



Department of Health Care Services



Tribal and Designee Medi-Cal Advisory Process Webinar
on Proposed Changes to the Medi-Cal Program
February 28, 2014

Purpose

- The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is hosting this webinar regarding proposed changes to the Medi-Cal Program. This webinar will provide information and allow for feedback on State Plan Amendments (SPA) and Waiver Renewals/Amendments proposed for submission to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
- Background: Executive Orders recognize the unique relationship of Tribes with the federal government and emphasize the importance of States to work with Tribes on matters that may impact Indian health.
- This webinar is one way for DHCS to provide information about the Medi-Cal program and get feedback verbally and writing.

Agenda

Topic	Presenter
Welcome/Overview	Andrea Zubiante, Indian Health Program (IHP) Coordinator
A Scheduled for Submission March 31, 2014	
Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) Services	Dina Kokkos-Gonzales, DHCS, Mental Health Services
Feedback/Closing	All

State Plan Amendment (SPA) Overview



Medicaid State Plan Overview

- State Plan: The official contract between the state and federal government by which a state ensure compliance with federal Medicaid requirements to be eligible for federal funding
- The State Plan describes the nature and scope of Medicaid program and gives assurance that it will be administered in accordance with the specific requirements of Title XIX of the Federal Social Security Act, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter IV, and State law/regulations
- California's State Plan is over 1400 pages and can be accessed online at:

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/CaliforniStatePlan.aspx>

State Plan Amendment (SPA) Overview

- SPA: Any formal change to the State Plan.
- Approved State Plans and SPAs ensure the availability of federal funding for the state's program (Medi-Cal).
- The CMS reviews all State Plans and SPAs for compliance with:
 - Federal Medicaid statutes and regulations
 - State Medicaid manual
 - Most current State Medicaid Directors' Letters, which serve as policy guidance.

Therapeutic Foster Care SPA 14-011



Background

- A class action lawsuit (Katie A. v. Bonta) was filed in July 2002.
- The purpose of the lawsuit was to improve the mental health and supportive services for children and youth in foster care, or children and youth that may soon be in foster care.
- A settlement agreement was reached in December 2012. As a result, DHCS and the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) are working to provide better community-based mental health services to children and youth who meet specific criteria (as described in the settlement agreement), are in foster care or who may soon be in foster care.

Background Continued

- To help these children and youth to live and be active in the community; DHCS is planning to add Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) services to the Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS), to the extent that TFC services are federally approved as a Medi-Cal service. TFC services are covered by many other state Medicaid programs and this service has proven to be helpful in treating these at-risk children/youth that would otherwise be placed in institutional settings.



Background Continued

- As with other SMHS, TFC services (if federally approved) will be provided through the SMHS waiver program which is administered locally by each county's Mental Health Plan (MHP).
- Each MHP provides, or arranges for, SMHS for Medi-Cal beneficiaries. The SMHS waiver population includes all full-scope Medi-Cal members. Therefore, all Medi-Cal members may be able to receive SMHS if they meet specific diagnoses and other criteria.
- In addition to meeting SMHS waiver medical necessity criteria, children/youth must also meet Katie A. subclass criteria to be eligible to receive TFC services.
- For more information on the Katie A. settlement agreement, please visit the following website:

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Pages/KatieAImplementation.aspx>

Description

- DHCS plans to submit SPA 14-011 to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services in order to add TFC services as a covered Medi-Cal SMHS for children/youth who are members of the Katie A. subclass. TFC services are special services provided by a foster care parent to a child or youth who has special behavioral needs and who is being considered to be placed in an institution such as a group home or psychiatric hospital. The foster care parent would provide mental health treatment and other service activities.



Description Continued

- These activities may include helping the child or youth improve their skills, improve anger management, self-esteem or peer relations and helping the child or youth to access other services.
- Foster care parents would work with a Child and Family Team which would include the child, youth, family members and other mental health and child welfare staff to develop a treatment plan for the child or youth.
- This plan would ensure that the needs and strengths of the child or youth are considered and would assist with a successful transition out of the child welfare system. The foster care parent would also contract with a TFC provider agency.

Description Continued

- DHCS is working on the TFC service components such as a service description and eligibility, provider qualifications, reimbursement methods and any service limits.
- DHCS intends to submit this SPA to CMS by March 31, 2014 for an effective date of January 1, 2014.



Impact

Impact on Indian Health Programs

- DHCS does not anticipate that this proposal will impact Indian health programs or Urban Indian Organizations.

Impact on Indian Medi-Cal Beneficiaries

- American Indian children or youth who are Medi-Cal members and part of the Katie A. subclass may be eligible to receive TFC services under the SMHS waiver.

Contact Information

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Feedback



Thank You!

