

RECORD OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED during the public comment PERIOD REGARDING PROPOSED CHANGES TO 7 AAC 155.020. Tribal Health Programs; Community Health Aides & Practitioners, & Behavioral Health Aides & Practitioners.

The summaries of comments made and DHSS responses are below. A brief description of the project appeared in the public notice as follows:

The Department of Health & Social Services proposes to change regulations on the definition of community and behavioral health aides and practitioners, and the encounter rate for certified health aide services.

The Department of Health & Social Services proposes to adopt regulation changes in Title 7 of the Alaska Administrative Code, dealing with community and behavioral health aides and practitioners, including the following:

7 AAC 155.020 is proposed to be changed as follows:

- o Defines certified health providers to include community health aides and practitioners, and behavioral health aides and practitioners; and
- o Establishes the encounter rate for reimbursement of certified health provider services.

Written comments were submitted by 2 organizations.

This project was managed by Donna Steward and Renee Gayhart. As described below, DHSS carefully considered all written comments but did not make changes to the proposed regulation. DHSS appreciates the time and thought given by those who commented.

After review of these comments, any changes to the regulations that are adopted by DHSS must be reviewed and approved by the Department of Law. Some of the proposed changes may not be approved or may be further revised by the Department of Law. After the Department of Law completes its review, the final regulations, with any additional changes made by that department, will be filed by the Lt. Governor, and will take effect 30 days after filing (unless a delayed effective date is specified in the regulations for certain provisions). A copy of the filed regulations will be available upon request. The official version of the regulations will be published in the Alaska Administrative Code.

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GENERAL COMMENTS			
Regulation Section	Comments Received From	Summary of Comments	Summary of DHSS Response After Review of Comments
7AAC 155.020	Alaska Native Health Board and Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change certifying body to 'Alaska Community Health Aide Certification Board' • Change name to 'certified community health providers' • Increase the number of allowed reimbursable visits • Provided draft language incorporating comments above Comments identical to ANTHC 	DHSS appreciates the response but chooses to retain the language that was put in the original draft. DHSS will keep the word certified instead of community and does not intend to allow for additional reimbursable visits.
7AAC155.020		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change certifying body to 'Alaska Community Health Aide Certification Board' • Change name to 'certified community health providers' • Increase the number of allowed reimbursable visits • Provided draft language incorporating comments above Comments identical to ANHB 	DHSS appreciates the response but chooses to retain the language that was put in the original draft. DHSS will keep the word certified instead of community and does not intend to allow for additional reimbursable visits.