

Celeste Andersen, JD, joined the Department of Behavioral Wellness in July 2013 when the Chief of Compliance position was created. As the Chief of Compliance, Celeste is responsible for ensuring that the Department operates in accordance with the requirements of Federal and State laws, the terms of the Mental Health Plan agreement with the State Department of Health Care Services and the Department's own Policies and Procedures. Celeste serves as the Chair of the Compliance Committee and oversees the Sub-Committees for HIPAA and Security; Safety & Risk; Policies & Procedures; Clinical Documentation; and Training. She also supervises the Privacy Office, Patients' Rights Advocates, and the Medical Records program.

Prior to joining the Department, Celeste served as a Deputy County Counsel for Santa Barbara County, representing the Departments of Alcohol, Drug & Mental Health Services, Public Health, Social Services and the Agriculture Commission, as well as negotiating software licenses and other complex contracts for the County. Prior to moving to Santa Barbara County, Celeste lived on the island of Saipan, in the US Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands where she was an Assistant Attorney General and General Counsel for the Department of Public Health. Celeste began her career in private legal practice working for the law firm Drew & Napier in Singapore, Apple Computer, and a large San Francisco law firm where she specialized in corporate, health care, and intellectual property law.

Celeste received her B.A. in Economics from UCLA, and her law degree from Santa Clara University School of Law.