



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of
Health and Social Services

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Anchorage
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November 8, 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 the opportunity to consult on a proposed Medicaid state plan amendment (SPA). *The department offers this opportunity concurrent with the public process related to a proposed regulatory change.*

Purpose and content of the proposed amendment:

The department intends the proposed state plan amendment to update *attached sheet to attachment 3.1-A* of the Alaska Medicaid State Plan to reflect the addition of licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFTs) as Medicaid billing providers under the other licensed practitioner benefit.

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

The department anticipates the addition of this provider type will increase access to appropriate and timely services for all Alaskans, including American Indian and Alaska Native beneficiaries.

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

Tribal health programs may experience some benefit through increased provider availability for beneficiaries requiring services outside the tribal health system.

Mechanism and timeline for comment:

Written comments on the proposed amendment are due no later than 5:00 PM on December 26, 2019. Please direct all written correspondence 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.

If you would like to arrange an in-person meeting regarding the proposed changes, please make a written request within 15-days of the date of this letter.

*Comments received in response to this consultation letter are for consultation and not comment on the regulations. Comments on the regulations are not comments for consultation on the SPA. **If you wish to provide comment for consideration in both the SPA 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,

/s/COK

Courtney O'Byrne King
Medicaid State Plan Coordinator