

Alaska Medicaid Section 1115 SUD Demonstration Status Report
Operational Updates for SUD Components for Pre-Implementation Period
July 1 – September 30, 2019

I. Transmittal Page for the State’s SUD Demonstration or SUD Components of Broader Demonstration

The state should complete this Transmittal Title Page at the beginning of a demonstration and submit as the title page of all SUD Monitoring Reports. The content of this transmittal table should stay consistent over time.

State	Alaska
Demonstration Name	Alaska Medicaid Section 1115 Behavioral Health Demonstration (SUD -BHP) (Project Number: 11-W-00318/0)
Approval Dates	SUD Component: November 28, 2018 BH Component: September 3, 2019
Approval Periods	SUD Component: January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2023 BH Component: September 3, 2019 – December 31, 2023
Demonstration Goals and Objectives	<p>Goal: Create a data-driven, integrated behavioral health system of care for Alaskans with serious mental illness, severe emotional disturbance, and/or substance use disorders.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased rates of identification, initiation, and engagement in treatment • Increased adherence to and retention in treatment • Reduced overdose deaths, particularly those due to opioids • Reduced utilization of emergency departments and inpatient hospital settings for treatment where the utilization is preventable or medically inappropriate through improved access to other more appropriate and focused SUD use/misuse/abuse- related services • Fewer readmissions to the same or higher level of care where the readmission is preventable or medically inappropriate • Improved access to care for physical health conditions among beneficiaries

II. Operational Updates

Describe all operational updates and activity under the demonstration.

The state has made progress on implementation of the SUD component of the 1115 demonstration waiver. The following is a summary of activities between July 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019:

The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) issued emergency regulations July 1, 2019 outlining provider requirements and service criteria and definitions for the new 1115 Waiver and 1115 SUD services. The emergency regulations as written were made permanent on October 11, 2019. Revisions to the emergency regulations, based on Public Comment and state review, went into effect on November 10, 2019. The regulations governing the 1115 Behavioral Health services are currently in final DRAFT and should be filed and released for Public Comment in early December. Conforming edits to the 1115 Waiver regulations will be included with this project based upon the final STC's.

The Division of Behavioral health has reviewed and approved approximately 37 agencies and over 400 individual rendering provider applications to provide 1115 services within the State of Alaska. The majority of these providers have completed their enrollment process with our third party contractor to be able to bill for 1115 services. Our initial review of claim submission errors showed we needed to provide additional education to our providers. We reached out to providers to assist them with updating their national provider identifiers and walked them thru steps to completing claim forms appropriately. We continue to monitor all claims transactions and provide customer service as soon as possible to all 1115 providers.

In October, the State of Alaska Division of Behavioral Health drafted a fifty page Evaluation Design, and has received feedback on the draft from two consulting groups, including the National Governors Association, who has provided technical assistance in conjunction with the University of Minnesota's State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC) to assist the state in developing driver diagrams, research questions, hypotheses, and the analytic methods that will be used to evaluate the waiver. The State is currently revising its Evaluation Design based upon this feedback and expects to submit the Evaluation Design within the next month to CMS via the PMDA website. The State has also received feedback from CMS on 10/10/2019 on its submitted monitoring protocol which was originally submitted through PMDA's website on 6/26/2019. The state is currently working to revise the monitoring protocol based on this feedback.

During this reporting period, the Division of Behavioral Health and Optum were in final contract negotiations for the ASO contract. Division/ASO integration efforts

continue from the previous quarter, workflows of ASO/Division teams developed and cross functional teams formed. The critical milestone of focus is the anticipated 1115 claims processing to begin on 1 January, 2020. Division staff realignment for ASO integration has begun, implementation of a refined draft organizational structure will be executed in quarter 4 of demonstration Year One.

DBH held Peer Support Recovery Discussion in Fairbanks to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the Peer Support Network. This allowed DBH to gain insight into challenges that need to be overcome to expand Peer Support services which is a component of the 1115 waiver.

III. Performance Metrics

Narrative description on the information here regarding the impact of the demonstration in providing insurance coverage to beneficiaries and the uninsured population, as well as outcomes of care, quality and cost of care, and access to care.

