

Washington State Health Care Authority

Office of Tribal Affairs

CMS Billings and Portland Area Virtual Training
07/23/2025

Aren Sparck, Chevak Native Village Qissunamiut
OTA Administrator

Updates

Native Hub

ReEntry- First Cohort

TIM

HCMACS

Encounter Rate Process

NPI Onboarding

Sovereign Nation Agreements

New Staff

Native Hub

At the June 11th, 2025 GIHAC Meeting the following actions were approved to move forward:

- GIHAC Sub-Committee formed on 6/11/2025 to act as governing committee for Native Hub
- AIHC will engage attorney to establish the Native Hub Legal Entity
- GIHAC will form a Governing Board for the Native Hub
- \$5.1 MM Funding from MTP 2.0 will be used to stand up the Native Hub

Native Hub

- A statewide network of Tribes, IHCPs, tribal social service divisions, and Native-led, Native-serving organizations in service to whole-person care coordination.
 - This could be payments and/or services.
 - If a Tribe/IHCP wants to provide the service, they need to be paid. The Native Hub would get state funds into tribal hands.
 - When a Tribe/IHCP does not want or does not have the capacity or does not have enough need for the service, the Native Hub could run the services for the Tribe/IHCP.



Native Hub initial Function

- Native Hub initially could administer the HRSN Service dollars, which could allow for more flexibility, more cultural attunement and easier access to funding for HRSN services:
 - Nutrition Supports
 - Housing Transition and Navigation
 - Rent/Temporary Housing
 - Home Accessibility Modification
 - Caregiver Respite
 - Medical Respite
- Re-entry 1115 Waiver MTP 2.0
 - First cohort went live on 07/01/25
 - Nisqually Tribe first Tribal Carceral facility to join
 - JBERS participation is not required to participate
 - Next cohort is scheduled to go live 10/01/25

Traditional Indian Medicine

WA State Legislature Passed a Fiscal Note authorizing the submission of a State Plan Amendment (SPA) for Traditional Indian Medicine

- HCA will hire TIM PM soon
- HCA is required to submit the SPA to CMS by December of 2025
- HCA has a contract with Manatt to assist with the draft of the SPA
- Meetings will be scheduled with the Tribes to review and modify the SPA to fit the needs of our Tribal Partners in the near future.

