



August 5th, 2021

Courtney O'Byrne King
Department of Health and Social Services
3601 C Street, Suite 902
Anchorage, AK 99503
Via email: Courtney.king@alaska.gov

Re: State Plan Amendment related to Tribal Federally Qualified Health Centers

Dear Ms. King,

I would like to express my appreciation the collaborative approach between the state and Tribes for the proposed State Plan Amendment. I have personally participated and found the process to be respectful and outcome oriented. Thank you.

Southcentral Foundation is the Alaska Native Tribal health organization designated by Cook Inlet Region, Inc. and 11 federally recognized Tribes – the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, Igiugig, Iliamna, Kokhanok, McGrath, Newhalen, Nikolai, Nondalton, Pedro Bay, Telida, and Takotna – to provide health care services to beneficiaries of the Indian Health Service.

Southcentral Foundation provides services to more than 65,000 Alaska Native and American Indian people living in the Municipality of Anchorage, Matanuska- Susitna Borough, and 55 rural Alaskan villages. Services provided by Southcentral Foundation include outpatient medical care, home health care, dentistry, optometry, psychiatry, mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment; residential treatment facilities for adolescents and for women, suicide prevention and domestic violence prevention.

This proposed State Plan Amendment will alleviate the impending problems created by the federal government's re-interpretation of the "Four-Walls" standard. This new designation of a Tribal Federally Qualified Health Center (TFQHC) will allow for better delivery of services and equitable alternative payment methodologies. It helps to clarify which services can be provided outside of the clinic facility, allowing for better treatment of individuals and families.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed State Plan Amendment. I would also like offer support for the comments offered by the Alaska Native Health Board as the voice of the Alaska Tribal Health System. If you have any questions about our comments, please contact me at akyle@scf.cc.

Sincerely,

SOUTHCENTRAL FOUNDATION

April Kyle, MBA

Interim President/CEO