NEW YORK
state department of
HEALTH

Howard A. Zucker, M.D., J.D.
Acting Commissioner of Health

Sue Kelly
Executive Deputy Commissioner

SEP 30 2014

National Institutional Reimbursement Team
Attention: Mark Cooley
CMS, CMCS
7500 Security Boulevard, M/S S3-14-28
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Re: SPA #14-017
Inpatient Hospital Services

Dear Mr. Cooley:

The State requests approval of the attached amendment #14-017 to the Title XIX (Medicaid) State Plan for inpatient hospital services to be effective July 1, 2014 (Appendix I). This amendment is being submitted based upon State regulations. A summary of the proposed amendment is contained in Appendix II.

This amendment is submitted pursuant to §1902(a) of the Social Security Act (42 USC 1396a(a)) and Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 447, Subpart C.

The State of New York pays for inpatient general hospital services using rates determined in accordance with methods and standards specified in an approved State Plan, following a public process. which complies with Social Security Act §1902(a)(13)(A).

Notice of the changes in the methods and standards for setting payment rates for general hospital inpatient services were given in the New York State Register on June 25, 2014.

It is estimated that the changes represented by 2014 payment rates for inpatient general hospital services will have no noticeable short-term or long-term effect on the availability of services on a statewide or geographic area basis, the type of care furnished, or the extent of provider participation.

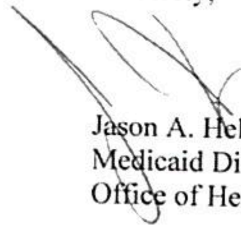
In accordance with 42 CFR §447.272(c), New York assures that its aggregate disproportionate share hospital payments do not exceed the disproportionate share hospital payment limit.

In accordance with §1923(g) of the Social Security Act, New York assures that it has calculated facility specific limits for disproportionate share payments for each disproportionate share hospital. New York assures that it will not make disproportionate share payments to a hospital in excess of the facility specific limits established for such hospital.

Copies of pertinent sections of State regulations are attached for your information (Appendix III). In addition, responses to the five standard funding questions and the standard access questions are also attached (Appendix V and VII, respectively).

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact John E. Ulberg, Jr., Medicaid Chief Financial Officer, Division of Finance and Rate Setting at (518) 474-6350.

