State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

This BUSINESS ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT is between the New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF) and its undersigned contractor. This Business Associate Agreement sets forth the responsibilities of the **contractor as the Business Associate**, and **DCF as the Covered Entity**, in relationship to Protected Health Information (PHI), as those terms are defined and regulated by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), and the regulations adopted thereunder by the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, with the intent that the Covered Entity shall at all times be in compliance with HIPAA and the underlying regulations.

This Business Associate Agreement is entered into for the purpose of the Business Associate providing services on behalf of the Covered Entity. In consideration for the respective benefits, rights and obligations of HIPAA and its implementing regulations, and for access to the PHI held by Covered Entity, the parties agree to be bound by the terms of this Agreement. There is no underlying contract associated with this Agreement, or the exchange of this PHI.

A. Definitions:

1. The terms specified below shall be defined as follows:

   a. "Business associate" shall mean s a person or entity, other than a member of the workforce of a covered entity, who performs functions or activities on behalf of, or provides certain services to, a covered entity that involve access by the business associate to protected health information. This definition is also applicable to a subcontractor that creates, receives, maintains, or transmits protected health information on behalf of another business associate.

   b. "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 agreement, shall the New Jersey Department of Children and Families.

   c. "Agreement" shall mean this Business Associate Agreement.

   d. "Breach" shall mean the unauthorized acquisition, access, use or disclosure of Protected Health Information in a manner not permitted by the Privacy Rule or the Security Rule, which compromises the security of such Protected Health Information. Breach shall exclude such acquisition, access, use or disclosure described in 45 CFR Section 164.402.

   e. "Designated Record Set" shall mean a group of records maintained by or for the Covered Entity that is the medical records and billing records of individuals maintained by or for

the Covered Entity; and the enrollment, payment, claims, adjudication, and case or medical management record systems maintained by or for the Covered Entity, or used, in whole or in part, by or for the Covered Entity to make decisions about individuals.

f. "HIPAA" shall mean the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

g. "HIPAA Regulations" shall mean the regulations promulgated under HIPAA by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, including but not limited to, the Privacy Rule and the Security Rule, and shall include the regulations codified at 45 CFR Parts 160, 162 and 164.

h. "HITECH" shall mean the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act, Title XIII of Division A of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, P.L. 111-005.

i. "Individual" shall mean the person who is the subject of the Protected Health Information and includes a person who qualifies as a personal representative in accordance with 45 CFR 164.502(g).

j. "Notice of Privacy Practices" shall mean the Notice of Privacy Practices required by 45 CFR 164.520, provided by Covered Entity to Individuals.

k. "Privacy Rule" shall mean the Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information at 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164, Subparts A and E.

l. “Protected Health Information (PHI)” shall mean individually identifiable health information that is transmitted by electronic media or transmitted or maintained in any other form or medium.

m. "Record" shall mean any item, collection, or grouping of information that includes Protected Health Information and is maintained, collected, used, or disseminate by or for a Covered Entity.

n. "Required by Law" shall have the same meaning as in 45 CFR 164.501.

o. "Secretary" shall mean the Secretary of the United States Department of Health & Human Services or his designee.

p. "Security Rule" shall mean the Standards for Security for the Protection of Electronic Protected Health Information, codified at 45 CFR parts 160, 162 and 164.

2. All other terms used herein shall have the meaning specified in the Privacy Rule or in the absence of if no meaning is specified, shall have their plain meaning.

B. Obligations and Activities of Business Associate

1. Business Associate may use PHI for the following functions, activities, or services for or on behalf of Covered Entity provided that such use would not violate this Agreement, the HIPAA regulations the Privacy Rule, or Notice of Privacy Practices if done by Covered Entity. In the event that this Agreement conflicts and any other written agreement made between the parties, relating to the exchange of PHI, this Agreement shall control. Business Associate's access to and use of the PHI is limited to the provision of services by the Business Associate on behalf the Covered Entity set forth in the contract between the Business Associate and the Covered Entity.

