

**South Dakota Department of Social Services**  
**Medicaid Tribal Consultation Meeting**  
**Tuesday, October 27, 2020**  
**1:00 – 3:00 PM CT**  
[Zoom](#)

**Attendees**

Laura Ellenbecker, Cassie Long, Tabitha Silk, Lisa Schlosser, Brett Oakland, Jamie Caron, Samantha Hynes, Alex Aroba, Linda Littlefield, Leah Fighton, Arlene Krulish, Kathy Bad Moccasin, Richard Bird, Lynn Provost, Ellen Durkin, Becky Diehm, Beth Lee, Alene Krulish, Catherine Jeffries, Roxanne Two Bulls, Lisa Lee, Bill Snyder, Ann Schwartz, Matthew Ballard, Stacy Bruels, Andi Ferguson, Jerry Dubberly, Lori Langdeaux, Catherine Jeffries, Roxanne Two Bulls, Lisa DeLeon

**Welcome and Introductions**

Bill Snyder welcomed the group, everyone introduced themselves and indicated they are located.

**Review Minutes and Updates from October 2020 Meeting**

Minutes for the meeting can be found on the [Medicaid Tribal Consultation website](#).

Matthew Ballard is the new the Policy Deputy Director for Medical Services.

COVID Updates - Since the last meeting in July the Federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) declaration has been extended to January 21, 2021. Medicare has added some additional telemedical flexibilities, these flexibilities have been mirrored by SD Medicaid. The Medicaid telemedicine manual can be found on the Department of Social Services (DSS) [COVID resources webpage](#). DSS has seen an increase in telemedicine utilization since the start of the PHE.

IHS to 1500 claims –In January 2021 IHS will be switching to billing on the 1500 for professional and ancillary charges. DSS is working to schedule technical assistance calls with each Tribe and IHS service location to make sure people understand and are prepared for the change. Alex Aroba asked about the timelines for the technical assistance and when we are looking to begin. DSS will start scheduling the technical assistance calls the first week of November.

**Quarterly Report of Tribal Medicaid Expenditures**

The quarterly report of Tribal Medicaid Expenditures can be found on the [Medicaid Tribal Consultation webpage](#).

**Delta Dental Updates**

Ann Schwartz provided an overview of Delta Dental and their role in administering Medicaid dental benefits. Slides from the presentation can be found on the [Tribal Consultation webpage](#).

- Orthodontics – In July 2020 changes were made to the orthodontic benefits that focus on treatment compliance and oral hygiene.

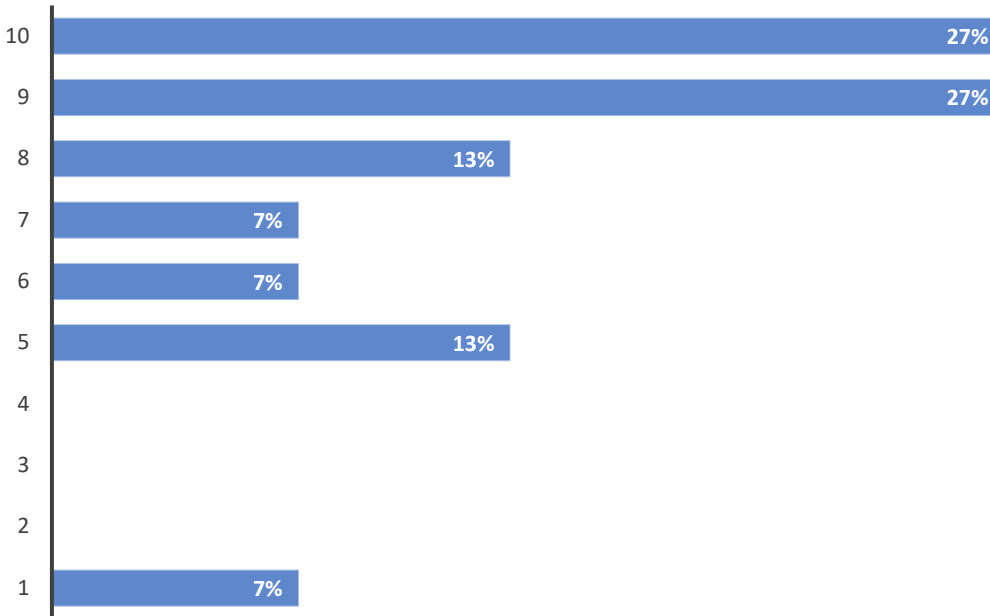
- Coverage for Pregnant Women- Ann clarified that as of August 2020 women who are eligible for Medicaid under the pregnancy only aid categories can now receive dental care.

