



Submitted via: courtney.king@alaska.gov

February 20, 2017

Courtney King, Medicaid State Plan Coordinator
Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
4501 Business Park Blvd., Bldg. L
Anchorage, AK 99503

RE: Tribal Consultation Notice to change regulations on Medicaid behavioral health services payment rates; and technical changes to terminology to adopt ASAM criteria

Dear Ms. King:

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) is a statewide tribal health organization that serves all 229 tribes and more than 158,000 Alaska Natives and American Indians (AN/AIs) in Alaska. ANTHC and Southcentral Foundation co-manage the Alaska Native Medical Center, the tertiary care hospital for all AN/AI people in Alaska. ANTHC also provides a wide range of statewide public health, community health, environmental health and other programs and services for Alaska Native people and their communities.

On behalf of ANTHC, I write in response to your notice for Tribal consultation and to support the proposed regulatory changes to increase payment rates for certain behavioral health services listed in subsection (a) of Alaska Regulations 7AAC 145.580; screening and prevention services under 7AAC 135.010(a) and 7AAC 135.240; behavioral health services listed at 7 AAC 135.010(b); and certain rehabilitation services at 7 AAC 135.010(c). These rate increases will benefit behavioral health providers who had to forego rate increases because the legislature suspended increases last year due to the budget. We also support the technical changes to terminology to adopt nomenclature based on ASAM Criteria (American Society of Addiction Medicine). We believe these changes will remove the stigma associated with these services and updates the regulations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. If there are any questions or comments, please contact me at (907) 729-1908 or by email at gmoses@anthc.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald Moses".

Gerald Moses
Senior Director of Intergovernmental Affairs

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
4000 Ambassador Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99508
Main: (907) 729-1900 | Fax: (907) 729-1901 | anthc.org