



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Health and
Social Services

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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March 4, 2021

Dear Tribal Health Leaders

On behalf of the Department of Health and Social Services (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 department offers this opportunity concurrent with the public process related to a proposed regulatory change.*

Purpose and content of the proposed amendment:

The department intends the proposed state plan amendment to update *attached sheet to attachment 3.1-A and attachment 4.19-B* of the Alaska Medicaid State Plan to reflect the addition of licensed professional counselors (LPCs) as Medicaid billing providers under the other licensed practitioner benefit.

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

The department anticipates the addition of this provider type will increase access to appropriate and timely services for all Medicaid eligible Alaskans, including American Indian and Alaska Native beneficiaries.

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

Tribal health programs may experience some benefit through increased provider availability for beneficiaries requiring services outside the tribal health system.

Mechanism and timeline for comment

Written comments or questions regarding the proposed amendment are due no later than 5:00 PM on April 15, 2021. Please direct all written correspondence to Courtney O'Byrne King, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, 3601 C Street, Suite 902, Anchorage, AK 99503, or courtney.king@alaska.gov.

If seeking an in-person meeting regarding the proposed changes, please provide a written request within 15-days of the date of this letter.

*Comments received in response to this consultation letter for consultation and not comment on the regulations. Comments on the regulations are not comments for consultation on the SPA. **If you wish to***

provide comments for consideration in both the SPA and the regulations processes, you must do so separately.

To locate the regulations, please refer to the State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services web page, at the "Public Notices" link

Sincerely,

/s/

Courtney O'Byrne King, MS
Medicaid State Plan Coordinator