HCMACS EHR

DTLL Issued on July 2nd, 2025

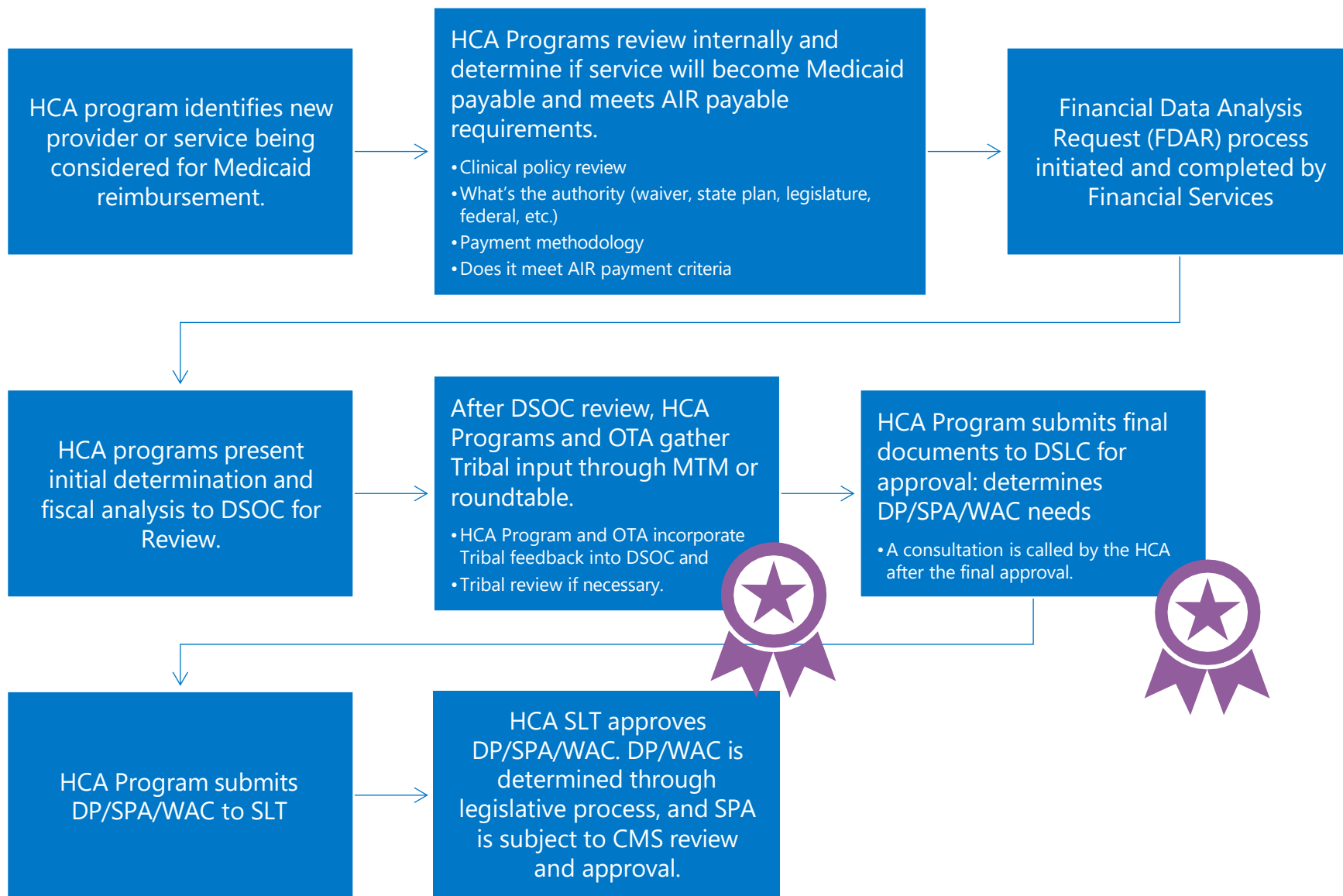
- ▶ Announcing Timeline for HCMACS EHR Work
- ▶ Request for Non-Binding letter of interest from Tribes wanting to be in the first Cohort by **July 31st, 2025**
 - ▶ **Any Tribe looking to convert from their current EHR system to EPIC please submit letter of interest**



Encounter Rate Reimbursement Process

-
- ▶ Work is to define a clear policy to govern the IHS encounter rate applicability
 - ▶ Provides Tribes two opportunities to collaborate on the determination process
 - ▶ Provides clarity to HCA staff on Encounter Rate process

No Changes to Services or Providers currently eligible for Encounter Rate.



NPI Onboarding

Serious Delays in Onboarding New Facilities/Services for Medicaid Payments

- Six Tribes since Spring of 2024 experienced long onboarding delays
- Two of these tribes requested in writing HCA work to streamline the process
- One tribe included CMS and IHS in these discussions and a new process was developed
- This proposed process was presented to the tribes in June. This work is ongoing.

SNA Background and Activities

- ▶ Sovereign Nation Agreements (formerly Indian Nation Agreements)
 - ▶ Mutually agreed upon contracts between the HCA, and Tribes/Indian Health Care Providers.
 - ▶ Meant for direct payment agreements for grants and pass through funds.
 - ▶ SNA structure and funding volume and complexity growth stipulated close out of existing agreements and revision of structure.
 - Program and amendment growth increased exponentially.
 - \$3 to \$26.6 million over the last 7 years
 - ▶ Overall goal to maintain original General Terms and Conditions (GTC) and Service Level Agreements (SLA), but create process improvements to the overall structure.

SNA Updates and Activities

Fiscal Year 2024 (Jul 2023 – June 2024)

- Fiscal A-19 reports and Annual Narratives
- Reporting due *August 15, 2024, Close to being complete.*

Fiscal Year 2025

- Quarter 1 (Jul – Sept 2024) *Due: Nov. 14, 2024*
- Quarter 2 (Oct – Dec 2024) *Due: Feb. 14, 2024*
- Quarter 3 (Jan – Mar 2025) *Due: May 15, 2025*
- Quarter 4 (Apr – Jun 2025) *Due: August 15, 2025*

Annual Narrative Due: *August 15, 2025*

Lump Sum payment projects *Due: June 30, 2025,*
fiscal invoices due 45 days following quarter end.

