



**Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)  
Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) Waiver Renewal  
Questions and Responses**

1. Approximately, what number of tribal health clinics participate in the Specialty Mental Health Services Waiver (SMHS)?

**DHCS Response:** Currently DHCS does not track the number of tribal health clinics that participate in the SMHS Waiver. However, it may be possible, if needed, to determine this information if the department were provided the necessary identifiers to match data and run a report (such as an NPI number, for the Indian Health Organizations). This may require additional discussion to determine if in fact there are unique identifiers that would allow us to match the data to provide this type of information.

2. Is there any obligation/requirement for counties to work with Indian Health Programs for the SMHS waiver?

**DHCS Response:** There is no obligation/requirement that mandates MHPs to contract with Indian Health Programs or any other specific providers/programs for the SMHS waiver. MHPs are responsible to ensure the availability and accessibility of adequate numbers and types of providers to adequately provide medically necessary services. Therefore, the MHPs determine who they contract with to meet this obligation. This is included in the contract between the department and MHPs for which the link is provided below.

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/MH/Pages/MCMHP.aspx>

3. Is there a state monitoring system to determine whether or not counties are working with Indian Health Programs for the SMHS Waiver?

**DHCS Response:** DHCS' monitoring and oversight of the MHPs includes ensuring that federal and state requirements are met when for the SMHS, including the provision of medically necessary specialty mental health

services. Since there is no federal or state requirement that counties contract with Indian Health Programs, monitoring activities include ensuring adequate provider capacity but not whether the counties are specifically working with Indian Health Programs.