



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
Health & Recovery Services Administration  
P.O. Box 45502, Olympia, Washington 98504-5502

March 2, 2009

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to reaffirm the Mental Health Division's commitment to discussion and collaboration with tribes concerning development of the 1915(b) Freedom of Choice Waiver renewal. The waiver allows the state to operate a managed care system for mental health services funded through Medicaid. The application for renewal must be submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services by December 30, 2009.

The state's anticipated budget shortfall for the upcoming biennium will likely impact funding for Medicaid services, including those in the waiver. Given the magnitude of the shortfall, the Mental Health Division does not plan to initiate waiver renewal activities until the budget process is further along and there is a better understanding of the resulting impact to the publicly funded mental health system.

I wish to reinforce the Mental Health Division's commitment to seek input from tribes and work in collaboration on this important issue.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Karie Castleberry at 360-902-0799, [castlka@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:castlka@dshs.wa.gov) or Greg Twiddy at 360-902-0848, [TWIDDGW@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:TWIDDGW@dshs.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

MaryAnn Lindeblad, Acting Director  
Mental Health Division  
Health & Recovery Services Administration