



Department of Public Health and Human Services

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Greg Gianforte, Governor

Charles T. Brereton, Director

April 28, 2023

[Address Block]

Re: Montana Medicaid Home and Community Based 1915(c) Severe Disabling and Mental Illness Amendment Effective October 1, 2023 – Comments accepted through May 30, 2023

Dear:

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) is pleased to invite comment from all Tribal Governments, Urban Indian Organizations, and Indian Health Service (IHS) regarding the upcoming Montana Medicaid Home and Community Based 1915(c) Severe Disabling and Mental Illness (SDMI) amendment effective October 1, 2023. DPHHS will submit the SDMI Waiver amendment for Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval on or before July 1, 2023.

Under our agreement, DPHHS provides you notice of all Medicaid and CHIP State Plan and Waiver changes. To aid your review, we have indicated whether there will be a direct impact on reimbursement or coverage for American Indians/Alaska Natives.

The SDMI Waiver offered several flexibilities during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) through the Appendix K authority. This amendment to the base waiver proposes to make selected Appendix K provisions permanent. The changes are as follows:

- Adds a self-direct service option to Behavioral Intervention Assistant and Life Coach.
- Adds Financial Management Services and Individual Directed Goods and Services (IDGS) to increase self-directed provider options.
- Adds conflict-free case management criteria to the base waiver to ensure there is no conflict between AWARE, Inc., case management and AWARE, Inc., SDMI waiver services. AWARE, Inc., is the SDMI Waiver's contractor who provides case management services.

In addition to making these flexibilities permanent, DPHHS is updating the SDMI Waiver's case management team requirements to align with the requirements in the approved AWARE, Inc., contract.

The SDMI Waiver amendment will **positively impact** American Indians/Alaska Natives because the new self-direct option and addition of financial management services will allow more opportunity and services.

The draft SDMI Waiver amendment is available for review at [Severe Disabling Mental Illness SDMI Home and Community Based HCBS Waiver Program \(mt.gov\)](#). The state, upon request, will make hard copies available.

DPHHS is committed to an extensive public process. We want to provide you the opportunity to review the proposed actions, understand the concepts, and offer comments. We invite your comments and questions on this waiver amendment emailed or postmarked **through May 30, 2023**. You may direct comments to Mary Eve Kulawik, Medicaid State Plan Amendment and Waiver Coordinator, at (406) 444-2584 or mkulawik@mt.gov; or Director's Office, PO Box 4210, Helena, MT 59604-4210.

Sincerely,

Mike Randol
Medicaid and Health Services Executive Director/State Medicaid Director

c: [Health Director]
Misty Kuhl, Director, Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
Lesa Evers, Tribal Relations Manager, DPHHS