

## Department of Health

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THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

December 31, 2024

*Re:* Tribal Notice of Mandatory State Plan Amendment – Justice Involved Youth

Dear Tribal Health Leaders

On behalf of the Department of Health (the department) and in keeping with the responsibility to conduct tribal consultation, I am writing to inform you of a proposed future Medicaid state plan amendment (SPA). This opportunity for consultation is concurrent with the public notice period for the proposed SPA.

**Purpose and content of the proposed amendment:**

The department intends to submit a SPA to comply with federal provisions for Medicaid eligible justice-involved youth (JIY), outlined in [Section 5121](#) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023. The key provisions require states to:

- 1. Facilitate early Medicaid eligibility and enrollment for eligible juveniles:** Eligible juveniles are defined as individuals under 21 years of age and former foster youth up to the age of 26 who become incarcerated while enrolled in Medicaid or are determined eligible for Medicaid while incarcerated. Eligible juveniles must be post-adjudication. Medicaid eligibility will be determined prior to JIY's release, and the enrollment will allow for the provision of specific services within the carceral setting thirty days prior to release.
- 2. Provide Care Coordination Services via Targeted Case Management:** Targeted Case Management for Justice Involved Youth (JIY-TCM) will be covered by Medicaid for thirty days pre- and thirty days post-release. JIY-TCM will work in partnership with Department of Corrections and Division of Juvenile Justice to ensure the JIY have referrals to appropriate care and services available in the geographic region of their home or residence.
- 3. Medicaid reimbursement of screening and diagnostic services thirty days prior to release:** Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) screening and diagnostic services for those under age 21, and physical, behavioral, and dental/vision screening and diagnostic services for those between the ages 21-26, are

reimbursed by Medicaid when the eligible juvenile is thirty days pre-release.

4. **Medicaid coverage upon release:** The determination of Medicaid eligibility and enrollment will provide coverage for the JIY upon release, allowing them to access all Medicaid covered services, as appropriate.

**Anticipated impact on Medicaid-eligible Alaska Native/American Indian beneficiaries:**

The department anticipates positive impacts of the proposed SPA. This proposed amendment will improve enrollment in Medicaid for JIY leaving a carceral setting by facilitating Medicaid enrollment prior to release. JIY will benefit from increased access to care through community-based providers, promoting continuity of care pre- and post-release with the provision of specific screening and assessments. Coverage of JIY-TCM will enable TCM to collaborate with the Department of Corrections and the Division of Juvenile Justice to connect JIY to appropriate care and services available in the geographic region of their home or residence.

**Anticipated impact on tribal health programs and the Indian Health Service:**

The department anticipates a positive impact on tribal programs and the Indian Health Service. The CAA of 2023, allows Medicaid reimbursement of certain services as an exemption to the inmate exclusion rule<sup>1</sup>. The proposed SPA will allow Medicaid coverage for certain pre-release services, allowing providers to identify needs of the JIY before they are released. This coverage will support efficient continuity of care and facilitate linkage to services in their home/returning community and ensure timely Medicaid enrollment.

**Mechanism and timeline for comment**

Written comments or questions regarding the proposed amendment are due no later than the close of business, January 30, 2025. If seeking an in-person meeting regarding the proposed changes, please provide a written request within 15 days of the date of this letter. Please direct all written correspondence to Christal Hays, Alaska Department of Health, 3601 C Street, Suite 902, Anchorage, AK 99503, or [christal.hays@alaska.gov](mailto:christal.hays@alaska.gov).

*Comments received in response to this consultation letter are considered for consultation and not comment on the regulations. Comments on the regulations are not considered comments for consultation on the SPA. **You must do so separately if you wish to provide comments for consideration in both the SPA and the regulations processes.** To locate the regulations, please refer to the State of Alaska web page at the "[Public Notices](#)" link*

Sincerely,

/s/

Christal Hays  
Medicaid State Plan Coordinator

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<sup>1</sup> [42 C.F.R. § 435.1010](#)