



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Health

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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April 11, 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 a proposed Medicaid state plan amendment (SPA).

Purpose and content of the proposed amendment:

The department is implementing payment rates for services of personal care services (PCS), Community First Choice (CFC), and targeted case management (TCM) services rebased payment rates on May 1, 2023, via a regulation change. Public notification of the regulation can be found at this [link](#) and tribal consultation notification for these permanent changes occurred on October 19, 2022.

As the new payment rates are effective before the end date of the approved temporary 10% increase of Medicaid state plan PCS, CFC, and TCM services payment rates, approved during public health emergency (PHE), the department intends to submit a SPA seeking to end the temporary payment rates when the new permanent rates go in effect. This SPA will 1) end the temporary 10% rate increase of state plan PCS, CFC, and TCM services, approved through the end of the PHE (May 11, 2023), via dSPA 20-0009, on April 30, 2023; and 2) rescind SPA AK-22-014, Attachment 7.4-B, page 1, which extends the temporary 10% rate increase for six months after the end of the PHE.

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

Alaska Native/American Indian beneficiaries be positively impacted by this proposed SPA, which ends the temporary rate increases during the public health emergency to align with the new, permanent rebased payment rates. The new rates will assist state plan PCS, CFC, and TCM service providers to stabilize and continue to provide services to beneficiaries, which will help ensure access to care.

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

The department anticipates the transition of the temporary increase of payment rates to the new rates will assist tribal health programs, or the Indian Health Service, that provide state plan PCS, CFC, and TCM services to Medicaid beneficiaries as it intends to assist PCS providers to continue offering services and help ensure access to care.

Mechanism and timeline for comment:

Written comments or questions regarding the proposed amendment are due no later than May 11, 2023, 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