### **Economic Assistance Updates**

Laura Ellenbecker provided an update on Families First Corona Virus Response Act (FFCRA) and continuous Medicaid eligibility requirements. The legislation includes an increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP). In order for a state to receive the increased FMAP the state has to maintain Medicaid coverage. Anyone on Medicaid since the start of the PHE will maintain their Medicaid coverage until the end of the PHE. A recipients Medicaid can only be closed if the person moves out of state, death, or if the recipient voluntarily ends their coverage. No one can lose coverage for changes in circumstance including income, age, and pregnancy status. Economic Assistance will send notification ten days in advance if a recipient's case is going to be closed. The continuous coverage is beneficial for people that have had to postpone elective procedures.

### **Poll #1**

On a scale of 1-10 how would you rank SD Medicaid response to COVID-19 where 1 is poor and 10 is excellent.



Beth Lee reported that provider enrollment processes had been taking longer during the PHE. Beth's concerns will be passed along to provider enrollment staff.

### **Poll #2**

Has your facility seen an increase in telemedicine utilization during COVID-19?



### **Department of Health Update**

Brett Oakland provided an update from DOH. Since the start of the pandemic there has been a considerable decrease in vaccination administration. There has been a slight uptick in vaccinations recently due to the start of the school year. The slides from the DOH presentation can be found on the [Tribal Consultation webpage](#).

DOH has sent messages to providers to try and get-well visits and vaccinations scheduled with patients. Providers are taking precautions to prevent COVID and get people in for vaccinations and wellness visits.

Becky Diehm expressed that there are a number of patients that fear getting the COVID vaccination due to how fast the vaccination has been pushed through. The DOH is developing educational materials prior to the vaccine being available. The CDC has also developed educational materials that will be available for patients and providers. The FDA won't approve a vaccine that is not safe or effective. There are three vaccines going through the four stages of testing and approval. The vaccines will continue to be studied over time even after FDA approval.

### **Meeting Breakout Rooms**

Improving vaccination rates and wellness visit rates are a priority for South Dakota Medicaid. Attendees were asked to provide ideas about how Medicaid can continue to improve the rate of wellness visits and vaccinations. It was suggested that Medicaid partner with childcare providers to get materials out to parents.

### **Behavioral Health Update**

Stacy Bruels provided an update from Behavioral Health (BH). Handouts from the Behavioral Health update can be found on the [Tribal Consultation website](#).

Behavioral Health has received a grant for COVID-19 crisis counseling called 605 Strong. BH is partnering with 211 and Lutheran Social Services to raise awareness about mental health resources statewide.

BH was also awarded a Disaster Response Grant for \$4 million for 12 months. They are partnering with 211 and other stakeholders to implement grant activities. The primary focus is the 2019 natural disasters.

National strategy for suicide prevention – Focus on adults 25+ to reduce suicide and risk for suicide, will include follow up and continuity of care, post hospitalization follow up.

South Dakota has also received a COVID-19 Emergency Treatment grant to assist individuals impacted by COVID with a mental health diagnosis or substance use disorder.

Roxanne Two Bulls asked about the disaster response grant and if the disaster response plan be shared with stakeholders. The grant was just awarded in the last month, once the plan is developed it will be shared.

BH has been working on a needs and gap assessment with the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI). As part of the review HSRI will be reviewing providers and interviewing a variety of stakeholders to identify needs and gaps in behavioral health services.

### **State Plan Amendment Report**

Matthew Ballard provided an update on state plan amendments. A complete list of state plan amendments can be found on the [Tribal Consultation Website](#). There have been four state plan amendments that have been approved since the last meeting.

### **Community Based Provider Workgroup Update**

The Community Based Provider Workgroup continues to meet to coordinate care between IHS and other community based providers.

DSS is working on recruit a mid-level IPA provider. This position will supplement work already being done by the three IPA nurses.

### **Tribal Reports**

There were no reports made by members present.

### **Public Input**

There were no comments made by members present.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

January 26, 2021- Zoom

April 27, 2021

July 27, 2021

October 26, 2021