DHCS

Department of Health Care Services
MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 12, 2013

TO: Tribal Chairpersons, California Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations

FROM: Sandra "Sam" Willburn, Chief, Primary and Rural Health Division

SUBJECT: Notice of Proposed Change to the Medi-Cal Program

The purpose of this memo is to provide information regarding a proposed change to the Department of Health Care Services' (DHCS) Medi-Cal Program that will be submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). DHCS is forwarding this information for your review and comment.

DHCS is required to seek advice from designees of Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations on Medi-Cal matters having a direct effect on Indians, Indian Health Programs or Urban Indian Organizations per the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). DHCS must solicit the advice of designees prior to submission to CMS of any State Plan Amendment, waiver requests or modifications, or proposals for demonstration projects in the Medi-Cal program.

Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) Waiver Renewal Request Summary: DHCS plans to submit a request to CMS for the renewal of California's Section 1915(b) Freedom of Choice waiver entitled Medi-Cal SMHS waiver. DHCS will request a 5-year waiver renewal term. If it is determined that a 5-year waiver term can be implemented, the term of this waiver renewal will be from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2018. Please see the enclosed summary of the proposed waiver renewal for a detailed description and contact information for questions and comments.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations may submit written comments or questions concerning this waiver within 30 days from the receipt of this notice. Comments or feedback may be sent by mail to the address below:

Contact Information

Department of Health Care Services
Mental Health Services Division
Program Policy and Quality Assurance Branch
1500 Capitol Ave. MS 2702
PO Box 997413
Sacramento, CA 95899-7413
ATTN: Dina Kokkos-Gonzales
Dina.Kokkos@dhcs.ca.gov

In addition to this notice, DHCS plans to cover this SPA in the next quarterly Medi-Cal Indian Health webinar. Please note that Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations may also request a consultation on this proposal at any time as needed.

Enclosure

Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
Mental Health Services Division
Program Policy and Quality Assurance Branch
Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) Waiver Renewal

Background:

California administers a Section 1915(b) Freedom of Choice waiver to provide specialty mental health services using a managed care model of service delivery. The SMHS waiver program has been in effect since 1995 and the proposed waiver term (July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2018) represents the eighth waiver renewal period. DHCS operates and oversees this waiver.

Description of Waiver and Effective Date:

The SMHS waiver program is administered locally by each county's Mental Health Plan (MHP) and each MHP provides, or arranges for, specialty mental health services for Medi-Cal beneficiaries. It is the responsibility of each MHP to either provide the services directly or contract with an outside provider to provide these services at the local level. The SMHS waiver population is defined as all full-scope Medi-Cal beneficiaries. Therefore, all Medi-Cal beneficiaries are enrolled in the SMHS waiver and have access to waiver services if they meet medical necessity conditions. The conditions include specific: (1) Diagnoses, (2) Impairment and (3) Intervention criteria.

The specialty mental health services provided through the SMHS waiver are the following:

(a) Rehabilitative mental health services, including:
    1) Mental health services
    2) Medication support services
    3) Day treatment intensive
    4) Day rehabilitation
    5) Crisis intervention
    6) Crisis stabilization
    7) Adult residential treatment services
    8) Crisis residential treatment services
    9) Psychiatric health facility services
(b) Psychiatric inpatient hospital services
(c) Targeted case management services
(d) Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) supplemental specialty mental health services (i.e. Therapeutic Behavioral Services)

The SMHS waiver renewal request will be submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for their review and approval by March 30, 2013. The effective date for this waiver renewal will be July 1, 2013.

Impact on Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Health Organizations:

Impact on Indian Health Programs

Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations may contact their county MHP to obtain information on contracting with the program to provide specialty mental health services at the clinic for eligible Medi-Cal beneficiaries described below.

Impact on Indian Health Beneficiaries

Indian Health Beneficiaries who are Medi-Cal eligible and not otherwise covered for Medi-Cal specialty mental health services through another health care program or provider, including another Medi-Cal Managed Care Program, Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), Indian Health Clinic (IHC), or Rural Health Clinic (RHC), may be eligible for services under the SMHS waiver.

Response Date:

Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations may submit written comments or questions concerning this waiver within 30 days from the receipt of this letter. Comments may be sent by email to Dina.Kokkos@dhcs.ca.gov or by mail to the address listed below:

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