



August 9, 2019

Dear Tribal Health Leaders,

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 proposed revisions to existing 1915(c) home and community based services waivers. *Tribal consultation on the proposed waiver changes is occurring at the same time as the opportunity for public comment on proposed changes to regulations.*

**Purpose and content of the proposed amendment:**

The Division of Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS) proposes to amend the service definition and the description of service limitations for day habilitation - a service included in four of Alaska's 1915(c) home and community based waivers.

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

Alaska Native/American Indian beneficiaries whose support plans include day habilitation will continue to be eligible to receive up to the annual limit for the service. Those with a critical need for additional time due to one of four qualifying conditions or situations may be awarded additional time if the supporting documentation demonstrates that need.

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

Care coordinators employed by tribal health programs (like other care coordinators) may be impacted by the requirement to collect documentation demonstrating a critical need for additional day habilitation hours.

**Mechanism and timeline for comment**

Written comments or questions regarding the proposed revision are due on September 30, 2019, by 5:00 PM. If you would like to arrange an in-person meeting regarding the proposed changes, please provide a written request within 15-days of the date of this letter. Please direct all written correspondence to **Jetta Whittaker**, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, PO Box 110680, Juneau, AK 99811 or [jetta.whittaker@alaska.gov](mailto:jetta.whittaker@alaska.gov).

*Comments received in response to this consultation letter are for consultation and not comment on the regulations. Comments provided in response to the proposed regulations are not*

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*comments for consultation on the proposed changes to the waiver. **If you wish to provide comment for consideration in both the consultation process and the regulations public comment process, you must do so separately.** To locate the regulations, please refer to the State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services web page, at the “Public Notices” link*

Sincerely,

Courtney O’Byrne King, MS  
Medicaid State Plan Coordinator