

September 27, 2021

Dear Tribal Consultation Members:

This letter is regarding the Tribal Consultation between the North Dakota Department of Human Services and the North Dakota Indian Tribes. The consultation process was established to ensure Tribal governments are included in the decision-making processes when proposed changes in the Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program(s) will directly impact the North Dakota Tribes and/or their Tribal members.

The North Dakota (ND) Medicaid Expansion is authorized under section 1915(b) of the Social Security Act (SSA). The 1915(b) Waiver for Managed Care Enrollment of the Medicaid Expansion permits the State to furnish services to those individual eligible for North Dakota Medicaid Expansion through a Managed Care Organization (MCO). This authority allows mandatory enrollment for individuals, including Native Americans, eligible for Medicaid Expansion into the plan offered by the contracted private carrier (managed care organization).

The Department is submitting a renewal request to the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for the current Medicaid 1915(b) waiver which was approved as part of the January 1, 2014 implementation of the Medicaid Expansion coverage. The current authority granted by the 1915(b) waiver ends December 31, 2021 and in order to continue to provide coverage to those enrolled with Medicaid Expansion; a renewal request must be approved by CMS.

At this time, the Department will be transitioning the 19 and 20 year old Medicaid Expansion enrollees to the Medicaid Fee for Service benefit plan administered by the Department. As part of the change for the 19 and 20 year old enrollees, the Department is changing its benefit plan to ensure compliance for Mental Health Parity.


The Department has also contracted with Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota to administer the managed care benefits to enrollees effective January 1, 2022. The Medicaid Expansion program benefits will remain the same. As part of the renewal request, the Department will submit the 1915(b) Waiver Renewal Application, Cost Effectiveness Report, and Independent Assessment of the program impact, access, and quality.

Copies of the 1915(b) waiver are available upon request. Please send comments, questions or concerns about the proposed State Plan Amendment or waivers to Medical Services, Attention: Tribal Consultation; 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Department 325, Bismarck, ND 58505. You may also send information via e-mail to ndmedicaid@nd.gov.

MEDICAL SERVICES

The Department appreciates the continued opportunity to work collaboratively with you to achieve the Department's mission, which is, "To provide quality, efficient, and effective human services, which improve the lives of people."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caprice Knapp". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Caprice Knapp, Director
Medical Services Division