State: OKLAHOMA

Tribal Consultation Requirements
Section 1902(a)(73) of the Social Security Act (the Act) requires a State in which one or more Indian Health Programs or Urban Indian Organizations furnish health care services to establish a process for the State Medicaid agency to seek advice on a regular, ongoing basis from designees of Indian health programs, whether operated by the Indian Health Service (IHS), Tribes or Tribal organizations under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA), or Urban Indian Organizations under the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA). Section 2107(e)(I) of the Act was also amended to apply these requirements to the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Consultation is required concerning Medicaid and CHIP matters having a direct impact on Indian health programs and Urban Indian organizations.

Please describe the process the State uses to seek advice on a regular, ongoing basis from federally-recognized tribes, Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations on matters related to Medicaid and CHIP programs and for consultation on State Plan Amendments, waiver proposals, waiver extensions, waiver amendments, waiver renewals and proposals for demonstration projects prior to submission to CMS. Please include information about the frequency, inclusiveness and process for seeking such advice.

Oklahoma has three different tribal provider types including 638 tribal facilities, facilities operated by the Indian Health Service, and Urban Indian clinics (This collective group is referred to as Indian Tribal Units I/T/Us). The agency has quarterly meetings with all of the Indian Health Service business office managers, and meets on an as needed basis with any of the three tribal provider types, as well as conducts site visits and trainings as needed. Additionally, the agency hosts an annual tribal consultation meeting each year in which all tribal provider types are invited.

In regard to rule, waiver implementations or renewals, state plan changes, and demonstrations projects, the agency issues an I/T/U Public Notice provider letter to each I/T/U provider(s) advising them of all proposed rule, waiver implementations or renewals, state plan changes, and demonstrations projects, and/or state plan changes. The I/T/Us are encouraged to offer feedback on proposed changes. The letter is also posted to our public website under I/T/U Public Notification which is a designated place for I/T/Us updates and information. The agency also has a proposed rule change page on our public website that allows public comment on proposed rule changes and offers web alerts for future updates and comment opportunities. Notification to tribes for consultation under normal circumstances is provided at least 60 days prior to a rule change or waiver/SPA submission. In the event of abnormal circumstances (such as, but not exclusive to Federal Regulatory changes, judgments from lawsuits, etc.), I/T/Us are given as much notice for consultation as possible; if such an abnormal process has been identified, notification to tribes for consultation could be as short as 14 days prior to submission of the waiver implementations or renewals, state plan changes, and/or demonstrations projects, in conjunction with email notification to the I/T/Us of the proposed changes.

Please describe the consultation process that occurred specifically for the development and submission of this State Plan Amendment, when it occurred and who was involved.

The agency developed and issued a survey and letter to I/T/Us to ascertain if the tribes were satisfied with the current process and to offer suggestions for improvement. Of the respondents, approximately 80% indicated that they were satisfied or very satisfied with the current process.

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