STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
4/744 P STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

March 8, 1988

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers
All County MEDS Coordinators
All County EDP Coordinators

Letter No.88-15

SUBJECT: MEDS-NETWORK CPU-TO-CPU GUIDELINES

Purpose

This is to notify county welfare departments (CWD) of the Department of Health Services' (DHS) new policy as it relates to establishing CPU-to-CPU links between the county and State.

Background

Under previous DHS policy, DHS funded the cost of a MEDS communication link from the Health and Welfare Data Center's (HWDC) computer to the county's computer (see illustration on attachment #1).

In order for a county to establish a MEDS-Network CPU-to-CPU link, the county's computer telecommunication software and hardware had to be compatible, without modification, with the current release of IBM's communication technology being used on HWDC's computer system.

Once the CPU-to-CPU system was satisfactorily operational to both DHS and the county, the State's MEDS equipment was removed (usually at the expiration of the State and vendor's lease period). If the county required replacement equipment, a request would be submitted to:

Department of Social Services
County Approvals Section
744 P Street, M.S. 1912
Sacramento, CA 95814

New Procedures

Following are the new DHS procedures:

A. Any county having a county computer system compatible with HWDC's computer system may convert to (or continue as) a MEDS CPU-To-CPU status with DHS installing an additional MEDS-Network data line from the HWDC CPU to the county's main computer. This proposal will allow the county to access MEDS through the county computer system. DHS will

For your information, attachment 3 describes the advantages and disadvantages of converting to a CPU-to-CPU status.

If you have any questions concerning these guidelines, please feel free to contact Al Brinsfield of my staff at (916) 324-7977.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

