



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY**

626 8th Avenue, SE • P.O. Box 45502 • Olympia, Washington 98504-5502

February 15, 2024

Dear Tribal Leader:

**SUBJECT: Medicaid State Plan Amendment 24-0007 Community Health Aide Providers –  
Consultation Continuation**

In accordance with section 1902(a)(73)(A) of the Social Security Act regarding the solicitation of advice prior to the submission of any Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) or waiver likely to have a direct effect on Indians, Indian Health Programs, or Urban Indian Organizations, the Health Care Authority (HCA) hereby seeks your advice on the following matter.

**Purpose**

HCA intends to submit Medicaid SPA 24-0007 to add Certified Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) providers, including Behavioral Health Aides (BHA) and Practitioners (BHP), Dental Health Aides (DHAs), and Community Health Aides (CHA) and Practitioners (CHP) to the Medicaid State Plan. Proposed language for this amendment was prepared in coordination with the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, American Indian Health Commission, and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and intends to add the following language to the Medicaid State Plan, Attachment 3, Section 6. Other Practitioner Services:

*“Certified Community Health Aide Program Providers, supervised by a licensed practitioner within their scope of practice as defined under state law.”*

**Background**

Through Washington Indian Health Improvement, HCA was directed to explore a SPA for behavioral health aides, along with Tribal requests for a SPA for all CHAP providers.

On March 8, 2023, HCA held a Tribal Consultation on the draft Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) 23-0003 to add Behavioral Health Aides (BHA) and Practitioners (BHP), Dental Health Aides (DHAs) and Community Health Aides (CHA) and Practitioners (CHP) to the Medicaid State Plan. During this Consultation, we were requested and agreed to delay the CHAP SPA until the dental health aide therapist (DHAT) litigation was finalized. With the DHAT litigation resolved, the work to solidify the language in the CHAP SPA resumed.

The Agency has reserved the following dates and times for Tribal Roundtable and Tribal Consultation:

**Roundtable #1** – Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85982797095>

Dear Tribal Leader  
February 15, 2024  
Page 2

**Consultation** – Tuesday, March 5, 2024, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89322344095>

### **Comments and Questions**

HCA would appreciate any additional input or concerns that Tribal representatives wish to share regarding this SPA. To return any comments, please contact Aren Sparck, Tribal Affairs Administrator via email at [aren.sparck@hca.wa.gov](mailto:aren.sparck@hca.wa.gov), with a courtesy copy to Ann Myers, State Plan Coordinator, at [ann.myers@hca.wa.gov](mailto:ann.myers@hca.wa.gov) by March 25, 2024.

Please contact Aren Sparck via email at [aren.sparck@hca.wa.gov](mailto:aren.sparck@hca.wa.gov) if you have tribal affairs-related questions.

Please forward this information to any interested party.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan E. Birch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" being the most prominent part.

Susan E. Birch, MBA, BSN, RN  
Director and Acting Medicaid Director

cc: Aren Sparck, Tribal Affairs Administrator, OTA, HCA  
Ann Myers, State Plan Coordinator, DLS, HCA