



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY**

626 8th Avenue, SE • P.O. Box 45502 • Olympia, Washington 98504-5502

November 13, 2013

Dear Tribal Leaders, Indian Health Service CEOs and Urban Representatives:

**SUBJECT: Request for Tribal Consultation and Roundtable**

In accordance with the Health Care Authority (HCA) Consultation and Communication Policy, I am formally requesting an opportunity to meet with representatives from Washington State Tribes, Indian Health Service and urban Indian clinics. Based on input from the American Indian Health Commission (AIHC) representatives, the following date and time was chosen:

**Date:** Tuesday, November 26, 2013  
**Time:** 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Health Care Authority  
Sue Crystal conference rooms A/B  
626 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE  
Olympia, WA 98501

For those who cannot attend in person, webinar access has been requested and is available. Register for the webinar [here](#).

We seek input on:

*Regional Support Network (RSN) Corrective Action Plan*

HCA is preparing a response to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding procurement for Mental Health Services. HCA and the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) leadership discussed this at the November 5, 2013 Tribal Centric Behavioral Health meeting. The enclosed email dated November 5, 2013 outlines follow up questions and the process for providing written comments. The Tribes requested this topic be added to this Consultation. The enclosed, joint HCA/DSHS letter provides further background.

*State Health Care Innovation Plan*

The draft plan was released on October 31, 2013. Tribal and public comments are being taken now. The revised plan is due to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation by December 31, 2013. Please see [State Health Care Innovation Planning](#) for more information.

In addition, the AIHC has requested we discuss several topics related to Medicaid Expansion with you.

Anticipated Roundtable topics include:

Tribal Leader  
Indian Health Service CEOs  
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*American Indian/Alaska Native Income – WAC request*

The AIHC wrote a detailed letter requesting that the HCA apply the American Indian/Alaska Native income exemptions that we use under the new Modified Adjustable Growth Income rules to the aged, blind, disabled, foster children, SSI recipients, and Medicaid groups. The federal laws and regulations for these existing groups have not changed, so we are seeking guidance from our federal partners to understand if there is flexibility to accommodate the Tribal request.

*Alternative Benefit Plan for Medicaid Adults*

The initial discussion on adult benefits started earlier this year, when the Alternative Benefit Plan (ABP) straw man was created and broadly distributed in February. Further discussions were held in the HCA Tribal Affairs meetings and an official Consultation that included this topic occurred on June 10, 2013. In July, the Legislature funded Medicaid Expansion. Follow up discussions on the ABP and additional benefits (e.g., dental and naturopath services) have taken place with Tribal Health Directors at the two most recent HCA Tribal Affairs meetings.

The expanded benefits are effective January 1, 2014. The official State Plan Amendment templates on the ABP are being developed with CMS guidance. They will be made available as soon as drafts are completed and before they are final. A short brief on Medicaid benefits for adults will be available soon.

Should you have questions, please contact Karol Dixon, Native Health Program Manager, by telephone at 360-725-1649 or via email at [karol.dixon@hca.wa.gov](mailto:karol.dixon@hca.wa.gov).

Sincerely,



Dorothy F. Teeter, MHA  
Director

Enclosures: HCA/DSHS Joint Letter dated October 4, 2013  
Email to Tribes dated November 6, 2013

cc: MaryAnne Lindeblad, Medicaid Director, HCA  
Manning Pellanda, Division Director, EPSD, HCA  
Nathan Johnson, Division Director, HCP, HCA  
Preston Cody, Division Director, HCS, HCA  
Karol Dixon, Native Health Program Manager, HCP, HCA  
Marilyn Scott, Chair, AIHC  
Tribal Health Directors  
Jim Roberts, NPAIHB  
IPAC Delegates



## STATE OF WASHINGTON

October 4, 2013

Dear Valued Partner,

The Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) and Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) are hosting a round table discussion on the future of our mental health system in light of direction we have received from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to make significant changes to our system in order to continue to receive federal Medicaid matching funds.

