

TAOS



PUEBLO

Governor's Office

P.O. BOX 1846 • TAOS, NEW MEXICO 87571 • (575) 758-9593 • FAX (575) 758-4604

September 20, 2018

Ms. Theresa Belanger
Native American Liaison
Medical Assistance Division
theresa.belanger@state.nm.us

Dear Ms. Belanger:

This letter is in response to the Tribal Notification to Request Advice and Comments Letter 18-09 and the proposed amendments to NMAC rules 8.308.6, 8.308.7, 8.308.10 and 8.308.12. Taos Pueblo appreciates the opportunity to address changes that may affect Tribal communities.

In specific, Taos Pueblo would like to comment on the Centennial Home Visiting (CHV) Pilot Program Services referenced in 8.308.9.7 and 8.308.9.23. Home Visiting has been shown in numerous studies (OPRE Report #2017-58; MIHOPE, Michalopoulos and others, 2017) "to improve outcomes for parents and children across a wide range of child ages, outcome areas, and national models." (Michalopoulos, 2017) Taos Pueblo fully supports the inclusion of Home Visiting as a piece of the benefit package of the Managed Care Program, as defined in 8.308.9.7.

Additionally, Taos Pueblo would strongly encourage the New Mexico Human Services Division (HSD) to consider adding a Tribal Community to the proposed pilot program as defined in 8.308.9.23. While Taos Pueblo fully supports the pilot program in Bernalillo County, including a Tribal Community would also demonstrate the effectiveness of Home Visiting in rural Tribal populations, and could be a model for replication in other Tribal and non-Tribal communities in rural areas. Tribal communities would also demonstrate the effectiveness of culturally relevant adaptations of the model(s) named in 8.308.9.23.

Taos Pueblo thanks you for your time in the consideration of this request. Questions or comments about this request may be directed to Taos Pueblo's Director of Health and Community Services, Mr. Ezra Bayles at (575)-758-7824 or ebayles@taospueblo.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Suazo", written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Gilbert Suazo, Sr.
Governor
Taos Pueblo