2. Business Associate may further disclose PHI to a subcontractor/person for the proper management and administration of Business Associate, provided that such disclosure is Required by Law, or would not violate this Agreement, the Privacy Rule, or Notice of Privacy Practices if done by Covered Entity, and Business Associate executes an additional business associates agreement as Required by Law or for the purpose for which it was disclosed to the person, and the subcontractor/person notifies Business Associate of any instances of which it is aware in which PHI has been disclosed. In the event that this agreement conflicts with any other agreement relating to the access or use of PHI, this agreement shall control.

3. Business Associate agrees to not use or disclose PHI other than as permitted or required by this Agreement or as Required by Law. In the event that this agreement conflicts with any other agreement relating to the access or use of PHI, this agreement shall control.

4. Business Associate agrees to implement and use appropriate safeguards to prevent use or disclosure of PHI other than as provided for by this Agreement. Business Associate shall maintain a comprehensive written information privacy and security program that includes administrative, technical and physical safeguards appropriate to the size and complexity of the Business Associate's operations and the nature and scope of its activities.

5. Business Associate agrees to take prompt corrective action to mitigate 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 Agreement.

6. Business Associate agrees to notify Covered Entity of any use or disclosure of PHI not provided for by this Agreement, or the Privacy Rule, or of any suspected or actual breach of security or intrusion whenever it becomes aware within twenty-four hours of Business Associate becoming aware of such use, disclosure or suspected or actual breach of security or intrusion. Business Associate further agrees to take prompt corrective action to cure or mitigate any harmful effects of any such use, disclosure, or actual or suspected breach of security of intrusion.

7. Business Associate agrees to ensure that any officer, employee, contractor, subcontractor or agent to whom it provides PHI received from or maintained, created or received by Business

Associate on behalf of Covered Entity agrees to the same restrictions and conditions that apply through this Agreement to Business Associate with respect to such PHI.

8. Access. Business Associate agrees to provide access to PHI in a Designated Record Set to Covered Entity or to an Individual as directed by Covered Entity in order to meet the requirements of 45CFR 164.524, within 30 days of the date of any such request, unless the request is denied by Covered Entity pursuant to 45 CFR 164.524(a)(1), (a)(2) or (a)(3).

9. Business Associate agrees to make any amendment(s) to PHI in a Designated Record Set as Covered Entity directs in order to meet the requirements of 45 CFR 164.526, within 30 days of such a request, unless the request has been denied pursuant to 45 CFR 164.526(d). Business Associate shall provide written confirmation of the amendment(s) to the Covered Entity.

10. Business Associate agrees to create and maintain an appeal process that meets the requirements of 45 CFR 164.524 and 164.526 that an Individual can utilize if the Individual's request for access to or amendment of PHI is denied.

11. Business Associate agrees to make its comprehensive written information privacy and security program, as well as its internal practices, books and records, including policies and procedures relating to the use and disclosure of PHI received from, or created, maintained, or received by Business Associate on behalf of Covered Entity available to Covered Entity within 30 days of the date of such request, or to the Secretary in a time and manner designated by the Secretary.

12. Business Associate agrees to document all disclosures of PHI which 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. Business Associate agrees to provide to Covered Entity, within 30 days of the date of such request, all disclosures of PHI.

13. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section D of this Agreement, pursuant to 45 CFR 164.530(j), Business Associate agrees that it and its officers, employees, contractors, subcontractors and agents shall continue to maintain the information required under subsection B(9) of this Agreement for a period of six years from the date of its creation or the date when it was last in effect, whichever is later.