On July 5, 2013, CMS informed HCA and DSHS that the current non-competitive contracting process with counties for Medicaid mental health services is a violation of federal contracting law. We have had a number of further discussions with CMS since our receipt of the original letter during which we have argued that no change to the current system is required, but CMS has remained firm in its requirement that our funding system be changed. CMS has suggested two purchasing approaches that would address their concerns: (1) cost-based reimbursement; or (2) a competitive procurement process. The state must respond to CMS with a corrective action plan by December 2.

Because the future suggests further integration of our mental health, chemical dependency and physical health systems, we are hoping that a broad group of stakeholders will join us to share their views on the best vision for the future, and ideas on the most effective pathways to reach that deeper integration goal. The views of those of you who are familiar with these issues, and who share our commitment to providing the best and most cost effective care for the Medicaid population are critical to the discussion and brainstorming we are seeking. Many of you have been participating with us on our State Innovations Model planning as well, and we appreciate your additional time for these sessions.

Governor Jay Inslee has asked that we prepare a joint recommendation to him as to how Washington should best proceed. Given the many issues involved, we are in turn reaching out to you for your insights on what changes we can make to the system that will address CMS' concerns, while advancing improved patient care. We believe that your input is absolutely necessary for us to provide the best possible advice to the Governor.

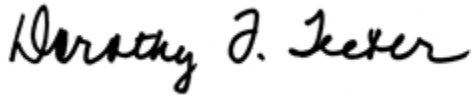
We will be hosting two events, one in Spokane and one in Burien. On October 17, we will host an event in Spokane commencing at 2 p.m., and on October 28, we will host an event in Burien commencing at 2 p.m. Details on location will follow shortly.

Valued Partners  
October 4, 2013  
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Please RSVP to [Ginny.Bell@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:Ginny.Bell@dshs.wa.gov) by October 11 for the Spokane event, and October 21 for the Burien event. Your RSVP is important to ensure we have the right venue.

If you have any questions please feel free to call HCA Medicaid Director MaryAnne Lindeblad at 360-725-1863, or DSHS Assistant Secretary Jane Beyer at 360-725-2260.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dorothy J. Teeter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Dorothy Teeter  
Director  
Health Care Authority

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin W. Quigley". The signature is stylized, with a large loop at the beginning and the last name being clearly legible.

Kevin W. Quigley  
Secretary  
Department of Social and Health Services



## Attachment for Mailout

Good afternoon,

During the November 5<sup>th</sup> Tribal Centric Behavioral Health meeting, Jane Beyer, Assistant Secretary Behavioral Health and Integrated Services Administration and MaryAnne Lindeblad, Medicaid Director, Health Care Authority began a discussion with Tribes about the State response to CMS regarding procurement for Mental Health Services. Eight Tribes were at that meeting, and we appreciate their attendance. The Tribes requested we seek additional tribal input to the following questions.

Please consider providing written comments or attending the previously scheduled HCA Tribal Consultation to help inform the two agencies as they develop next steps. The first of these questions were asked during the public stakeholder meetings in Spokane and Burien in October.

What do we want out of our behavioral health system?

- What Principles should inform care delivery and financing?
- Describe what works best in the system we have today that it is critical to retain
- Identify top 3 problems and possible solutions
- Describe what should the patient experience ultimately look like in any improved system

Pros, Cons and Considerations for: **Cost-based or fee for service reimbursement for current RSN services.**

### **Open procurement for current behavioral health services:**

1. Mental health only with one risk bearing organizing entity per region
2. Mental health and chemical dependency services together in a single behavioral health organization (BHO) within each regional service area
3. Risk bearing entities provide fully integrated set of services that include physical health, mental health and chemical dependency in regional service areas.

In addition to these questions we would also like to hear from you about:

- What is working for tribal members and tribal clinics in our current mental health, chemical dependency and physical health care systems
- How would you improve our systems to work better for the clients you serve?

