHS will pay \$150,000 and adopt a corrective action plan to correct deficiencies in its HIPAA compliance program. ACMHS is a five-facility, nonprofit organization providing behavioral health care services to children, adults, and families in Anchorage, Alaska.

OCR opened an investigation after receiving notification from ACMHS regarding a breach of unsecured electronic protected health information (ePHI) affecting 2,743 individuals due to malware compromising the security of its information technology resources. OCR's investigation revealed that ACMHS had adopted sample Security Rule policies and procedures in 2005, but these were not followed. Moreover, the security incident was the direct result of ACMHS failing to identify and address basic risks, such as not regularly updating their IT resources with available patches and running outdated, unsupported software.

"Successful HIPAA compliance requires a common sense approach to assessing and addressing the risks to ePHI on a regular basis," said OCR Director Jocelyn Samuels. "This includes reviewing systems for unpatched vulnerabilities and unsupported software that can leave patient information susceptible to malware and other risks."

ACMHS cooperated with OCR throughout its investigation and has been responsive to technical assistance provided to date. In addition to the \$150,000 settlement amount, the agreement includes a corrective action plan and requires ACMHS to report on the state of its compliance to OCR for a two-year period. The Resolution Agreement can be found on the OCR website at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/enforcement/examples/acmhs/amchs-capsettlement.pdf>

The HHS Office for Civil Rights and Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology offer a Security Rule Risk Assessment Tool to assist organizations that handle protected health information in conducting a regular review of the administrative, physical and technical safeguards they have in place to protect the security of the information. The tool is available at: <http://www.healthit.gov/providers-professionals/security-risk-assessment>

On-Demand Consulting (ODC)

ecfirst can provide **Project Managers and information security as well as compliance resources for your initiatives** - to advise, guide and implement your plans and activities. Compliment your team with ecfirst project management and security staffing resources to meet your short term and long term requirements. The **ecfirst On-Demand Program** starts with a commitment of consulting time @ 40 hours or more with no short term or long term commitments - and flat rate pricing. *On-Demand Consulting (ODC) Jumpstarts Your Compliance Activities!*

Managed Compliance Services Program (MCSP)

ecfirst is the first organization in the industry to introduce an optional **Managed Compliance Services Program (MCSP)** that addresses HIPAA Privacy, HIPAA Security and HITECH Act mandates over a 36-month period based on a fixed monthly fee for a specified combination of services. *Managed Compliance Maintains Your Compliance Program!*



CHP & CSCS = 2 Highly Valued Credentials

The CHP and CSCS certification programs are now scheduled in several cities across the USA. Or, bring the CHP or CSCS Program to your site.

CHP Program

Classes scheduled in multiple cities across the USA

Learn about key aspects of the HIPAA regulation including Transactions and Code Sets, Identifiers, Privacy and Security. Step through new requirements related to the HITECH Act. This is an exceptional program delivered by Lorna Waggoner, a HIPAA expert. To register, visit www.HIPAAAcademy.Net.

CSCS Program

Classes scheduled in multiple cities across the USA

To attend the only certification program in the industry that addresses PCI DSS, ISO 27001/27002, HIPAA, NIST, FISMA, and other information security regulations, please register at www.ecfirst.com, and click on the CSCS Program. The CSCS Program is presented by compliance and cyber security experts. *CSCS is the world's first program focused on regulatory compliance and cyber security.* To register, visit www.ecfirst.com.

About ecfirst – Gold Standard for Compliance & Security

ecfirst, home of the HIPAA Academy, delivers deep expertise to healthcare covered entities, business associates and health IT vendors with its full suite of services that include:

- Risk Analysis and Technical Vulnerability Assessment
- On-Demand Compliance & Cyber Security Remediation Services
- Contingency Planning/Business Impact Analysis (BIA)
- Policy Templates (available for HIPAA Privacy, HIPAA Security, ISO 27000, PCI DSS)
- Managed Compliance Services Program (MCSP) for continual HIPAA and HITECH compliance

With over 2,100 clients since 1999 and recognized as an Inc. 500 firm – America's fastest growing Top 500 privately held business in its 1st year of eligibility, ecfirst has enabled hundreds of organizations all across the United States and abroad, achieve and maintain compliance with regulations and standards that impact their business. ecfirst is Minority Business Enterprise Certified and accredited by the Better Business Bureau (BBB).

Contact Us

ecfirst is best positioned to be your turn-key compliance and security solutions partner. Our seasoned Practice Team and guaranteed prices will serve you best in meeting compliance and security requirements. I look forward to hearing from you and to discussing how ecfirst can assist with jumpstarting your HIPAA and HITECH initiatives. Thanks!

Lorna Waggoner, Director, Business Development

P: +1.515.987.4044 x25

E: Lorna.Waggoner@ecfirst.com