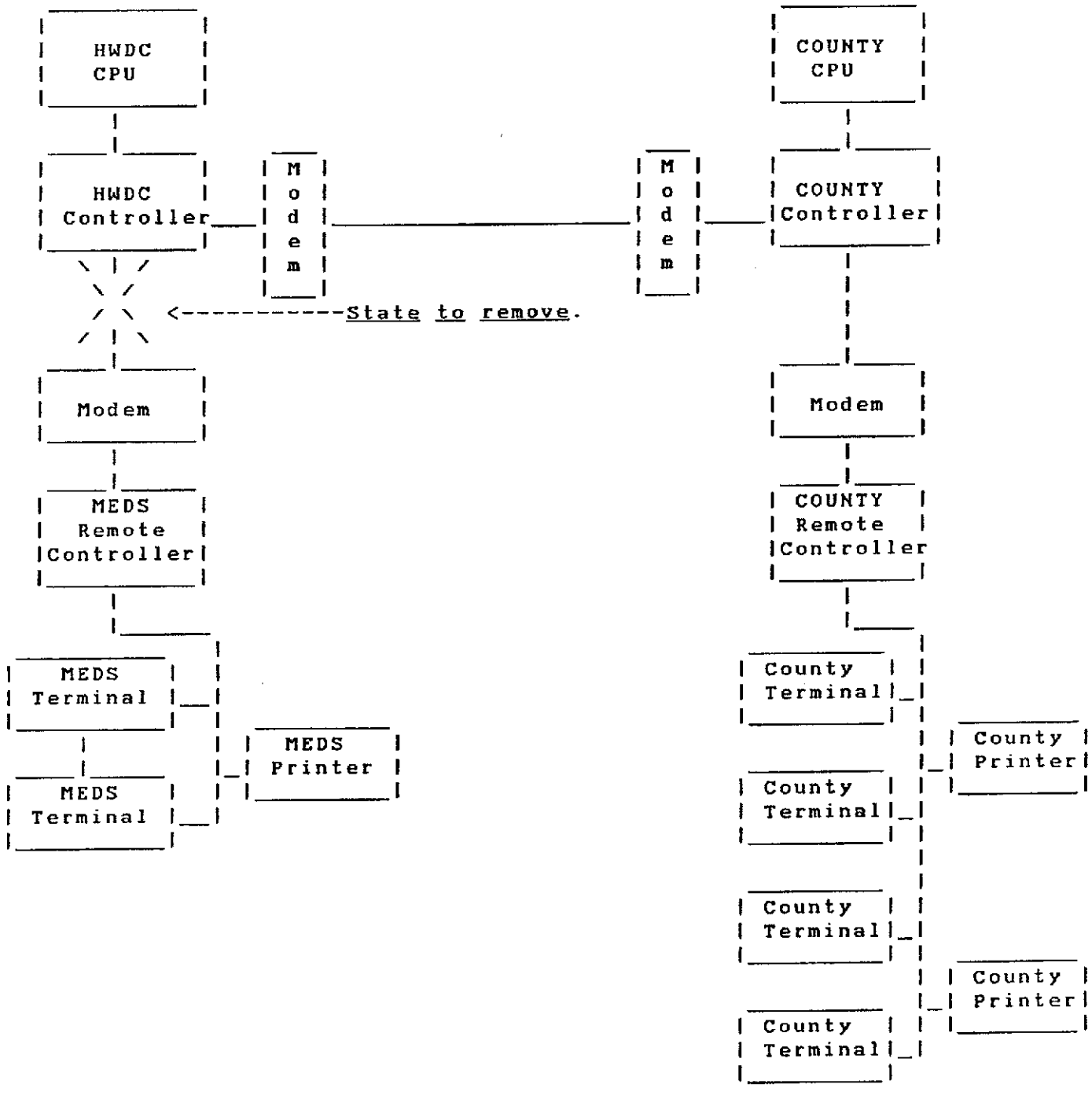
Attachments

cc: Medi-Cal Liaisons
Medi-Cal Program Consultants

Expiration Date: October 31, 1988

PRESENT MEDS-NETWORK CPU CONFIGURATION

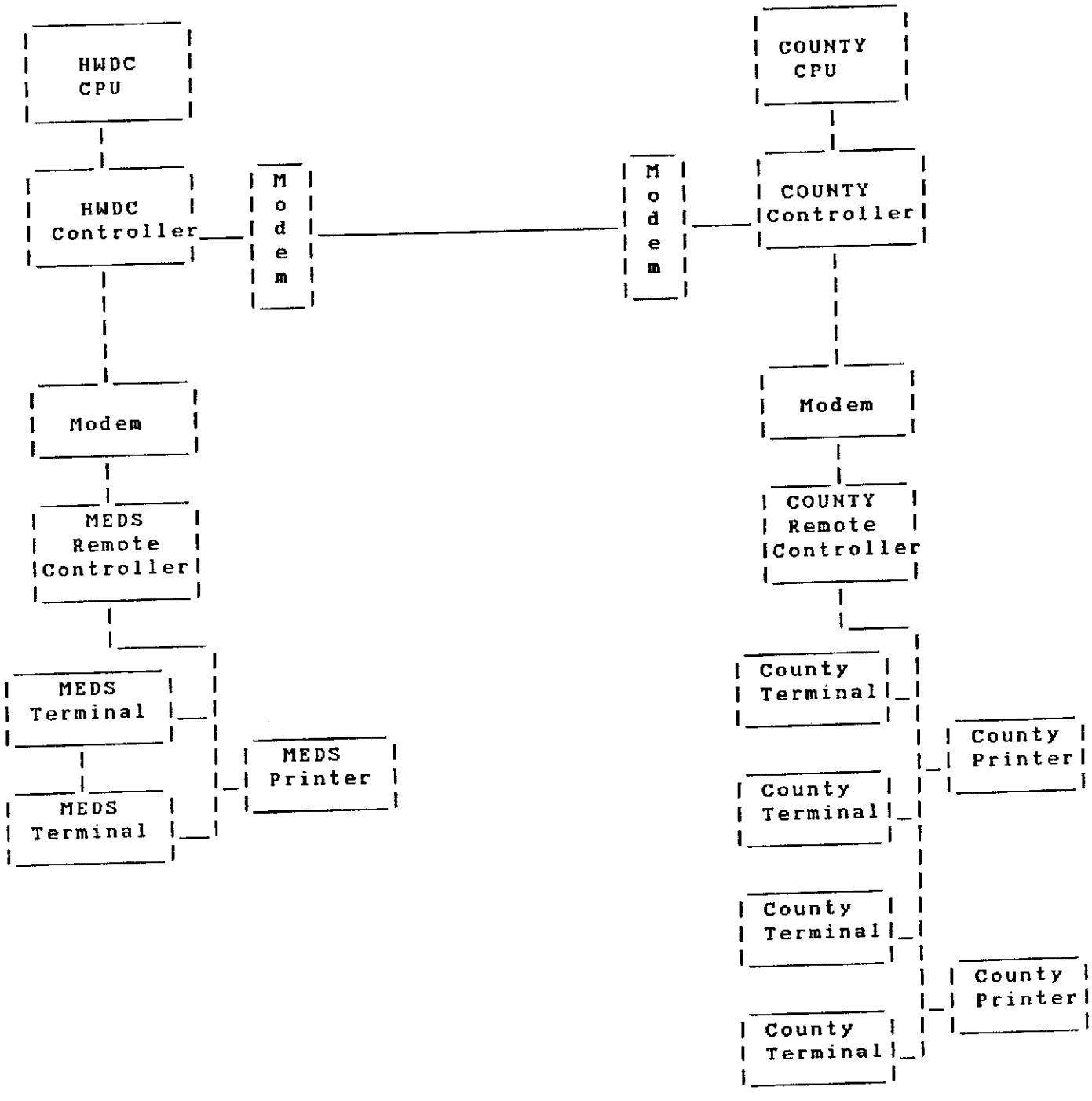
State will remove State MEDS-Network equipment when the system is operating satisfactorily and the vendor's lease period expires.



* The configurations shown here are samples only, not actual county MEDS-Network or county computer systems.

PROPOSED MEDS-NETWORK CPU CONFIGURATION

County would be allowed to retain State MEDS-Network equipment.



* The configurations shown here are samples only, not actual county MEDS-Network or county computer systems.

ADVANTAGES OF MEDS-NETWORK CPU-TO-CPU-LINK

The following advantages assume that there is a countywide computer system in place.

1. Access to both MEDS and county system from a single terminal or printer.

2. Utilize existing high speed line printer/s in the county to print worker alerts, if desired.

3. With a minimum amount of time, effort, and changes, the county system can be changed to transmit daily MEDS transactions via the CPU link instead of creating a magnetic tape and shipping the tape to Sacramento.

4. Reduce shipping time as well as avoid misrouting or mishandling of the magnetic tapes.

5. Avoid delays in the processing of data when waiting for the reshipment of magnetic tapes that were lost or damaged.

6. County staff need only train on a single vendor's equipment.

7. County will have more control in relocating their own equipment.

8. Reduce the overall state and county expenditures for leasing or purchasing terminals and printers by having the devices perform multiple functions.

9. By retaining State MEDS equipment on a separate link the county will still have MEDS access if the county computer system is down.

10. With State MEDS equipment on a separate link the county may have MEDS access in locations where county equipment is not available.

DISAVANTAGES OF MEDS-NETWORK CPU-to-CPU LINK

1. Once the county's computer is connected to HWDC's computer via a CPU link both parties must keep each other informed of any proposed changes in systems software or hardware affecting the network.

2. Once the county's computer is connected to HWDC's computer, the county must keep DHS informed of any additions or deletions of terminals or printers in the county's network, since a matching table of devices is maintained on the HWDC's computer system.