

“East Kern County Integrated Technology Association Takes First Steps--
Bridging Healthcare Systems in SE Kern”

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“Enhancing Medicine through Technology” is the motto used by the East Kern Integrated Technology Association (EKCITA). This non-profit organization, newly incorporated in September 2006, aims to combine health care providers, professional services, public agencies and others into a system that coordinates healthcare information and data that is important to SE Kern County. Collecting and communicating *community-specific* information, such as looking at public health trends, will help healthcare professionals to care for patients. During the regular scheduled board meeting held on Tuesday, December 19th, EKCITA approved a contract with Mendocino Informatics, Inc., a health information technology consulting and programming firm, to perform a “needs assessment” on identified partners such as Tehachapi Hospital and clinics, specified physician offices, and other partner companies to evaluate steps needed in order to join together different systems while preserving the operations and decision making of each individual practice. Rex Moen, President of the Board of Directors, remarked, “I am very excited to partner with Mendocino Informatics. It is evident that they share the same passion as EKCITA. We are both here to improve the portability and quality of healthcare. This marks the first step of a very long, but worth-while process.”

Two meetings will be convened in January 2007. Public notices will be posted at Tehachapi Hospital.