



ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL
HEALTH CONSORTIUM

ALEUTIAN PRIBILOF
ISLANDS ASSOCIATION

ARCTIC SLOPE
NATIVE ASSOCIATION

BRISTOL BAY AREA
HEALTH CORPORATION

CHICKALOON VILLAGE
TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

CHUGACHMIUT

COPPER RIVER
NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COUNCIL OF ATHABASCAN
TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

EASTERN ALEUTIAN TRIBES

KARLUK IRA
TRIBAL COUNCIL

KENAITZE INDIAN TRIBE

KETCHIKAN
INDIAN COMMUNITY

KODIAK AREA
NATIVE ASSOCIATION

MANILAQ ASSOCIATION

METLAKATLA INDIAN
COMMUNITY

MT. SANFORD
TRIBAL CONSORTIUM

NATIVE VILLAGE
OF EKLUTNA

NATIVE VILLAGE OF EYAK

NATIVE VILLAGE
OF TYONEK

NINILCHIK
TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

NORTON SOUND
HEALTH CORPORATION

SELDOVIA VILLAGE TRIBE

SOUTHCENTRAL
FOUNDATION

SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL
HEALTH CONSORTIUM

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

YAKUTAT TLINGIT TRIBE

YUKON-KUSKOKWIM
HEALTH CORPORATION

VALDEZ NATIVE TRIBE

Alaska Native Health Board

THE VOICE OF ALASKA TRIBAL HEALTH SINCE 1968

☎ 907.729.7510 📠 907.729.7506 • 4000 Ambassador Drive (ANHB Office) • Anchorage, Alaska 99508 • www.anhb.org

May 23, 2024

Emily Beaulieu
Medicaid State Plan Coordinator
Alaska Department of Health
3601 C Street, Suite 902
Anchorage, AK 99503
Via email: emily.beaulieu@alaska.gov

RE: Letter of Support for Proposed Service Authorizations State Plan Amendment

Dear Ms. Beaulieu,

The Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB)¹ supports the Department of Health (DOH) proposal to submit a state plan amendment (SPA) for the extension of temporary Public Health Emergency (PHE) related Service Authorizations (SA) for state plan behavioral health services, with an effective date of May 12, 2024.

We understand that DOH intends to create continuity between the temporary PHE SA suspensions, which expired on May 11, 2024, and the effective date of the forthcoming SPA and regulations to repeal certain SAs for state plan behavioral health services.

ANHB supports this intent and appreciates the ongoing collaboration with DOH to resolve the regulations' discrepancy, provide continuity for providers, and ultimately reduce the administrative burden of SA requirements for behavioral health services. Due to the time-sensitive nature of the proposed SPA, ANHB also supports DOH's request to conduct Tribal consultation concurrently with the approval process.

If you have any questions, please contact ANHB at anhb@anhb.org or (907) 729-7510.

Sincerely,

Chief William F. Smith, Chairman
Alaska Native Health Board
Tribally-Elected Leader of the Valdez Native Tribe

¹ ANHB was established in 1968 with the purpose of promoting the spiritual, physical, mental, social, and cultural well-being and pride of Alaska Native people. ANHB is the statewide voice on Alaska Native health issues and is the advocacy organization for the Alaska Tribal Health System, which is comprised of tribal health programs that serve all of the 229 Tribes and over 177,000 Alaska Native and American Indian (AN/AI) people throughout the state. As the statewide tribal health advocacy organization, ANHB supports Alaska's Tribes and Tribal programs to achieve effective consultation and communication with state and federal agencies on matters of concern.