14. Business Associate agrees that from time to time, upon reasonable notice, it shall allow Covered Entity or its authorized agents or contractors, to inspect the facilities, systems, books, records and procedures of Business Associate to monitor compliance with this Agreement. In the event the Covered Entity, in its sole discretion, determines that the Business Associate has violated any term of this Agreement or the Privacy Rule, it shall so notify the Business Associate in writing. Business Associate shall promptly remedy the violation of any term of this Agreement and shall certify same in writing to the Covered Entity. The fact that Covered Entity or its authorized agents or contractors inspect, fail to inspect or have the right to inspect Business Associate's facilities, systems, books, records, and procedures does not relieve Business Associate of its responsibility to comply with this Agreement. Covered Entity's (1) failure to

detect, or (2) detection by failure to notify Business Associate, or (3) failure to require Business Associate to remediate any unsatisfactory practices, shall not constitute acceptance of such practice or a waiver of Covered Entity's enforcement rights under this Agreement. Nothing in this paragraph is deemed to waive Section E of this Agreement or the New Jersey Tort Claims Act, NJSA 59:1-1 et seq., as they apply to Covered Entity.

15. Business Associate shall implement administrative, physical and technical safeguards that protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of PHI in compliance with the Security Rule.

16. Business Associate shall report all security incidents, as defined by the Security Rule, within twenty-four hours of becoming aware of such actual or suspected security incident.

17. Sections 164.308, 164.312 and 164.316 of Title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, apply to Business Associate in the same manner as such sections apply to the Covered Entity. The HITECH requirements that relate to security, and that are applicable to the Covered Entity, shall also be applicable to the Business Associate and are incorporated into this Agreement by reference.

18. Business Associate shall at all times, pursuant to NJSA 9:6-8.10a, maintain the confidentiality of reports of child abuse or neglect, information obtained by the Department of Children and Families in investigating such reports including reports received pursuant to section 20 of P.L.1974, c.119 (C.9:6-8.40), and reports of findings forwarded to the child abuse registry pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1971, c.437 (C.9:6-8.11). Disclosure of such may only be made pursuant to one of the enumerated exceptions pursuant to NJSA 9:6-8.10b.

19. In the event of an actual or suspected breach, Business Associate shall provide Covered Entity with a written report, as soon as possible but not later than five (“5”) days after the breach/suspected breach became known. The report shall include, to the extent available: a) the identification of each individual whose unsecured PHI has been, or is reasonably believed by the Business Associate to have been, accessed, acquired, used or disclosed during the breach; b) a brief description of what happened, including the date of the breach and the date of the discovery, if known; c) a description of the types of unsecured PHI involved in the breach; d) any steps individuals affected by the breach should take to protect themselves from potential harm resulting from the breach; and e) a description of what Business Associate is doing to investigate the breach, mitigate harm to the individual(s), and protect against future breaches**.** In addition, the business Associate shall, at the request of the Covered Entity, provide breach notification required by HITECH.

C. Provisions for Covered Entity to Inform Business Associate of Privacy Practices and Restrictions.

1. Covered Entity shall be responsible for using appropriate safeguards to maintain and ensure the confidentiality, privacy and security of PHI transmitted to Business Associate pursuant to this Agreement, in accordance with the requirements and standards in the Privacy Rule, until such PHI is received by Business Associate.

2. In accordance with 45 CFR 164.520, Covered Entity shall notify Business Associate of any limitations in Covered Entity's Notice of Privacy Practices to the extent that such limitation may affect Business Associate's use or disclosure of PHI.

3. Covered Entity shall notify Business Associate of any changes in or revocation of permission by an Individual to use or disclose PHI, to the extent that such changes may affect Business Associate's use or disclosure of PHI.

4. 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.

5. Covered Entity shall not request Business Associate to use or disclose PHI in any manner that would not be permissible under the Privacy Rule if done by Covered Entity or under Covered Entity's Notice of Privacy Practices or other policies adopted by Covered Entity pursuant to the Privacy Rule.

D. Term of Business Associate Agreement

1. This Agreement shall be effective as of the date the Business Associate and the Covered Entity enter into a contract for the Business Associate’s provision of services on behalf of the Covered Entity, and it shall terminate when all of the PHI provided by Covered Entity to Business Associate, or created, maintained or received by Business Associate on behalf of Covered Entity, is destroyed or returned to Covered Entity, or, if it is infeasible to return or destroy PHI, protections are extended to such information in accordance with subsection 3, below.