In July 2019, emergency regulations were released as the mechanism to activate funding for the substance use disorder component of 1115 Behavioral Health Medicaid Waiver. Twelve new approved Medicaid covered services for substance use disorder treatment were made effective. Due to Alaska's unique geography, critical workforce development needs and limited treatment infrastructure, implementation of the SUD component of the waiver was divided into a two year phase-in. Wavier year one phase-in has been heavily centered on population dense cities. However, the division received a myriad of request from organizations across the state seeking to onboard services early, "early adopters". The division has provided technical assistance to behavioral health providers across the state via face to face and distance learning opportunities to assist organization assess and onboard new services.

IV. Evaluation Activities

Narrative description of any results of the demonstration to date per the evaluation hypotheses. Additionally, the state shall include a summary of the progress of evaluation activities, including key milestones accomplished, as well as challenges encountered and how they were addressed.

See update regarding evaluation in Section II above.

V. SUD Health IT

Summarize of progress made regarding SUD Health IT.

No update at this time.

VI. Tribal Engagement and Collaboration Developments/Issues

A summary of the state's tribal engagement activities with respect to this demonstration.

State of Alaska regularly participates in Alaska Tribal Health System (ATHS) meetings, including Alaska Native Health Board Mega Meetings and Tribal Behavioral Health Director Quarterly Meetings, and Quarterly Medicaid Tribal Taskforce meetings. The Mega meeting includes a subgroup, the State/Tribal Medicaid Task Force (MTF). One MTF meeting was attended during the reporting period of this Report: August 16, 2019. In addition, one Tribal Behavioral Health Director (TBHD) meeting, September 19, 2019 was attended during the report period. These meetings related to Tribal Engagement and Collaboration are ongoing and routine.

- The State of Alaska often invites ATHS representatives to participate in workgroups and policy meetings.
- As part of the implementation of the Alaska 1115 Medicaid Demonstration Waiver for behavioral health and substance use treatment services, the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) created a Continuum of Care Work group (also called the Waiver Advisory Group or WAG) inclusive of Tribal Health Organizations which meets periodically to share information and obtain feedback about the waiver.
- As part of the implementation of the Alaska 1115 Medicaid Demonstration Waiver for behavioral health and substance use treatment services, DBH hosted a number of "Roundtables" inclusive of Tribal Health Organizations to discuss aspects of the waiver and gain feedback from providers.
- As part of the implementation of the Alaska 1115 Medicaid Demonstration Waiver, during FY19, DBH contracted for a statewide gap or infrastructure analysis which provided an opportunity for DBH leadership and the contractor to meet with providers in regional hubs across Alaska including: Anchorage, Fairbanks, Utqiagvik, Soldotna, Homer, Wasilla, Kotzebue, Nome, Bethel, Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Kodiak, and Dillingham. This provided a robust opportunity for state staff to obtain feedback from tribal providers about the 1115 Waiver Demonstration Project as well as about on-going issues and concerns.
- As part of the implementation of the Alaska 1115 Medicaid Demonstration Waiver, DBH provided technical assistance opportunities for tribal providers and

non-tribal providers to support enrollment and service implementation under the waiver.

- VII. Financial/Budget Neutrality Developments/Allotment Neutrality Developments/Issues
Identify all significant developments/issues/problems with financial accounting, budget neutrality. Identify the State's actions to address these issues.

No update at this time.

- VIII. Enclosures/Attachments
Identify by title any attachments along with a brief description of the information contained in the document.

There are no attachments for this status update.

- IX. State Contact(s)
Identify individuals by name, title, telephone, fax, and address so that CMS may contact individuals directly with any questions.

Gennifer Moreau-Johnson
Director, Division of Behavioral Health
Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
(907) 269-4804
gennifer.moreau-johnson@alaska.gov

Michael Walker, PMP
Chief of Research and Risk Management, Division of Behavioral Health
State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
(907) 269-8039
michael.walker@alaska.gov

- X. Date Submitted to CMS
Enter the date submitted to CMS in the following format: (mm/dd/yyyy).
12/02/2019