December 14, 2021

Dear Tribal Leader:

SUBJECT: Medicaid State Plan Amendment 22-0007 1915(i) Behavioral Health Personal Care Changes

In accordance with section 1902(a)(73)(A) of the Social Security Act regarding the solicitation of advice prior to the submission of any Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) or waiver likely to have a direct effect on Indians, Indian Health Programs, or Urban Indian Organizations, the Health Care Authority (HCA) in conjunction with the Aging and Long Term Supports Administration (ALTSA) in the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) hereby seek your advice on the following matter.

Purpose
The HCA and ALTSA intend to submit SPA 22-0007 to amend Washington’s 1915(i) section of the State Plan for Home and Community Based Service benefits regarding Behavioral Health Personal Care (BHPC), in compliance with legislative direction. Currently, BHPC services are offered as non-traditional services through the managed care delivery system and are paid with state-only funds. The new Community Behavioral Health Supports Medicaid benefit will be implemented in July of 2022, if approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Anticipated Impact on Indians/Indian Health Programs/Urban Indian Organizations
HCA and ALTSA do not anticipate this SPA to have an impact that is specific to American Indian/Alaska Native Medicaid applicants or enrollees, Indian Health Programs, or Urban Indian Health Organizations in Washington. However, HCA and ALTSA would appreciate any input or concerns that Tribal representatives wish to share, including whether this SPA will have disproportionate impact on American Indian/Alaska Native Medicaid applicants or enrollees, Indian Health programs, or Urban Indian Health Organizations.

Copy Available on Request
SPA 21-0007 is under development. A copy of the draft SPA will be available for your review on January 10, 2022, on the HCA website.

Comments and Questions
HCA and ALTSA would appreciate any input or concerns that Tribal representatives wish to share regarding this SPA. To return any comments, please contact Jessica Diaz-Bayne, Section Manager, via email at Jessica.Diaz-Bayne@hca.wa.gov, with a courtesy copy to Ann Myers, State Plan Coordinator, via email at Ann.Myers@hca.wa.gov, by February 10, 2022.
Please contact Jessie Dean, Administrator, Office of Tribal Affairs, via email at Jessie.Dean@hca.wa.gov, if you would like to request formal consultation or have tribal affairs-related questions.

Please forward this information to any interested party.

Sincerely,

Charissa Fotinos, MD, MSc
Acting Medicaid Director

By email

cc: Jessie Dean, Tribal Affairs Administrator, OTA, HCA
Ann Myers, State Plan Coordinator, DLS, HCA
Jessica Diaz-Bayne, Section Manager, MPD, HCA
Kelli Emans, Integration Manager, ALTSA, DSHS