



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of
Health and Social Services

DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES
Director's Office

4501 Business Park Blvd., Suite 24, Bldg. L
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November 17, 2016

Dear Tribal Health Leader,

On behalf of the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), I am writing to inform you of a proposed future Medicaid state plan amendment (SPA) in keeping with DHSS's responsibility to conduct tribal consultation.

The Department intends to submit a SPA to modify the existing language in the State Plan describing residential treatment facilities for inpatient psychiatric services for individuals under 21 years of age. The SPA will specify that the eligible service provider is an accredited residential psychiatric facility. Additionally, the SPA specifies the new effective date for the daily rate for payment for the identified reimbursable services and eliminates the language regarding the identified diagnostic criteria of "a child with experiencing severe emotional disturbance".

The purpose of these changes is to update the reimbursement rate for inpatient psychiatric services for individuals under 21 years of age, expand the definition of this provider type by removing language limiting them to non-profit facilities accredited by JCAHO, and removing the restriction of a specified diagnostic category of youth eligible for the services.

These changes are not anticipated to have a direct effect on IHS or tribal health providers. However, the changes may affect IHS recipients utilizing inpatient psychiatric services for individuals under 21 years old through Alaska Medicaid due to the increased reimbursement rate to providers.

Written comments or questions regarding the proposed amendments are due on December 19, 2016, by 5:00 PM. If you would like to arrange an in-person meeting or discussion regarding the amendments, please provide a written request within 15-days of the date on this letter. Please direct all written correspondence to Courtney O'Byrne King, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, 4501 Business Park Blvd, Building L, Anchorage, AK 99503 or courtney.king@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Courtney O'Byrne King".

Courtney O'Byrne King, MS
Medicaid State Plan Coordinator

cc

Jon Sherwood – Deputy Commissioner, DHSS
Karen Forrest – Deputy Commissioner, DHSS
Margaret Brodie, Director, Division of Health Care Services
Renee Gayhart – Tribal Health Program Manager
Kate Tompkins – Audit & Review Analyst, Office of Rate Review