



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



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

Date: August 22, 2017

To: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Subject: YOUTH REGIONAL TREATMENT CENTERS (YRTC)

This letter serves to inform Indian health providers of updates to the referral process for eligibility, referral, and payment processes for YRTC services provided to American Indians who are Medi-Cal members. The changes to the referral process are due to the recent opening of the California YRTC Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center located in Hemet, California.

Services will continue to be coordinated through the Federal Indian Health Service California Area Office (IHS/CAO). Some IHS funded tribally and federally operated YRTCs that are enrolled as Medi-Cal providers will bill Medi-Cal directly for these services. Medi-Cal will not reimburse for travel expenses. The IHS/CAO will continue to cover the cost for services to American Indian youth who are not Medi-Cal members; however, IHS is a payor of last resort so all resources must be explored prior to seeking reimbursement from IHS.

The responsibility for assessment, referral, health record documentation, and follow up after discharge will remain with the Indian health provider that is the primary care provider and referring agency for the identified youth.

The following steps outline the YRTC process for American Indian youth who are Medi-Cal members:

- The referring Indian health provider determines the need for residential substance use disorder treatment
- The referring Indian health provider screens for Medi-Cal enrollment status. If eligible, but not a current Medi-Cal member, the Indian health provider provides Medi-Cal application information/assistance for eligibility determination.
- The referring Indian health provider contacts the Desert Sage Intake coordinator (at the address below) and the Desert Sage Intake staff will send an admissions packet to the Indian health provider.

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- The admissions application is returned and reviewed by Desert Sage. The youth will then be admitted to the Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center, if appropriate.
- If the Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center is not appropriate for the youth, the Desert Sage Intake staff will work with the Indian health provider to select an age appropriate residential treatment program from those listed below, or may refer to a private program.
- If the American Indian youth is IHS eligible and a Medi-Cal member, the identified YRTC may bill Medi-Cal directly.
- After discharge, the referring provider resumes responsibility for care and follow up

In collaboration with IHS, the following IHS funded (Title 25 U.S.C. 1665c) tribally and federally operated YRTCs have been identified as possible placement locations (subject to availability) for American Indian youth Medi-Cal members

<b>CALIFORNIA</b>	Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center 39990 Faure Road Hemet, CA 92544-9408 (951) 708-4019 NPI 1780057521 Ages 12-17
<b>ARIZONA</b>	Desert Visions Youth Wellness Center 198 Skill Center Road P.O. Box 458 Sacaton, AZ (888) 431-4096 NPI 1104195353 Ages:12-18 at admission
<b>NEVADA</b>	Nevada Skies Youth Wellness Center 104 Big Bend Ranch Road Wadsworth, NV (775) 352-6840 NPI 1689800013 Ages: 12-18 at admission
<b>WASHINGTON</b>	The Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations 5600 East Eight Avenue Spokane Valley, WA 99212 (509) 533-6910 NPI 1194035261 Ages: 13-17 at admission

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Thank you for your ongoing efforts in serving youth in need of residential substance use treatment. If you have questions please contact:

For Medi-Cal related issues:

Andrea Zubiante, Coordinator  
916 324-7936 or email to:  
[Andrea.Zubiante@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Andrea.Zubiante@dhcs.ca.gov)

For Indian Health Service related issues:

Mark Espinosa, Health System Administrator  
951-708-4039 or email to:  
[Mark.Espinosa@ihs.gov](mailto:Mark.Espinosa@ihs.gov)

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Sandra (Sam) Willburn, Chief  
Primary, Rural, and Indian Health Division

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Beverly Miller, MHA, MBA  
Area Director  
Indian Health Service  
California Area Office

cc: Medical Director