

ATTN: Montana Tribal Leaders and Tribal Health Directors

Re: Coordination on work to include Community Health Aide Providers (CHAP) within the Montana Medicaid State Plan.

Introduction:

For health care services delivered by CHAP Providers to be eligible for Medicaid reimbursement in Montana, a Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) must be successfully filed. Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Washington Health Care Authority (WHCA) have recently added CHAP providers to their state plans with official approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). New Mexico has also authorized CHAP Providers in their State Plan.

State Plan Amendment Language to add CHAP Providers to a state plan is straightforward: “Certified Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) providers supervised by a licensed health care professional”

Benefits of CHAP:

- CHAP provides a unique opportunity for Tribes to improve current health and education systems within their community.
- CHAP improves continuity of care, provides culturally competent health care, and alleviates recruitment and retention in tribal health care systems.
- CHAP empowers tribes to define the health care model within their tribal health system.
- CHAP providers perform basic health care within primary care, dental and behavioral health. They are a valuable and necessary expansion of services already being provided within tribal health systems.
- CHAP is healthcare sovereignty in action!

Background:

Montana Senate Bill 170 was signed by Governor Gianforte on April 3, 2025. This bill, among other directed the department of public health and human services to “apply for a state plan to authorize Medicaid coverage of services provided by individuals certified in accordance with [section 2].”

Request:

Work with Tribal leaders and Montana DHHS to identify and address barriers and concerns to adding Community Health Aide Providers to Montana’s Medicaid State Plan. Agree on language for the State Plan Amendment and determine which section(s) to amend.

Contact Information:

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Conclusion:

Thank you for your continued support for CHAP and advocacy of sovereign healthcare.

