

November 01, 2018

RE: Tribal Notification Letter 18-18: Requesting Advice and Comments related to the Behavioral Health Policy and Billing Manual and Behavioral Health Supplement

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 health care 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. MT, December 7, 2018** regarding the proposed Behavioral Health Billing and Policy Manual and proposed Supplement making updates to Medicaid Behavioral Health. The BH Manual provides a reference for the policies and processes related to Behavioral Health for 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 BH Manual offers information that will have a positive impact on services provided by New Mexico's Indian Nations, Tribes, Pueblos and their health care providers. Specifically, some of the new or updated components are:

- 1) Educational material on trauma informed care which is not a service, but an approach;
- 2) Educational material on supervision, with access to an informational web-site;
- 3) Updated information on telemedicine, best practices and the use of telemedicine for delivering medication assisted treatment;
- 4) A new billable service for interdisciplinary teaming which allows multiple providers to bill for the same planning meeting with the Medicaid beneficiary/patient when changes in the treatment plan are indicated;
- 5) Many educational materials and access to an educational web-site for the "Treat First" clinical model, which allows providers to immediately treat a new patient upon the first visit instead of requiring a comprehensive assessment before treatment can occur. Provisional diagnoses are utilized for billing;
- 6) The introduction of billable services for peer support workers;
- 7) Educational material for a new service which will be effective on 1/01/19 for screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT);
- 8) Educational material for many of the special outpatient services that IHS and Tribal 638 clinics can qualify to render. These are comprehensive community support services, crisis intervention services, crisis triage centers, intensive outpatient program, medication assisted treatment, partial hospitalization, behavior management services,

- day treatment services, multi-systemic therapy, assertive community treatment services, and cognitive enhancement therapy.
- 9) Educational and policy information related to residential treatment facilities, treatment foster care, institutes for mental disease (IMD), and residential crisis triage centers.

The proposed Behavioral Health Supplement offers guidance, policy updates, and explanation of new services that augment current NMAC 8.831.2. It also addresses NMAC 8.308, Managed Care, Section 9, Benefit Package; Subsection 19 Behavioral Health Services by identifying and clarifying outdated definitions and referencing the Supplement. It is being issued in advance of the rule promulgation of NMAC 8.321.2 so that new behavioral health services will be available on January 1, 2019.

Estimated Total Financial Impact

There is no financial impact as this is educational and policy material.

Tribal Impact

There is no specific impact on Native Americans as policies and educational materials are for the benefit of practitioners in the delivery and quality of the services within their clinics.

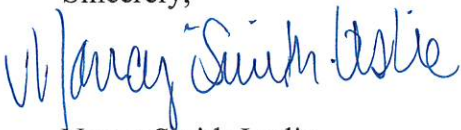
Tribal Advice and Comments

Tribes and tribal healthcare providers may view the proposed Behavioral Health Policy and Billing Manual and BH Supplement on the HSD webpage at: <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/providers/written-tribal-consultations.aspx> *Notification Letter 18-18*.

Important Dates

- **Written comments must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time (MT) on December 7, 2018.** Please send your comments and questions to the MAD Native American Liaison, Theresa Belanger, at (505) 827-3122 or by email at: Theresa.Belanger@state.nm.us.
- Comments and responses will be compiled and made available upon request by December 28, 2018. After considering the comments received and making changes deemed necessary, the final version of the Behavioral Health Policy and Billing Manual will also be available and effective January 1, 2019 on the HSD website: <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/default.aspx>.

Sincerely,



Nancy Smith-Leslie
Director

cc: Kari Armijo, HSD/MAD Deputy Director
Theresa Belanger, Native American Liaison, HSD/MAD
HSD/MAD Centennial Care Bureau
HSD/MAD Program Policy Bureau