



Department of Health Care Services
MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 21, 2014

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

FROM: Original signed by
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.

State Plan Amendment (SPA) 14-012- Adding Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (MFT) & Registered Interns As Mental Health Providers: Senate Bill x1-1 (Hernandez, Chapter 4, Statutes of 2013), Section 29, added Welfare and Institutions Code §14132.03 which requires DHCS to expand mental health services covered by Medi-Cal. DHCS plans to submit SPA 14-012 to CMS to authorize licensed MFTs, registered MFT interns, registered associate social workers, and psychological assistants as providers of Medi-Cal mental health psychotherapy services. Please see the enclosed summary of the SPA 14-012 for a detailed description and contact information for questions or comments.

DHCS will hold a teleconference to provide an opportunity to discuss and provide for immediate feedback regarding SPA 14-012. The teleconference will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 4, 2014. To participate in this teleconference dial toll-free, 1-800-369-1872. When asked for a participant passphrase please respond "DHCS". Please note this SPA is scheduled for submission on March 7, 2014.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations may submit written comments or questions concerning this proposal prior to the scheduled submission date.

Questions or comments may be sent by mail or email to the address below:

Contact Information:

Wendy Ly

Clinical Assurance and Administrative Support Division

1501 Capitol Avenue, MS 4506

Sacramento, CA 95814

Wendy.Ly@dhcs.ca.gov

Enclosure

**Benefits Division
Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
State Plan Amendment (SPA) 14-012-Adding Licensed Marriage and Family
Therapists & Registered Interns As Mental Health Providers**

Background:

Senate Bill (SB) x1-1 (Hernandez, Chapter 4, Statutes of 2013), Section 29, added Welfare and Institutions Code §14132.03 which requires DHCS to expand mental health services covered by Medi-Cal.

Description of the SPA and Effective Date

DHCS plans to submit State Plan Amendment 14-012 to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, with a proposed effective date of January 1, 2014. This SPA proposes to authorize licensed marriage and family therapists (MFTs), registered MFT interns, registered associate social workers (ASWs), and psychological assistants as providers of Medi-Cal mental health psychotherapy services.

In addition, registered MFT interns, registered ASWs, and psychological assistants must be under the supervision of a licensed mental health professional, in accordance with the requirements of applicable state laws and regulations.

Impact to Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations:

- **Impact on Indian Health Programs**

This SPA may impact Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations because it may increase the number of mental health providers who can provide mental health services.

- **Impact on Indian Medi-Cal Beneficiaries**

This SPA may impact American Indian Medi-Cal beneficiaries because it may expand access to mental health services.

Questions and Comments:

DHCS plans to conduct a teleconference call on Tuesday, March 4, 2014, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. to allow immediate feedback and provide an opportunity to discuss this proposal. Questions or comments may be sent by mail or email to the address below:

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