2. Upon Covered Entity's knowledge of a material breach or violation(s) of any of the obligations under this Agreement by Business Associate, Covered Entity shall, at its discretion, either:

   a. Provide an opportunity for the Business Associate to cure the breach or end the violation upon such terms and conditions as Covered Entity shall specify, and if

      Business Associate does not cure the breach or end the violation, upon such terms and conditions as Covered Entity has specified, Covered Entity may terminate this Agreement and require that Business Associate fully comply with the procedures specified in subsection 3, below.

   b. Immediately terminate the Contract and require that Business Associate fully comply with the procedures specified in subsection 3, below, if Business Associate has breached a material term of this Agreement and Covered Entity has determined, in its sole discretion, that cure is not possible, or

c. If neither termination nor cure is feasible, as determined by Covered Entity in its sole discretion, Covered Entity shall report the violation to the Secretary.

3. Effect of Breach of this Agreement.

a. Except as provided in paragraph b of this section, upon termination of the Contract 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 also apply to PHI that is in the possession of subcontractors or agents of Business Associate. Business Associate shall retain no copies of PHI.

b. Business Associate shall provide Covered Entity with a certification, within 30 days, that neither it nor its subcontractors or agents maintains any PHI in any form, whether paper, electronic or film, received from Covered Entity or created or received by Business Associate on behalf of Covered Entity. Covered Entity shall acknowledge receipt of such certification and, as of the date of such acknowledgement, this Agreement shall terminate.

c. In the event that Business Associate determines that returning or destroying the PHI is infeasible, Business Associate shall provide to Covered Entity notification of the conditions that make return or destruction infeasible. Covered Entity shall have the discretion to determine whether it is feasible for the Business Associate to return or destroy the PHI. If Covered Entity determines it is feasible, Covered Entity shall specify the terms and conditions for the return or destruction of PHI at the expense of Business Associate. Upon Covered Entity determining that Business Associate cannot return or destroy PHI, Business Associate shall extend the protections of this Agreement to such PHI and limit further uses and disclosures of such PHI to those purposes that make the return or destruction infeasible, for so long as Business Associate maintains such PHI.

E. Additional Insurance Considerations

1. Business Associate shall assume all risk and responsibility for, and agrees to indemnify, defend and save harmless Covered Entity, its officers, agents and employees and each and every one of them, from and against any and all claims, demands, suits, actions, recoveries, judgments, and costs (including attorneys' fees and costs and court costs), and expenses in connection therewith, on account of loss of life, property or injury or damages that to the person, body or property of any person or persons, whatsoever, which shall arise from or result directly or indirectly from Business Associate's use or misuse of PHI or from any action or inaction of Business Associate or its officers, employees, agents or Subcontractors with regard to PHI or the requirements of this Agreement or the Privacy Rule. The provisions of this indemnification clause shall in no way limit the obligations assumed by Business Associate under this Agreement, nor shall they be construed to relieve Business Associate from any liability nor preclude Covered Entity from taking any other actions available to it under any other provisions of this Agreement, the Privacy Rule or at law.

2. Notwithstanding the above, the obligations assumed by the Business Associate herein shall not extend to or encompass suits, costs, claims, expenses, liabilities and judgments incurred solely as a result of actions or inactions of Covered Entity.

3. Business Associate acknowledges the possibility of criminal sanctions and penalties for breach or violation of this Agreement or the Privacy Rule pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1320d-6.

4. Business Associate acknowledges that Social Security number and Social Security Administration (SSA) records, information or data regarding individuals (records) are confidential and require safeguarding. Failure to safeguard Social Security numbers and other SSA records can subject the Business Associate and its employees to civil and criminal sanctions under Federal and State laws including the Federal Privacy Act at 5 U.S.C. 552a; Social Security Act sections 205 and 1106 (see 42 U.S.C. 405(c)(2)(C)(viii) and 42 U.S.C. 1306, respectively); and N.J.S.A. 56:8-164. The Business Associate shall ensure that all persons who will handle or have access under this Agreement to any Social Security Number or other SSA record will be advised of the confidentiality of the records; the safeguarding requirements to protect the records and prevent unauthorized access, handling, duplication and re-disclosure of the SSA records; and the civil and criminal sanctions for failure to safeguard the SSA records. The Business Associate shall enact and/or maintain safeguards necessary to protect these records and prevent the unauthorized or inadvertent access to, duplication of or disclosure of a Social Security number or other SSA record.

