

February 28, 2019

**RE: Tribal Notification to Request Advice and Comments Letter 19-05: Draft Section 1115
Demonstration Waiver Amendment Application**

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. Mountain Time (MT) on Tuesday, April 30, 2019**, regarding the Medicaid health care program known as Centennial Care 2.0 and changes to the program that are being considered as part of the amendment to the Centennial Care federal waiver that will be effective on July 1, 2019.

1) Removal of Co-payments for Centennial Care Members

As currently approved, the Centennial Care 2.0 waiver would allow co-payments of \$8 for non-emergency use of the hospital Emergency Department (ED) and \$8 for non-preferred prescription drugs for most Centennial Care members. HSD does not intend to implement these co-payments and seeks to remove this authority from the waiver.

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

2) Removal of Premiums for Members of the Adult Expansion Group

The current Centennial Care 2.0 waiver requires HSD to implement monthly premiums of \$10 for members of the Adult Expansion Group who have income above 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), effective July 1, 2019. HSD does not intend to implement premiums and seeks to remove the requirement to implement them from the waiver.

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

3) Reinstatement of Retroactive Eligibility

The current Centennial Care 2.0 waiver includes a phase-out of the three-month retroactive Medicaid coverage period for non-pregnant adults covered under Centennial Care. In calendar year 2019, the retroactive period is limited to one month. In calendar year 2020, the waiver requires the HSD to eliminate retroactive coverage for this population completely.

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

4) Community Benefit Services

Centennial Care expanded the availability of Community Benefit (CB) services to individuals who qualify for full Medicaid coverage and meet a Nursing Facility Level of Care (NF LOC) by eliminating the requirement for a waiver allocation in order to access the full suite of CB services. HSD has continued to provide access to CB for certain members who do not meet standard Medicaid financial eligibility by establishing 4,289 slots in the Centennial Care waiver. Current allocation efforts by HSD are keeping up with attrition; however, HSD anticipates that the need for additional slots will increase. HSD is proposing to increase the number of slots by 1,500 through the waiver amendment.

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

5) Home Visiting Pilot

The Centennial Care 2.0 home visiting pilot program focuses on pre-natal care, post-partum care, and early childhood development in state-designated counties. HSD is proposing to remove the restriction on the number of counties in which the home visiting project can be implemented, as well as the number of potential members who can be served by home visiting services. Additional counties providing home visiting services will be designated by HSD throughout the term of the waiver.

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

Tribal Advice and Comments

Tribes and tribal healthcare providers may view the draft waiver application on the HSD webpage at: <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/providers/written-tribal-consultations.aspx> *Notification Letter 19-05.*

A written copy of these documents may be requested by contacting the HSD Medical Assistance Division (HSD/MAD) in Santa Fe at (505) 827-1337.

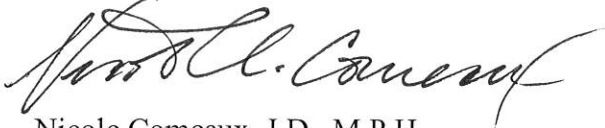
Important Dates

A public hearing on Monday, April 15, 2019 is scheduled at the Medicaid Advisory Committee Meeting, be held at the Harold L. Runnels Building - Auditorium, 1190 S. St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87501, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. MT.

Written advice and comments must be received no later than 5:00pm Mountain Time (MT) on Monday, April 15, 2019. Please send your advice, comments or questions to the MAD Native American Liaison, Theresa Belanger, at (505) 827-3122 or by email to Theresa.Belanger@state.nm.us.

Comments and responses will be compiled and made available upon request.

Sincerely,



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

cc: