



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

October 20, 2021

To: Tribal Chairpersons, Designees of Indian Health Programs,
and Urban Indian Organizations

Subject: Addendum to Notice of Proposed Change to the Medi-Cal Program

The purpose of this letter is to provide an update to the Tribal Notice for State Plan Amendment (SPA) 21-0051, released on August 26, 2021. The enclosed update provides information regarding a change in the proposed effective date from January 1, 2022 to July 1, 2022.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations may also submit written comments or questions concerning this SPA within 14 days from the receipt of notice. Comments may be sent by email to PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov or by mail to the address below:

Contact Information

Department of Health Care Services
Director's Office
1500 Capitol Avenue, MS 0000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Please note that Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations may also request a consultation on this proposal at any time as needed.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Andrea Zubiarte for

Sandra "Sam" Willburn, Chief
Office of Tribal Affairs
Department of Health Care Services

Enclosure



**Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
Tribal and Designees of Indian Health Programs
Notice Addendum**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this addendum is to inform Tribal Chairpersons and Designees of Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations of the change in proposed effective date for State Plan Amendment (SPA) 21-0051 from January 1, 2022 to July 1, 2022.

BACKGROUND

As previously communicated in the [Tribal and Designees of Indian Health Programs Notice released on August 26, 2021](#), the purpose of SPA 21-0051 is to seek necessary approvals to:

1. Add peer support services as a Medi-Cal Rehabilitative Mental Health Service and to include peer support specialists as a distinct Medi-Cal provider type;
2. Remove the existing client plan requirement and associated plan development activities for Medi-Cal Rehabilitative Mental Health Services;
3. Remove the definition of “telemedicine” and instead use the term “telehealth” and clarify the permissible use of telehealth for Rehabilitative Mental Health Services

In consultation with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, DHCS now seeks an effective date of July 1, 2022 instead of January 1, 2022 for this SPA. DHCS is pursuing this effective date to coincide with the establishment of the peer specialist certification program which will be effective July 1, 2022 in alignment with [Senate Bill \(SB\) 803, chapter 150, statutes of 2020](#).

IMPACT TO TRIBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

DHCS does not anticipate an impact to Tribal Health Programs as a result of the change in the effective date for SPA 21-0051. As mentioned above, the change in the effective date is to align with the peer specialist certification program which will be effective July 1, 2022.

IMPACT TO FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS (FQHCs)

DHCS does not anticipate an impact to FQHCs as a result of the change in the effective date for SPA 21-0051. As mentioned above, the change in the effective date is to align with the peer specialist certification program which will be effective July 1, 2022.

IMPACT TO INDIAN MEDI-CAL BENEFICIARIES

DHCS does not anticipate an impact to Indian Medi-Cal beneficiaries as a result of the change in the effective date for SPA 21-0051. As mentioned above, the change in the effective date is to align with the peer specialist certification program which will be effective July 1, 2022.

RESPONSE DATE

Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations may submit written comments or questions to DHCS concerning this SPA within 14 days from the receipt of this addendum. Comments may be sent by email to PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov or by mail to the address below:

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