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September 6, 2023

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 four of Alaska's 1915(c) home and community-based service waivers. This opportunity for consultation runs concurrently with public input on proposed waiver amendments.

Purpose and content of the proposed amendments:

The department, via the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS), proposes to submit amendments to four of Alaska's 1915(c) home and community-based service waivers:

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

IDD, APDD, and CCMC waivers

The proposed amendments would modify the Residential Habilitation service to include: 1) Specialized Family Home Habilitation, and 2) Specialized Group Home Habilitation, both which would serve highly acute participants with complex needs.

IDD, APDD, CCMC and ISW waivers

The proposed amendments would allow legally responsible individuals (LRIs) to provide In-Home Supports services or Supported Living services under specific circumstances.

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

The department anticipates that the modifications to the Residential Habilitation service will benefit waiver eligible tribal beneficiaries with highly acute and complex needs.

The department also anticipates that the allowance, under specific circumstances, of legally responsible individuals (LRIs) to provide In-Home Supports for minors and Supported Living services for adults to waiver eligible tribal beneficiaries will offer more freedom to employ an individual who may have a unique ability to meet the participant's needs, especially in rural and remote areas of the state.

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

The department does not anticipate the these waiver amendments will impact Tribal Health Organizations (THOs) or

Indian Health Services (IHS) facilities.

[Opportunity to learn more about the waiver amendments:](#)

SDS is offering two webinars to provide an overview of the proposed waiver amendments.

1. The webinar to explain the modifications to the Residential Habilitation service will be on **Wednesday, September 20th, from 12:00 to 1:30pm.**
2. The webinar to explain the allowance of legally responsible individuals (LRIs) to provide specific waiver services will be on **Thursday, September 21st from 12:00 to 1:30pm.**

Please visit the SDS HCBS Waivers webpage to register for one or both webinars:

<https://health.alaska.gov/dsds/Pages/AK-HCBS-waivers.aspx>

[Mechanism and timeline for comment](#)

Written comments regarding the proposed amendments are due no later than 5:00pm, Monday October, 9, 2023. If seeking an in-person meeting regarding 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