



Panelist:

Alex Kam

Acting Director, California Office of Health Information Integrity (CalOHII)

Alex Kam has been the Director of CalOHII since October of 2006. During this period, he has led the transformation of CalOHII from an office with the sole responsibility to lead and coordinated state department implementation of the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) to the state entity responsible for the development and enforcement of state health privacy laws and electronic health information exchange issues. Prior to assignment, he served as the Operations Branch Chief since the Office's inception in 2001. As Operations Chief, he was responsible for the statewide HIPAA compliance reviews, program and administrative operations, and legislation. Prior to his assignment with CalOHII, Alex worked at in California Department of Social Services on welfare reform program design and implementation.

CalOHII is part of the Health and Human Services Agency and has multiple responsibilities involving health information. In FY 2007-08, the proposed budget for HIPAA implementation was approximately \$78 million. CalOHII also is the leading state entity responsible for privacy and security policies as they relate to electronic health information exchange. CalOHII does the facilitation, research and support for the California Privacy and Security Advisory Board (PSAB). The CalPSAB is composed of leading healthcare stakeholders from across the state and advises the Secretary of the Health and Human Services Agency on the development and implementation of privacy and security standards for California health information exchange. Also with the passage of AB 211 (2008), effective January 1, 2009, CalOHII also obtain new statutory responsibilities for enforcing California health privacy laws.

Alex represents California at the National Governors Association on issues related to electronic health information exchange and health privacy and security.