



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER – Governor
RICHARD M. ARMSTRONG – Director

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

MATT WIMMER - Administrator
DIVISION OF MEDICAID
Post Office Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0009
PHONE: (208) 334-5747
FAX: (208) 364-1811

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Medicaid Information Release # MA17-02

To: All Idaho Tribes and Indian Health Care Providers (IHCPs)

From: Matt Wimmer, Administrator
Division of Medicaid

Subject: Approval of Idaho Behavioral Health Plan 1915(b)(4) Waiver Renewal

CMS has approved Idaho's renewal of its 1915(b) waiver for the Idaho Behavioral Health Plan. Idaho Department of Health and Welfare staff have worked closely with representatives from tribal sovereign nations in Idaho around special terms and conditions included with this renewal.

Due to limitations in federal authority, CMS was not able to incorporate all the elements that Idaho had agreed on with tribes into the approved waiver and special terms and conditions. To demonstrate Idaho's continued commitment to the tribes in this regard, Medicaid is releasing this formal policy statement:

Agreement to Collaborate on Indian Managed Care Entity Development.

The Idaho Department of Health & Welfare (IDHW) recognizes that Tribes have significant capabilities for managing the care of their tribal members and other Indians to achieve positive behavioral health outcomes.

IDHW will collaborate with interested Tribes in Idaho to explore and develop an approach to Tribal managed care for behavioral health services. IDHW will convene a workgroup consisting of representatives of Indian Health Care Providers (IHCP's), state Medicaid staff, and Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) staff to outline the actions, resources and timelines necessary to implement an Indian Managed Care Entity (IMCE).

The initial planning report will be delivered to the Director of the IDHW and the chairs of Tribes in Idaho and the NPAIHB no later than 6 months following the approval date of the IBHP waiver renewal. Following the delivery of the initial planning report, Idaho agrees to continue working collaboratively with interested Tribes to implement an IMCE.

IDHW will make changes to the 1915(b) waiver as necessary to support the Tribes in Idaho and the implementation of an IMCE.

Exemption of Certain Property from Resources for Medicaid and CHIP Eligibility.

Idaho will disregard the property listed in 42 U.S.C. 1396a(ff) from resources for the purposes of determining the eligibility of an individual who is an Indian for medical assistance.

The IDHW is willing to enter into binding memorandums of agreement with individual tribes in Idaho reflecting these commitments, or to amend existing memorandums between the IDHW and individual tribes to incorporate these provisions at tribal request.

We thank tribes for their engagement with IDHW in this process and for their past and continued care for Idaho Medicaid participants.

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