



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

May 31, 2012

The Honorable Marilyn Scott, Chair
American Indian Health Commission
P.O. Box 226
Port Angeles, WA 98362

Dear Chairwoman Scott:

Thank you for your correspondence of May 21, 2012 regarding the Department of Social and Health Services (the Department) submission of a renewal application for the Integrated Community Mental Health Program 1915(b) mental health waiver. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughtful analysis of the waiver and the renewal process.

In response to the legislative direction and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) concerns that the state is not offering optional 1915(b) (3) services statewide, waiver coverage is removed for these services including club house, respite and supported employment. To help you gauge the impact, the data you requested on total Medicaid clients by service category and an estimated number of American Indian (AI) and Alaska Native (AN) people receiving the (b) (3) services is enclosed with this letter.

You also requested that the Department reaffirm the policy that AI/AN Medicaid beneficiaries and clinical family members are able to receive outpatient mental health services directly through tribal clinics without referral or screening by the CMHP in their catchment area and that tribal programs are reimbursed directly by the Medicaid program for providing these services. We are happy to reiterate this policy into our waiver renewal transmittal letter.

Finally, your letter cites a previous commitment by the Department to work with the tribes to develop a new tribal centric behavioral health system. With this letter I am reaffirming this commitment and directing MaryAnne Lindeblad, Assistant Secretary, Aging and Disability Services Administration and Colleen Cawston, Senior Director, Office of Indian Policy to immediately begin developing a project plan for an integrated, tribal centric behavioral health system. The Health Care Authority has agreed to participate and the project team will include representatives appointed by the Indian Policy Advisory Committee, the American Indian Health Commission, and the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board. We will reiterate this plan in the waiver transmittal letter.

Thank you again for your letter. We are committed to an intensive effort over the next year to arrive at an integrated, tribal community centric behavioral health system. Should you have any

The Honorable Marilyn Scott

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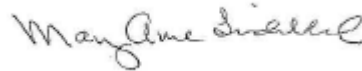
Page 2

questions or concerns, please contact MaryAnne Lindeblad, Assistant Secretary, Aging and Disability Services Administration by telephone at 360-725-2260 or via email at maryanne.lindeblad@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Robin Arnold-Williams, Secretary
Department of Social and Health Services



MaryAnne Lindeblad, Assistant Secretary
Aging and Disability Services Administration

Enclosure

By email

cc: Chairmen of the Tribes of Washington
Susan Johnson, Director, DHHS Region X
Carol Peverly, Associate Regional Administrator for Seattle, CMS Region X
Cecile Greenway, Native American Contact, CMS Region X
Cheryl Lowe, Executive Director, AIHC
Jim Roberts, Policy Analyst, NPAIHB
Joe Finkbonner, Executive Director, NPAIHB
Andy Joseph, Jr., Colville Tribal Business Council Chair, NPAIHB
Doug Porter, Director, HCA
Colleen Cawston, Senior Director, OIP
Chris Imhoff, Director, DBHR
Tom Gray, Mental Health Program Administrator, DBHR
Debra Sosa, Native Health Program Manager, HCA