



Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor  
David R. Scrase, M.D., Secretary  
Nicole Comeaux, J.D., M.P.H., Director

July 13, 2021

**RE: Tribal Notification to Request Advice and Comments Letter 21-12: Behavioral Health Policy and Billing Manual**

Dear Tribal Leadership, Indian Health Service, Tribal Health Providers, and Other Interested Parties:

Seeking advice and comments from New Mexico's Indian Nations, Tribes, Pueblos and their healthcare providers is an important component of the government-to-government relationship with the State of New Mexico. In accordance with the New Mexico Human Services Department's (HSD's) Tribal Notification to Request Advice and Comments process, this letter is to inform you that HSD, through the Medical Assistance Division (MAD), is accepting written comments **until 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time (MT) August 12, 2021**, regarding proposed revisions to the Behavioral Health Policy and Billing Manual (BH Manual).

The BH Manual provides a reference for the policies and processes related to administration of Medicaid behavioral health services as defined in New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC), section 8.321.2. The BH Manual also provides supplemental material as direction for the Managed Care Organizations (MCOs).

The proposed BH Manual includes updates, additions and clarifications. Updates of existing sections include, but are not limited to, those covering supervisory certification, critical incident reporting, telemedicine, behavioral health pharmacology, crisis triage centers, certified peer support workers, behavioral health respite services, and behavioral management skills. Licensed Professional Art Therapists (LPATs) have been added to the list of practitioners able to provide clinical supervision, and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) with specialized training in Substance Use Disorder (SUD) have been added as staff options for Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs).

The proposed BH Manual includes new sections on diagnostic classification of mental health and developmental disorders of infancy and early childhood, and substance use disorder assessment and treatment, including the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria and levels of care, early intervention, and outpatient and inpatient services. Billing and coding instructions have been clarified throughout.

**Tribal Impact**

HSD does not anticipate a service or financial impact to individual, tribes or their healthcare providers.

**Tribal Advice and Comments**

Tribes and their healthcare providers may view the proposed BH Manual revisions on the Human Services Department's webpage at: <https://www.hsd.state.nm.us/providers/written-tribal-consultations/> **Tribal Notification 21-12.**

## Important Dates

**Written comments must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time (MT) August 12, 2021.** Please send your comments to the MAD Native American Liaison, **Theresa Belanger**, at (505) 670-8067 or by email at: [Theresa.Belanger@state.nm.us](mailto:Theresa.Belanger@state.nm.us). All written comments received will be posted on the HSD website at: <https://www.hsd.state.nm.us/providers/written-tribal-consultations/> along with this notification letter. The public posting will include the name and any contact information provided by the commenter.

Sincerely,



Nicole Comeaux, J.D., M.P.H.  
State Medicaid Director

cc: Theresa Belanger, Native American Liaison, HSD/MAD  
Lorelei Kellogg, Deputy Director, HSD/MAD