



**Vision**

A Native Community that enjoys physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellness.

**Mission**

Working together with the Native Community to achieve wellness through health and related services.

**Customer-Owners**

Serving over 70,000 Alaska Native and American Indian People

**Community Served**

Anchorage Service Unit and 55

Tribes to Include:

Anchorage	
Matanuska Susitna Borough	
Chickaloon	McGrath
Eklutna	McGrath
Igiugig	Newhalen
Iliamna	Ninilchik
Kenaitze	Seldovia
Knik	St. Paul Island
Kokhanok	Tyonek

**Services Offered**

Over 90 Community-Based

Programs Including:

Medical  
Behavioral  
Dental  
Co-Manage the  
Alaska Native Medical Center

**Board of Directors**

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**President and CEO**

April Kyle, MBA

**Tribal Authority**

Cook Inlet Region, Inc.

April 30, 2025

Christal Hays

Medicaid State Plan Coordinator

Alaska Department of Health

3601 C Street, Suite 902

Anchorage, AK 99503

RE: Tribal Consultation – Behavioral Health SA Removal SPA

Dear Ms. Hays,

Thank you for the opportunity to support the proposed Medicaid state plan amendment (SPA) to remove service authorization (SA) requirements for specific behavioral health services. Southcentral Foundation is one of the largest providers of behavioral health services in Alaska. SCF's clinical providers partner everyday with customer-owners on their journeys of physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual wellness. SCF is committed to individual, family, and community wellness and the optimal use of resources to achieve that wellness. The reduction in administrative burden resulting from this SPA will help optimize clinical time and the financial resources needed to support behavioral health programs.

SCF strongly supports the proposed changes outlined in the March 31, Medicaid Tribal Consultation letter. The removal of prior authorization requirements for behavioral health screenings, intake assessments, medication management, and services provided by community behavioral health providers and mental health physician clinics will significantly improve access to essential mental health and substance use disorder services for Medicaid-eligible customer-owners.

The department's recognition of the barriers that administrative delays can create, especially in rural and remote communities where timely access to behavioral health services is critical, is appreciated. By streamlining service delivery and reducing the administrative burden on providers, this SPA will enhance the ability to offer timely patient-centered care, contributing to better health outcomes for Alaskan communities. Furthermore, updating the limitations of Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT) and clarifying case management policies to align with current operations will ensure consistency and clarity in service provision across the state.

Thank you for taking these steps to promote more responsive and accessible behavioral health care. We look forward to further collaboration with the department to ensure successful implementation and continued improvements to the Medicaid program for the benefit of Alaska Native and American Indian people.

If you have any questions about SCF's support, please contact Executive Vice President of Behavioral Services Michelle Baker, at [mbaker@southcentralfoundation.com](mailto:mbaker@southcentralfoundation.com).

Sincerely,  
SOUTHCENTRAL FOUNDATION

*Theresa P. Emebushi, Acting*

April Kyle, MBA  
President and CEO