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Governor

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE FINANCING AND POLICY
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RICHARD WHITLEY, MS
Director

MARTA JENSEN
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November 13, 2015

Cindy Lemesh
Native American Contact
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
90 7th Street, Suite 5-300
San Francisco, CA 94103

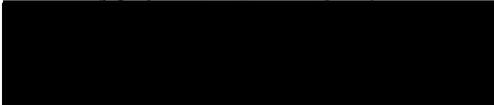
Dear Ms. Lemesh:

CMS released a white paper in October of 2015 regarding the proposed changes to funding for American Indian and Alaska Native individuals through facilities of the Indian Health Services or Tribe. CMS provided the opportunity for public comment by November 17, 2015.

The Division of Health Care Financing and Policy recognizes the proposed changes by CMS as a positive step to improve access to care for American Indians and Alaska Natives. However, the time allowed for public comment does not consider sufficient time for states to hold Tribal Consultation with the Tribes regarding the proposed changes. In addition, the proposed changes will need further review for the impact on system changes within Nevada's Medicaid Management Information System.

The Division would request that Tribal Affairs with CMS revisit the period for comment to allow for collaborative comments between the State of Nevada and the 27 Nevada Tribes as a result of Tribal Consultation.

Thank you,



Elizabeth Aiello
Deputy Administrator

Cc: Coleen Lawrence, Chief, Clinical Policy Team
Shannon Sprout, Tribal Liaison, Clinical Policy Team