



May 14, 2019

Tribal Consultation Letter

On behalf of the Department of Health and Social Services (the department), and in keeping with the responsibility to conduct tribal consultation, I am writing to inform you of the opportunity for consultation regarding a proposed-future Medicaid state plan amendment (SPA). *The department offers this opportunity in conjunction with public notice for a regulation change.*

Changes to eligible behavioral health providers and reimbursement requirements – The department intends the proposed state plan amendment to update the relevant provider, service, and reimbursement sections described in attachment 3.1-A and attachment 4.19-B of the Alaska Medicaid state plan, to reflect:

- the addition of licensed clinical social workers as Medicaid billing providers;
- expansion of services for which psychologists may receive Medicaid reimbursement;
- the addition of Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) service description and reimbursement language; and
- a revision of existing screening services and reimbursement language in accordance with the behavioral health system redesign.

The state anticipates the proposed changes to the Medicaid state plan will increase access to appropriate and timely services for all Alaskans, including American Indian and Alaska Native beneficiaries.

Tribal health clinics may benefit from the expanded scope of psychological services eligible for reimbursement.

Written comments regarding the proposed state plan amendment are due on July 29, 2019, by 4:30 PM. The department must receive any requests for an in-person meeting regarding the proposed amendment 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 Boulevard, Building L, Anchorage, AK 99503 or courtney.king@alaska.gov.

Comments provided in response to this consultation letter will be considered comments for consultation, and not taken as a comment on the proposed regulations. Comments regarding the proposed regulations cannot be considered comments for Medicaid state plan consultation

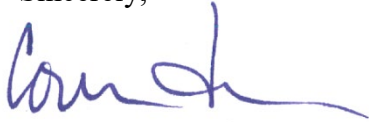
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purposes. If you wish to comment on both the proposed state plan amendment and the proposed regulations you must do so separately. To locate the proposed changes to the regulation, please refer to the State of Alaska, Department of Health & Social Services web page, at the "Public Notices" link.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Courtney", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Courtney O'Byrne King, MS
Medicaid Program Specialist IV
Title XIX State Plan Administrator