SNA Consultation Close Out and Next Steps

- ▶ SNA updated based on feedback from [Consultation](#)
- ▶ [Sovereign Nation Agreements](#) sent out for signature
 - ▶ SNA Contact Intake Forms
- ▶ SNA Service Level Agreements to follow
 - ▶ BH Services (Tribal Plan) Prevention, Treatment, Recovery, Mental Health Promotion
 - ▶ SUPTRS, DCA, MHPP
 - ▶ Washington State Tribal Prevention System
 - ▶ Tribal Housing Vouchers
 - ▶ Others (HEH, NCM, Mobile Crisis, DCR, ITA Court, Peer Run Org, MOUD in Jails, MMU, SOR, housing subsidies)
- ▶ *Note: Each SLA will have a unique program name, SLA manager, and number*
- ▶ *DTLL – SLAs are now delayed. HCA is working to assign these and complete SLAs as soon as possible, however there are priorities that begin with BH Services (Tribal Plan)*
- ▶ Opioid Abatement will remain in the abatement INAs and will be amended separately from the SNAs at this time.

New OTA Staff!

- **Contracts Portfolio Manager:** Henry Roy
- **Tribal Billing Specialist:** Stacy Swan
- **WSTPS Coordinator:** Sarah Cook-Lalari
- **MTP Native Hub Analyst:** Joe Santos
- **PCCMe Manager:** Julie Hutchinson
- **Administrative Assistant:** Johanna Larson
- **Tribal Opioid Response Coordinator:** Nakia DeMiero
- **Tribal Mobile Response Coordinator:** Eva Delamater
- **Tribal Behavioral Health Crisis Response Coordinator:** Madeline Wrolson

Questions?

CONTACT:

Aren Sparck

Administrator,
Office of Tribal Affairs

aren.sparck@hca.wa.gov

Christine Winn

Deputy Administrator,
Office of Tribal Affairs

Christine.winn@hca.wa.gov

Aren Sparck

Tribal Affairs Administrator
Phone: 360.725.1649
Email: aren.sparck@hca.wa.gov

Christine Winn

Tribal Affairs Deputy Administrator
Phone: 360.643.7954
Email: christine.winn@hca.wa.gov

Johanna Larson

Administrative Assistant
Phone: 360.280.0727
Email: dina.christensen@hca.wa.gov

Mike Longnecker

Claims and Billing Technician
Phone: 360.725.1315
Email: michael.longnecker@hca.wa.gov

Stacy Swan

Billing Program Specialist
Phone: 564.233.3093
Email: stacy.swan@hca.wa.gov

Sarah Cook-Lalari

WS Tribal Prevention System Coordinator
Phone: 360.725.0899
Email: sarah.cook-lalari@hca.wa.gov

Lena Nachand

Tribal Liaison—Medicaid Transformation
Phone: 360.725.1386
Email: lena.nachand@hca.wa.gov

Joe Santos

MTP/Native Hub Analyst
Phone: 564.233.3086
Email: joe.santos@hca.wa.gov

Lucilla Mendoza

Tribal Behavioral Health Administrator
Phone: 360.819.6575
Email: luccilla.mendoza@hca.wa.gov

Annette Squetinkin-Anquoe

Tribal Grants & Contracts Manager
Phone: 360.643.7883
Email: annette.squetinkin-anquoe@hca.wa.gov

Nakia DeMiero

Tribal Opioid Response Coordinator
Phone: 360.972.0610
Email: nakia.demiero@hca.wa.gov

Eva Delamater

Tribal Mobile Crisis Response Coordinator
Phone: 360.725.9713
Email: eva.delamater@hca.wa.gov

Madeline Wrolson

Tribal Behavioral Health Crisis Response Coordinator 1877
Phone: 360.725.1839
Email: maddie.wrolson@hca.wa.gov

Vacant

Tribal Behavioral Health Crisis Response Coordinator 6251
Phone: 360.725.1753
Email: chrystol.bollweg@hca.wa.gov

REGIONAL TRIBAL LIAISONS**Nicole Earls**

Peninsula and Coast Region
Phone: 360.522.0349
Email: nicole.earls@hca.wa.gov

Jaron Heller

So. Cascades, South Sound, and King Region
Phone: 360.725.1023
Email: jaron.heller@hca.wa.gov

Raina Peone

Eastern Washington Region
Phone: 509.964.8129
Email: raina.peone@hca.wa.gov

Vacant

North Sound Region
Phone: 360.974.4537
Email: tina.anderson@hca.wa.gov