



**State of Louisiana**  
Louisiana Department of Health  
Bureau of Health Services Financing

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY**

October 29, 2018

Jasmin Aplin  
Title XXI Project Officer  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services  
Mail Stop: 82-01-16  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Dear Ms. Aplin:

**RE: LA SPA TN 18-0008 Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act**

Please refer to our proposed amendment to the Medicaid State Plan submitted under transmittal number (TN) 18-0008 with the proposed effective date of October 2, 2017. The State Plan amendment (SPA) proposes to amend the provisions governing the Children's Health Insurance program (CHIP) to assure the State of Louisiana's compliance with the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) of 2008 federal mandate, that prevents health care service plans from imposing more restrictive benefit limitations on mental health and substance use disorders (MH/SUD) benefits than on medical/surgical (M/S) benefits. We are providing the following in response to your request for additional information (RAI) dated July 12, 2018.

1. Section 6.2.27 of the currently approved state plan does not have enabling services checked off as a covered service, but the draft state plan template with the MHPAEA related changes does have enabling services checked off at section 6.2.30. Can you please clarify if adding enabling services was a change made to be consistent with EPSDT deeming requirements for parity? If so, when did the state begin providing enabling services to CHIP members?

**RESPONSE:**

**No. Adding enabling services was not a change made to be consistent with EPSDT deeming requirements. The box was previously inadvertently unchecked.**

October 29, 2018

Page 2

2. In the currently approved state plan, section 6.2.16 related to abortions is not checked as a covered service, but in the updated state plan template with MHPAEA changes on page 10, this box is checked. Can you please clarify when the state began providing these services?

**RESPONSE:**

**The State's records reflect the earliest CMS approval for this State Plan service as July 31, 1978.**

3. Were any additional changes made to benefits or anything else in the CHIP state plan to meet EPSDT deeming requirements to be consistent with MHPAEA? If so, please describe the changes and the timeframes for implementing them.

**RESPONSE:**

**There were no additional changes made to the CHIP State Plan to meet EPSDT deeming requirements.**

We trust this additional information will result in the approval of the pending SPA. We look forward to negotiating with CMS to ensure approval.

As always, we appreciate the assistance of Jasmine Aplin in resolving these issues. If further information is required, you may contact Karen H. Barnes at [Karen.Barnes@la.gov](mailto:Karen.Barnes@la.gov) or by phone (225) 342-3881.

Sincerely,

*Du A. Budgewater*

*for* Jen Steele  
Medicaid Director

JS:KHB:MJ

c: Bill Brooks  
Darlene Budgewater  
Cheryl Rupley  
Tamara Sampson