



**STATE OF OKLAHOMA**  
**OKLAHOMA HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY**

I/T/U Public Notice 2017-07

October 26, 2017

**RE: ODMHSAS budget reduction changes**

Dear Tribal Representative,

The State is seeking to invoke the expedited (14 days) consultation as authorized under the state plan on behalf of the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS) budget reduction changes. Without an agreement by the legislature to address the budget shortfall, the ODMHSAS has no choice but to implement plans to eliminate \$75 million from the Department's budget, which includes state appropriated dollars that fund the SoonerCare Behavioral Health Program. The plan includes the elimination of all state funded outpatient behavioral health treatment services with the exception of facility based crisis stabilization services, urgent recovery clinic services, and medication training and support. It also includes the elimination of all non-acute residential services provided in Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs). Our goal is to preserve treatment services for the most acutely ill, as elimination of these services presents the most immediate need and impact beyond the individual. The Department's hope is that these cuts may be avoided by finding a solution to the current budget situation. However, we cannot wait to announce these cuts as all must be in place by January 2018. It would not be fair to move forward without notifying the tens of thousands of Oklahomans who will be impacted either through loss of service or jobs.

The proposed change will be reviewed at the tribal consultation meeting on November 7th, 2017 at 11 a.m. in the OHCA Board Room at the OHCA's office, located at 4345 N Lincoln, Oklahoma City, OK. The OHCA invites you to attend this meeting, and we welcome any comments you may have. The agency is committed to active communication with Tribal Governments during the decision-making and priority-setting process and therefore keeps you apprised of all proposed changes.

Please note that this is only a proposed change and has not yet taken effect. Before implementation, new changes must obtain budget authorization, the OHCA Board approval, and when applicable, federal approval and the governor's approval.

Additionally, the OHCA posts all proposed changes on the agency's [Policy Change Blog](#) and the [Native American Consultation Page](#). This public website is designed to give all constituents and stakeholders an opportunity to review and make comments regarding upcoming changes. To ensure that you stay apprised of proposed changes, you may sign up for web alerts for the page to be automatically notified when any new proposed changes are posted for comment.

If you have any questions or comments about the proposed changes, please use the online comment system found on the [Policy Change Blog](#) and/or the [Native American Consultation Page](#).

Sincerely,

Dana Miller  
Director, Tribal Government Relations