



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Health

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Anchorage

3601 C Street, Suite 902
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5923
Main: 907.269.7800
Fax: 907.269.0060

Juneau

350 Main Street, Suite 404
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Main: 907.465.3030
Fax: 907.465.3068

December 19, 2025

Re: State Plan Amendment – Medication Assisted Treatment

Dear Tribal Health Leaders,

Thank you for your time in responding to the tribal consultation notice sent by the Department of Health (the department) on November 18, 2025. Please see the department's responses below.

Tribal Comment #1 – Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB)

We write to express our support for the Department's proposed State Plan Amendment (SPA).

Department Response –

We appreciate your support and partnership in ensuring access to important medication assisted treatment (MAT) in Alaska.

Tribal Comment #2 – ANHB

However, we would like to take this opportunity to point out the gap in current Alaska statute and regulation that prohibits Alaska pharmacists from prescribing and administering Medication Assisted Treatment. Under current Alaska law, we support this SPA but look forward to the Department's support for SB 147 and HB 195, which would authorize pharmacists to provide patient care services – including prescribing and administration of medications within the scope of their education, training and experience. This would allow pharmacists to practice at the top of their licensure, and since pharmacists are readily available, they would become a more important part of the healthcare team. This would help to ensure access to safe care in Alaska, particularly in rural locations where it is difficult to recruit and retain health care professionals. This is an important aspect discussed in the recently released funding announcement for the Rural Health Transformation Fund.

Department Response –

Thank you for your response. That is outside the intent of this SPA, but we appreciate your

continued elevation of issues for tribal health organizations to our attention.

Tribal Comment #3 – ANHB

Because this proposed legislation would help fill the gap in professional capacity to meet the current demand for healthcare services in Alaska, we urge the Department to support future changes in statute, regulation and the Medicaid State Plan to reimburse pharmacists to practice at the top of their licensure. We recognize the Department cannot do this now, but should the Legislature ask for the Department's views on this legislation, we urge your continued support.

Department Response –

Thank you for your response. That is outside the intent of this SPA, but we appreciate your continued elevation of issues for tribal health organizations to our attention.

Sincerely,

Christal Hays

Medicaid State Plan Coordinator