

Department of Health

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
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March 11, 2024

Dear Tribal Health Leaders

On behalf of the Department of Health (the department) and in keeping with the responsibility to conduct tribal consultation, I am writing to inform you of proposed amendments to five of Alaska's 1915(c) home and community- based service (HCBS) waivers. This opportunity for consultation runs concurrently with public input on proposed waiver amendments.

Purpose and content of the proposed amendment:

The department, via the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS), proposes to submit amendments to five of Alaska's 1915(c) HCBS waivers:

1. Alaskans Living Independently (ALI)
2. Adults with Physical and Developmental Disabilities (APDD)
3. Children with Complex Medical Conditions (CCMC)
4. People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)
5. Individualized Supports Waiver (ISW)

The proposed amendments include the following:

1. ALI, APDD, CCMC, IDD, ISW: Addition of the new Adult Host Home Care service and updates to medication management;
2. ALI and APDD: Addition of the Nursing Oversight and Care Management (NOCM) service;
3. APDD, CCMC, IDD: Modification of the Residential Habilitation to include Specialized Family Home Habilitation (Adult); and
4. ALI, APDD, CCMC, IDD: Updated language to align with the approved Individualized Support Waiver (ISW) (AK.1566) and Alaska regulations. Updated language includes changes to eligibility criteria (IDD-only); provider frequency of verification; services furnished by a relative/legal guardian (ALI-only); support plan development, implementation and monitoring; oversight of critical incidents; and transportation rate-setting methodology.

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

The department anticipates the addition of the new Adult Host Home Care service and the Nursing Oversight and Care Management service will offer eligible tribal beneficiaries an increased array of service choices. Additionally, the modification to the Residential Habilitation service will benefit waiver eligible tribal beneficiaries with highly acute and complex needs.

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

The department does not anticipate that these waiver amendments will impact tribal health programs or the Indian Health Service (IHS).

Opportunity to learn more about the waiver amendments:

The proposed waiver amendments are viewable on the State of Alaska Online Public Notices webpage <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=214537> and on the SDS HCBS Waivers webpage <https://health.alaska.gov/dsds/Pages/AK-HCBS-waivers.aspx>. A detailed list of changes included in the proposed amendments can be located under "Purpose of the Amendment" on page one of each waiver application. Waiver changes are highlighted in yellow.

Mechanism and timeline for comment:

Written comments or questions regarding the proposed amendment are due no later than Tuesday, April 16, 2024, by 5:00 PM. If seeking an in-person meeting to discuss the proposed changes, please provide a written request within 15 days of the date of this letter. Please direct all written correspondence to Emily Beaulieu, Alaska Department of Health, 3601 C Street, Suite 902, Anchorage, AK 99503, or emily.beaulieu@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Emily Beaulieu
Medicaid State Plan Coordinator