



Vision

A Native Community that enjoys physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellness.

Mission

Working together with the Native Community to achieve wellness through health and related services.

Customer-Owners

Serving over 65,000 Alaska Native and American Indian People

Community Served

Anchorage Service Unit and 55 Tribes to Include:

- | | |
|------------|-----------------|
| Anchorage | Matanuska |
| | Susitna Borough |
| Chickaloon | McGrath |
| Eklutna | McGrath |
| Igiugig | Newhalen |
| Iliamna | Ninilchik |
| Kenaitze | Seldovia |
| Knik | St. Paul Island |
| Kokhanok | Tyonek |

Services Offered

Over 90 Community-Based Programs Including:

- Medical
- Behavioral
- Dental

Co-Own and Co-Manage the Alaska Native Medical Center

Board of Directors

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April Kyle, MBA

Tribal Authority

Cook Inlet Region, Inc.

August 28, 2023

Emily Beaulieu
Department of Health
3601 C Street, Suite 902
Anchorage, AK 99503

RE: Disaster Relief State Plan Amendment – Fee Schedules in state plan section 4.19-B

Dear Ms. Beaulieu,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Tribal consultation comments related to the proposed changes to the fee schedules for a variety of services authorized under the state Medicaid plan. While the inflationary and other adjustments across the fee schedules are welcome to stabilize the delivery of care across the state, it is disappointing to see that one service will receive no rate adjustments – behavioral analysis.

Licensed behavioral analysts provide essential services for children with a diagnosis on the autism spectrum. Families receiving the services of Board-Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) early on in their child’s life are less likely to become overwhelmed with the challenges presented by the child’s diagnosed condition. However, right now there are too few providers who can furnish these services, often due to the inadequate reimbursement rates from the state’s Medicaid program. If these rates were increased, more providers could bring on BCBAs or start new behavioral analysis programs.

Southcentral Foundation (SCF) provides these services for children and families across Alaska through both a clinic in Anchorage and via telehealth. However, the need for these services is high throughout the state and the inadequate reimbursement rate does not allow SCF to expand this service to meet the needs for all Alaska Native children statewide. I urge the department to reconsider the adequacy of not adjusting the rates for behavioral analysis.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments. If you have any questions, please contact SCF's Vice President of Specialty Services Dr. Matt Hirschfeld, at mhirschfeld@southcentralfoundation.com.

Sincerely,
SOUTHCENTRAL FOUNDATION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kyle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

April Kyle, MBA
President and CEO