



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of  
Health and Social Services**

DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES  
Director's Office

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October 23, 2017

Dear Tribal Health Leader,

On behalf of the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), in keeping with the DHSS responsibility to conduct tribal consultation, I am writing to inform you of proposed future Medicaid State Plan Amendments (SPAs) and modifications to waiver services. Consultation on the proposed future SPAs occurs simultaneously with public comment on proposed regulations.

The Division of Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS) is making major changes to the long-term services and supports (LTSS) delivery system, including enhancing, and improving access to, LTSS services. The changes of service include the addition of the 1915(k) Community First Choice State Plan Option, the addition of Targeted Case Management for individuals meeting institutional level of care, the addition of a 1915(c) Individualized Supports Waiver (ISW), and corresponding revisions to the existing 1915(c) waivers.

1915(k) Community First Choice (CFC) State Plan Option

Community First Choice is a person-centered Medicaid State Plan option, which allows individuals to experience increased control over the available services. The CFC includes the following services: enhanced personal care services, to include supervision and cueing, as well as an allowance for maintenance and acquisition of skills training; voluntary training for recipients on how to select, manage, and dismiss personal care attendants; and personal emergency response systems. The CFC provides a lifetime benefit increase of 30 hours of personal care services, specifically targeted to allow an individual to achieve specific goals identified in the support plan.

The CFC personal care services in this option will be provided by agency based and consumer-directed personal care agencies already enrolled to provide "regular" personal care services, which will continue to be available for participants who do not meet an institutional level of care and do not qualify for the CFC program. Participants currently receiving both waiver and personal care services will have the choice to receive CFC services and will continue to receive waiver services not offered under CFC.

Personal care attendants will be required to receive training in helping individuals with skill acquisition and the achievement of greater independence.

Reimbursement for providers at fee for services rates is built on the base rate of the personal care attendant, adjusted to include salaries, fringe benefits, and training time for personal attendants and supervisors.

#### Targeted Case Management State Plan Amendment

The proposed SPA adds targeted case management (TCM) services for those individuals meeting institutional level of care requirements.

TCM services include assistance with waiver and CFC applications, development of initial and renewal person-centered support plans, and amendments of the support plan as requested by the participant if the participant is not also receiving waiver services.

Reimbursement for providers is a monthly fee for service using rates based on salaries, fringe benefits, allowable indirect costs, and average caseload size.

#### 1915(c) Individualized Supports Waiver

The Division of Senior and Disabilities Services proposes a new 1915(c) waiver - Individualized Supports Waiver (ISW). The ISW is limited to 600 individuals and available to Medicaid eligible individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities meeting Alaska's level of care criteria for intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities. This waiver has an annual individual cost limit of \$17,500, which will include a geographic differential. Available services include chore, day habilitation, residential habilitation if provided in a participant's own home, supported employment, respite care, transportation, and care coordination. Care coordination services are required and will be provided outside of an individual's cost limit.

#### 1915(c) Existing Home and Community Based Waiver Changes

The state proposes certain revisions to the existing HCB waivers to align with the revisions to the LTSS services. Specifically, the removal of personal emergency response systems from the Specialized Medical Equipment service in existing 1915(c) waivers and becoming a service under CFC; the removal of applications for waiver services and development of support plans from the care coordination service in existing waivers and becoming a LTSS TCM service; and the addition of reserved capacity slots for ISW participants, who can no longer remain safely on the ISW, to the IDD waiver, and the clarification of the process for selecting waiver applicants from the Developmental Disabilities Registration and Review (the "waiting list"). Other amendments include aligning the limit on day habilitation with regulations effective 10/1/17, making technical corrections, and updating to reflect current processes.

The state anticipates the proposed changes will provide Tribal Health Organizations and Indian Health Service facilities with the increased capability to assist members through service provision, as the changes increase options and encourage self-directed care. Care coordination under the CFC option is anticipated to be less intensive, which may assist tribal care coordinators in maintaining caseloads. Personal care attendants in the tribal health system will be required to receive additional training for skills training under the CFC option.

The state anticipates the addition of person-centered options will be beneficial to eligible tribal beneficiaries as they experience increased control while obtaining services to address their individualized needs. Moreover, the addition of skills training through the CFC will enable individuals to experience greater independence in the community.

Written comments or questions regarding the proposed amendments are due on November 27, 2017, 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

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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](mailto:courtney.king@alaska.gov) .

Sincerely,



Courtney O'Byrne King, MS  
Medicaid State Plan Coordinator