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April 11, 2022

Dear Tribal Health Leaders

On behalf of the Department of Health and Social Services (the department), I am writing to inform you of a proposed Medicaid state plan amendment (SPA). While not a SPA for which the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requires consultation, the department offers this opportunity in the interests of partnership and transparency.

Purpose and content of the proposed amendment:

The department must submit a Medicaid administration SPA reflecting the implementation of its bifurcation under executive order 121, which (effectively) received approval from the 32nd Legislature, and takes effect on July 1, 2022.

The SPA revises existing state plan content to reflect the new Department of Health (DoH), consisting of the Divisions of Behavioral Health, Health Care Services, Senior and Disabilities Services, Public Assistance, and Public Health, overseen and supported by the Office of the Commissioner. The amendment does not change any responsibilities or functions for the divisions and units moved from DHSS to DoH.

Post-reorganization, the Office of the Commissioner includes the following functions and roles (*the SPA does not require the inclusion of every function and role*)

- Chief Data Officer;
 - Data Surveillance;
 - Health Information Exchange;
 - Medicaid Systems Oversight and Management;
- Chief Medical Officer;
- Deputy Commissioner (Medicaid Director);
 - Medicaid Program Integrity;
- DoH Legislative Liaison;
- Finance & Management Services;
 - Budget;
 - Grants & Contracts;
 - Human Resources;
 - Information Technology Services;
 - Medicaid Allocations and Audit Services;
 - Revenue & Finance;
- Medicaid State Plan and Policy;
- Office of Rate Review;
- Policy Advisors;
- Public Information;

- Regulations;
- Reorganization Liaison; and
- Tribal Liaison

Additional information about the reorganization is available on [the DHSS reorganization](#) webpage.

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

The department does not anticipate the reorganization and associated SPA directly impacting Medicaid-eligible Alaska Native/American Indian beneficiaries.

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

The department anticipates that tribal health programs and the Indian Health Service may experience a need for some adjustment related to points of contact in the newly formed Department of Family and Community Services Commissioner's Office. However, neither should experience specific adverse consequences from the reorganization.

Mechanism and timeline for comment:

Written comments or questions regarding the proposed amendment are due no later than May 31, 2022, 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 to Laura Russell at laura.russell@alaska.gov or (907)269-7801. Please direct all written comments to Courtney O'Byrne King, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, 3601 C Street, Suite 902, Anchorage, AK 99503, or courtney.king@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Courtney O'Byrne King, MS
Medicaid State Plan & Policy