



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of
Health and Social Services**

DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES
Director's Office

4501 Business Park Blvd., Suite 24, Bldg. L
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January 18, 2017

Dear Tribal Health Leader,

On behalf of the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), in keeping with DHSS's responsibility to conduct tribal consultation, I am writing to inform you of a proposed future Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA). *This letter is written in conjunction with public notice for regulation change.*

The purpose of the proposed change is to increase Medicaid payment rates by 3% for each behavioral health service listed in sub-section (a) of Alaska Regulation 7 ACC 145.580, which includes screening and brief intervention services under 7 AAC 135.010(a) and 7 AAC 135.240, behavioral health clinic services listed in 7 AAC 135.010(b), and certain behavioral health rehabilitation services listed in 7 AAC 135.010(c). The proposed changes also seek to modify behavioral health service terminology to comply with current terminology in the ASAM Criteria, 3rd Edition (American Society of Addiction Medicine).

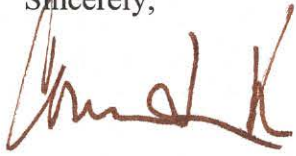
IHS and/or Tribal Health providers will not be significantly impacted by the proposed changes, as those providers are reimbursed by a different, encounter rate, methodology. IHS recipients accessing services through non-Tribal providers are expected to experience a modest change at best, as the rate increase is intended to promote the maintenance of access to behavioral health services in the community.

Written comments or questions regarding the proposed amendments are due on February 20, 2017, by 5 pm. If you would like to arrange an in-person meeting or discussion regarding the amendments, please provide a written request within 15-days of the date on this letter. Please direct all written correspondence to Courtney O'Byrne King, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, 4501 Business Park Blvd, Building L, Anchorage, AK 99503 or courtney.king@alaska.gov.

To locate the proposed changes to regulations please refer to the State of Alaska web page at the "Public Notices" link. Comments provided in response to this consultation letter will be considered comments for the purpose of consultation, and not be taken as comment to the proposed regulations. Comments to the proposed regulations cannot be considered as comments to this consultation. If you wish to comment on both the consultation and the proposed regulations, you may do so separately.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read 'Courtney O'Byrne King', written in a cursive style.

Courtney O'Byrne King, MS
Medicaid State Plan Coordinator

cc: Jon Sherwood, Deputy Commissioner – DHSS
Margaret Brodie, Director – DHCS
Renee Gayhart, Tribal Health Program Manager - DHSS
Karen Forrest, Deputy Commissioner – DHSS