



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

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

January 13, 2025

Dear Tribal Leader:

SUBJECT: Tribal Jails Participation in the Medicaid Transformation Project Reentry Initiative

In accordance with chapter 43.376 RCW and the Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989 regarding collaboration with Indian tribes in the development of policies, agreements, and program implementation that directly affect Indian tribes and the Tribal Consultation and Communication Policy of the Health Care Authority (HCA), the HCA requests your partnership and seeks to formally engage with you on the development and launch of the Reentry Demonstration Initiative.

Background

The Medicaid Transformation Project (MTP) is Washington State's Section 1115 Medicaid demonstration waiver with the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS). This project is authorized in five-year increments, and Washington is currently in our second approval phase, MTP 2.0, authorized from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2028.

Part of MTP 2.0 is the Reentry Demonstration Initiative intended to support the transition from a carceral facility back into the community. The MTP 2.0 waiver does this by allowing for a limited benefit package to be implemented 90-days pre-release. Those services include:

- Case management/care coordination
- Medication-assisted Treatment (MAT) pre-release
- For post-release: 30-day supply of medications and durable medical equipment
- Medications during the pre-release period
- Lab and radiology
- Services by community health workers
- Physical and behavioral clinical consultations (as needed)

Purpose

Tribal jails are eligible for participation in this program. The current design of the program relies on the carceral facility being a member of the Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs (WASPC) and entering data into their Jail Booking and Reporting System (JBRS).

We would like to work with you on how your Tribe is currently running your carceral facility and how your current processes and HCA's Reentry Demonstration Initiative can dovetail.

This is the first time HCA is working in the justice/carceral space. Current questions include:

- How is your facility tracking bookings?
- Does a health screening occur when someone is booked?

Dear Tribal Leader

January 13, 2025

Page 2

- What does your current reentry/health care system look like? (Current infrastructure/services offered)
- What is your average daily population?
- Do you have a population with sentences longer than 90-days? If so, what is that daily population?
- Is participation in JBRS a path the Tribe is willing to consider?

Timeline

The current timeline is for the first cohort of facilities to go live in the Reentry Demonstration Initiative on July 1, 2025, with additional cohorts going live in January 2026 and July 2026. HCA would like to engage with Tribes looking to participate in this Initiative in the new year and would be interested to know if the Tribes with carceral facilities would like to engage as a cohort or individually.

Communications

Please reach out to Lena Nachand, Tribal Liaison for the Medicaid Transformation Project via email at lena.nachand@hca.wa.gov to share your interest in the program, if you would like to participate in a meeting to learn more about the Reentry Initiative, and contact information for the appropriate contact within the Tribe.

Please contact Aren Sparck, Tribal Affairs Administrator, via email at aren.sparck@hca.wa.gov for any Tribal affairs-related questions or concerns.

Please forward this information to any interested party.

Sincerely,



Charissa Fotinos, MD, MSc
Medicaid and Behavioral Health Medical Director

cc: Lou McDermott, Deputy Director, EXO, HCA
Aren Sparck, Tribal Affairs Administrator, OTA, HCA
Mich'l Needham, Chief Policy Officer, SPI, HCA
Michael Arnis, Deputy Policy Director, SPI, HCA
Jason McGill, Assistant Director, MPD, HCA
Emma Oppenheim, Medicaid Transformation Project Director, SPI, HCA
Colette Jones, Clinical Nurse Specialist, MPD, HCA