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liaison to the Indian health care providers regarding consultation. The liaison sends written notification to Tribal Chairs, Tribal Health Directors, and Tribal Social Services Directors, the Indian Health Service Area Office Director, and the Director of the Minneapolis Indian Health Board clinic at least ~~60~~30 days prior to the anticipated submission of all waiver requests, waiver renewals, or waiver amendments. When a ~~6~~30-day notice is not possible, the longest practicable notice timeframe will be utilized.

The liaison provides written notice to Indian health care programs 30 days in advance of the anticipated submission of all proposed state plan amendments likely to have a direct effect on Indians, Indian health programs, or urban Indian organizations. Changes that are likely to have a direct effect on Indians, Indian health programs, or urban Indian organizations are those that would impact eligibility determinations, reduce payment rates, change payment methodologies, reduce covered services, or change provider qualification requirements.

When a deadline for submission of a state plan amendment is outside the control of the agency, or in severely time-limited situations, the agency expedites the process and may provide, at a minimum, 10 days advance written notice of the change.

Notices include a brief description of the proposal, its likely impact on Indian people or Indian health care providers, and a process and timeline for comment. At the request of an Indian health care provider, the liaison will send more information about any proposal.

The liaison arranges for appropriate state agency policy staff to meet with Indian health care providers to receive their input and to answer questions. This consultation may take place as part of a Quarterly Tribal Health Directors meeting or via a separate meeting, conference call, or other mechanism, as appropriate. The liaison forwards all comments received from Indian health care providers to appropriate state policy staff for their response.

When an Indian health care provider has requested changes to a proposed state plan amendment or waiver request, renewal, or amendment, the state agency liaison reports back on whether the change is included in the submission, or why it is not included. The state agency liaison informs the Indian health care providers when the State's waiver or state plan