

March 27, 2024

Re: 1915(b) Waiver Renewal

Dear Tribal Partners:

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 will directly impact the North Dakota Tribes and/or their Tribal members.

North Dakota Century Code 50-24.1-37 requires Medicaid Expansion to be implemented through private carriers in managed care. Medicaid Expansion is authorized under section 1915(b) of the Social Security Act (SSA) in North Dakota. The 1915(b) Waiver for Managed Care Enrollment of the Medicaid Expansion permits the State to furnish services to those individuals 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 June 30, 2024 and in order to continue to provide coverage to those enrolled with Medicaid Expansion; a renewal request must be approved by CMS. The renewal associated with the 1915(b) waiver is not expected to have a negative impact on the ND Tribes and/or Tribal members.

Medicaid Expansion program benefits will remain the same in the renewal. The Department contracted with Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota to administer the managed care benefits to enrollees effective January 1, 2022. 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

600 E Boulevard Ave Dept 325 | Bismarck ND 58505-0250

701.328.7068 | Fax 701.328.1544 | 800.755.2604 | 711 (TTY) | Provider Relations 701.328.7098 | www.nd.gov/dhs

North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services
Attn: Monique Runnels
Medical Services Division
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Department 325
Bismarck, ND 58505.
Fax: 701-328-1544
Email: mrunnel@nd.gov

Input will be accepted through 12 PM, Central Time, Monday, April 29, 2024.

The Department appreciates the continued opportunity to work collaboratively with tribal partners to support health and advance the foundations of well-being for North Dakota Medicaid members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Aker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sarah Aker
Executive Director
Division of Medical Services
North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services