



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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August 11, 2017

Dear Tribal Health Leader,

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

Proposed amendment to provide Autism services for eligible Medicaid recipients up to twenty-one (21) years of age – Per federal guidance, the proposed SPA completes the transition of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) services, for individuals under twenty-one (21) years of age, from the 1915(c) waiver to the Medicaid State Plan under the Early and Periodic Screening Diagnostic and Treatment benefit. The proposed SPA adds licensed behavior analysts to the service and reimbursement sections of the State Plan under the other licensed practitioner benefit provision, defined at 42 CFR 440.60.

This change is expected to increase access to services to autism services for Alaska Native and American Indian Medicaid beneficiaries under age 21. Tribal health programs that provide autism services and meet the criteria to be autism service providers will be able to receive Medicaid reimbursement for those services.

Written comments or questions regarding the proposed amendments are due on Tuesday, October 10, 2017. If you would like to arrange an in-person meeting or discussion regarding the proposed amendments, please provide a written request within 15-days of this letter. Please direct all written correspondence regarding this SPA to Courtney O'Byrne King, Medicaid State Plan Coordinator, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, 4501 Business Park Blvd, Bldg. L, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, or submit via e-mail to courtney.king@alaska.gov. Please feel free to contact the Medicaid State Plan team at (907) 334- 2653.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read "Courtney O'Byrne King".

Courtney O'Byrne King, MS
Medicaid State Plan Coordinator