We have already gotten excellent input regarding behavioral health services through our Tribal Centric Behavioral Health workgroup, so those suggestions need not be repeated here.

Please send these comments by **NOVEMBER 20, 2013** to Jane Beyer at [Jane.beyer@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:Jane.beyer@dshs.wa.gov) or MaryAnne Lindeblad at [maryanne.lindeblad@hca.wa.gov](mailto:maryanne.lindeblad@hca.wa.gov)

The RSN Correction Action Plan will also be added to the agenda for the HCA Tribal Consultation scheduled for **November 26, 2013 at 1:00 PM**. This will take place at the HCA Cherry Street Plaza, at 626 8<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Olympia WA 98504.

In advance thank you for your assistance and input on this important matter.

Colleen F. Cawston, MPA  
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Office of Indian Policy  
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Olympia, WA 98504  
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Karol Dixon  
Native Health Program Manager  
Health Care Authority  
[karol.dixon@hca.wa.gov](mailto:karol.dixon@hca.wa.gov)  
360-725-1649

[Attachment B for Mailout](#)

**From:** Dixon, Karol (HCA)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 3:59 PM  
**Cc:** Johnson, Nathan (HCA); Myers, Ann (HCA)  
**Subject:** Tribal Consultation Response & Save The Date 11/26/2013

Tribal Leaders, Indian Health Leaders and Urban Indian Health Organizations,

Please see the attached letter to the AIHC regarding the AIHC request for Tribal Consultation, and the accompanying HCA Save the Date (also copied below). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

**Karol Dixon**

Native Health Program Manager  
Health Care Policy  
Washington State Health Care Authority  
PO Box 42710  
Olympia, WA 98504-2710

360.725.1649  
[karol.dixon@hca.wa.gov](mailto:karol.dixon@hca.wa.gov)

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**Save the Date**

Tribal Consultation  
Tuesday, November 26, 2013  
1:00-4:00 PM

In person: 626 8<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Olympia WA 98504

Webinar as an alternative method of participating has been requested (see link below). To facilitate important Tribe-to-Tribe conversations that can happen during an in-person meeting, some Tribal representatives that will be attending in person may provide their phone number so that the webinar attendees can contact them directly.

**Consultation Topics:**

AIHC request –Apply AI/AN Exemptions to Classic Medicaid  
State Health Care Innovation Plan (draft plan to be released 10/31/13)  
Alternative Benefit Package (still confirming topic)

An official notice will be sent out later this week with more information on each of these topics. For your convenience, a table of all the HCA Tribal meetings is included here. We have set the date for the first HCA Tribal Billing Workgroup, please share this with your billing staff.

**HCA Meeting Schedule**

Tuesday 11/05/2013	1:00 PM	Tribal Centric Behavioral Health (TCBH) workgroup meeting, Tribal discussion on RSN Corrective Action	DSHS OIP coordinates meeting and will send
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		Plan	agenda out
11/18/2013	3:00 PM	HCA Tribal Billing Workgroup (initial meeting)  Webinar registration: <a href="https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/167142922">https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/167142922</a>	In Olympia or webinar
Monday 11/25/2013	1:00 PM	HCA Tribal Affairs Monthly Meeting (rescheduled)  Webinar registration: <a href="https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/857522698">https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/857522698</a>	In Olympia or webinar
Tuesday 11/26/2013	1:00 PM	<b>HCA Tribal Consultation</b>  Webinar registration: <a href="https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/300641882">https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/300641882</a>	In Olympia or webinar  (Several requests for webinar access)
Monday 12/16/2013	1:00 PM	HCA Tribal Affairs Monthly Meeting (rescheduled)  Webinar registration: <a href="https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/857617890">https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/857617890</a>	In Olympia or webinar
TBD		SBIRT Training for Tribal Providers Survey to THDs on dates/attendees forthcoming	West side
TBD		SBIRT Training for Tribal Providers Survey to THDs on dates/attendees forthcoming	East side