

## Notice of Data Breach

January 31, 2022

### **To the Horizons Mental Health Center Community:**

Hutchinson Regional Healthcare System (“HRHS”) is committed to the privacy and security of our patients’ protected information. As a result of this commitment, we are notifying you that we have discovered an improper access to certain protected health information at Horizons Mental Health Center. This post provides information on what happened and what we are doing.

On January 14th, we sent individual notices to those whose personal information was impacted by the data breach where contact information was available. Notifications were sent via USPS mail where we had a current physical address. For those individuals that we did not have a physical address or for those whose mail came back as undeliverable, we are posting this notice to reach all individuals affected by the data breach.

### **What Happened?**

On September 14, 2021, we learned that an individual responsible for providing services with one of our community outreach programs in collaboration with another community partner within the city of Hutchinson for Horizons Mental Health Center (“Horizons”) may have improperly accessed the electronic record systems to view patient information unrelated to the individual’s job duties and may have engaged in conversations and provided information in writing outside of job requirements.

We immediately began an internal investigation and suspended the individual’s access to electronic record systems. On November 15, 2021 it was concluded that a breach did occur as a result of the individual accessing protected health information for certain individuals when this access fell outside the scope of the individual’s job requirements.

### **What Information Was Involved?**

The specific types of information potentially viewed by the individual includes (or could include) **Full Name, Date of Birth, Social Security Number, Address, Patient Account Number, Diagnosis, and Reason for Visit**. Credit card information and bank account information were **not** accessed by the individual. We have no indication or belief that the records were accessed for identity fraud purposes.

### **What We Are Doing:**

The individual no longer provides services for any HRHS facility and we have taken steps to ensure the destruction of any PHI that was improperly disclosed outside of HRHS. All HRHS facilities have a comprehensive information security program. As a result of this incident, we are working to put additional measures in place to minimize the risk that such an incident could occur again at any HRHS facility. Further, this incident will be reported to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

### **What You Can Do:**

You may contact the three credit reporting agencies directly to place a fraud alert on your account. They are: Equifax 1-800-685-1111 [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com); Experian 1-888-397-3742 [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com); and Trans Union 1-800-888-4213 [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com). Even if you choose to request a fraud alert placed on your account, you should continue to monitor your credit reports to ensure an imposter has not opened an

account with your personal information. If any suspicious or unusual activity is noticed, you may want to contact local authorities and file a police report.

Additional information regarding identity theft protection may be obtained from the Federal Trade Commission at 600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580, 1-877-438-4338

*<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0014-identity-theft> or the Kansas Attorney General's Office at 120 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Ave, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Topeka, KS 66612, [www.ag.ks.gov/in-your-corner-kansas](http://www.ag.ks.gov/in-your-corner-kansas).*

**Contact:**

You may contact Kari Menefee, Horizons Mental Health Center's Privacy Officer Toll Free at 1-833-763-0102, or by e-mail at [menefee@hmhc.com](mailto:menefee@hmhc.com) with any questions or concerns you may have regarding this notice or to determine whether any of your information was subject to the breach. We apologize for this incident, and please be assured that we are doing everything we can to rectify the situation.