5. Business Associate acknowledges that all Medicaid applicant and beneficiary information is confidential, and 42 C.F.R. 431.300 to 307 restricts the use or disclosure of information concerning applicants and beneficiaries to purposes directly connected with the administration of the plan. Purposes directly related to plan administration include: (a) Establishing eligibility; (b) Determining the amount of medical assistance; (c) Providing services for beneficiaries; and (d) Conducting or assisting an investigation, prosecution, or civil or criminal proceeding related to the administration of the plan.

6. Business Associate shall be responsible for, and shall at its own expense, defend itself against any and all suits, claims, losses, demands or damages of whatever kind or nature, arising out of or in connection with an act or omission of Business Associate, its employees, agents, or contractors, in the performance of the obligations assumed by Business Associate pursuant to this Agreement. Business Associate hereby releases Covered Entity from any and all liabilities, claims, losses, costs, expenses and demands of any kind or nature whatsoever, arising under state or federal laws, out of or in connection with Business Associate's performance of the obligations assumed by Business Associate pursuant to this Agreement.

7. The obligations of the Business Associate under this Section shall survive the expiration of this Agreement.

F. Miscellaneous

1. A reference in this Agreement to a section of the Privacy Rule means the section as in effect or, it may be amended or interpreted by a court of competent jurisdiction.

2. Business Associate and Covered Entity agree to take such action as is necessary to amend this Agreement from time to time in order that Covered Entity can continue to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Rule and HIPAA and case law that interprets the Privacy Rule or HIPAA. All such amendments shall be in writing and signed by both parties. Business Associate and Covered Entity agree that this Agreement may be superseded by a revised Business Associate Agreement executed between the parties after the effective date of this Agreement.

3. The respective rights and obligations of Business Associate and Covered Entity under Section D, "Term of Business Associate Agreement", above, shall survive the termination of the Contract. The respective rights and obligations of Business Associate and Covered Entity under Section E, "Indemnification", and Section B (11), "Internal Practices", above, shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

4. Any ambiguity in this Agreement shall be resolved to permit Covered Entity to comply with the Privacy Rule and HIPAA, as it may be amended or interpreted by a court of competent jurisdiction.

5. Nothing expressed or implied in the Agreement is intended to confer, nor shall anything herein confer, upon any person other than the Business Associate and Covered Entity, and any successor state agency to Covered Entity, any rights, remedies, obligations or liabilities whatsoever.

6. Any notices to be given hereunder shall be made via Regular and Certified US Mail, Return Receipt Requested, to the addresses of the Business Associate and the Privacy Officer of the Covered Entity.

G. Attestations

As the Covered Entity is a body corporate and politic of the State of New Jersey, the signature of its authorized representative is affixed below. The undersigned representative of the Covered Entity certifies that he or she is fully authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of this Agreement and to execute and legally bind such Covered Entity to this document.

Covered Entity Agency: Department of Children and Families

Signature: Juanita Y. Byrd Date: 08/30/2022

Printed Name: Juanita Byrd Title: Business Manager / SBO

By my signature below, I hereby confirm I am authorized to sign this document and to enter into the terms and conditions of this Agreement on behalf of my organization and to legally bind my organization as the Business Associate to this Agreement. I have read, understand, and have the authority to ensure my organization will comply with the terms and conditions of providing services under my contracts with DCF as described in the text and referenced documents above. The terms set forth in this document govern all executed contracts with DCF and contracts to be entered into with DCF in the future.

Business Associate Organization: Acenda, Inc.

Signature: Date: 7/13/2022

Printed Name: Anthony DiFabio, Psy.D. Title: President & CEO