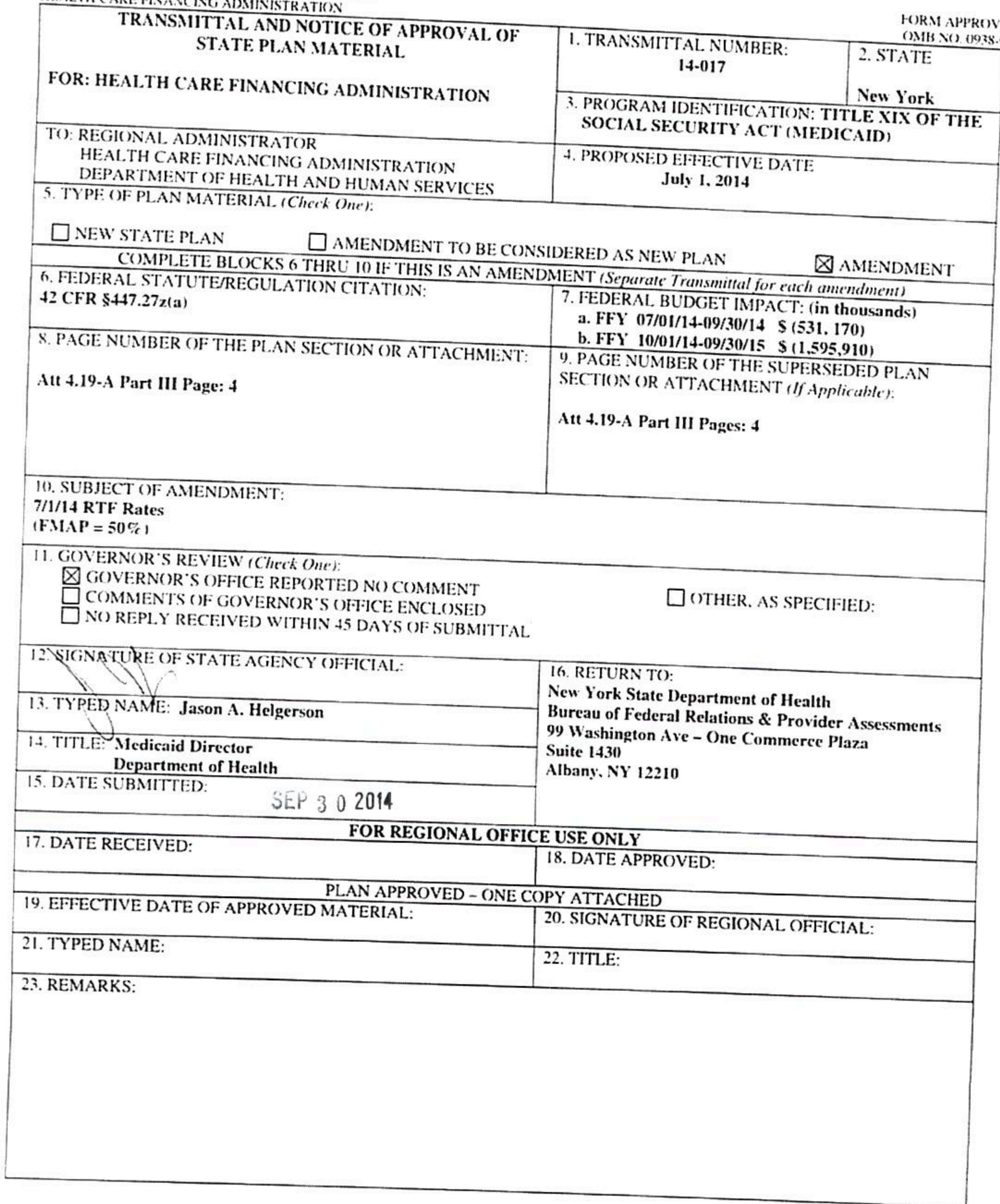
Sincerely,



Jason A. Helgerson
Medicaid Director
Office of Health Insurance Programs

Attachments

cc: Mr. Michael Melendez
Mr. Tom Brady



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
HEALTH CARE FINANCING ADMINISTRATION

FORM APPROVED
OMB NO. 0938-0193

TRANSMITTAL AND NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF STATE PLAN MATERIAL

FOR: HEALTH CARE FINANCING ADMINISTRATION

1. TRANSMITTAL NUMBER: **14-017**

2. STATE: **New York**

3. PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION: **TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT (MEDICAID)**

TO: REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR
HEALTH CARE FINANCING ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

4. PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: **July 1, 2014**

5. TYPE OF PLAN MATERIAL *(Check One)*:

☐ NEW STATE PLAN ☐ AMENDMENT TO BE CONSIDERED AS NEW PLAN ☒ AMENDMENT

COMPLETE BLOCKS 6 THRU 10 IF THIS IS AN AMENDMENT *(Separate Transmittal for each amendment)*

6. FEDERAL STATUTE/REGULATION CITATION:
42 CFR §447.27z(a)

7. FEDERAL BUDGET IMPACT: **(in thousands)**
a. FFY 07/01/14-09/30/14 $ (531, 170)
b. FFY 10/01/14-09/30/15 $ (1,595,910)

8. PAGE NUMBER OF THE PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT:
Att 4.19-A Part III Page: 4

9. PAGE NUMBER OF THE SUPERSEDED PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT *(If Applicable)*:
Att 4.19-A Part III Pages: 4

10. SUBJECT OF AMENDMENT:
7/1/14 RTF Rates
(FMAP = 50%)

11. GOVERNOR'S REVIEW *(Check One)*:
☒ GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORTED NO COMMENT
☐ COMMENTS OF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ENCLOSED
☐ NO REPLY RECEIVED WITHIN 45 DAYS OF SUBMITTAL
☐ OTHER, AS SPECIFIED:

12. SIGNATURE OF STATE AGENCY OFFICIAL:

13. TYPED NAME: **Jason A. Helgerson**

14. TITLE: **Medicaid Director**
Department of Health

15. DATE SUBMITTED: SEP 3 0 2014

16. RETURN TO:
New York State Department of Health
Bureau of Federal Relations & Provider Assessments
99 Washington Ave – One Commerce Plaza
Suite 1430
Albany, NY 12210

FOR REGIONAL OFFICE USE ONLY

17. DATE RECEIVED:

18. DATE APPROVED:

PLAN APPROVED – ONE COPY ATTACHED

19. EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED MATERIAL:

20. SIGNATURE OF REGIONAL OFFICIAL:

21. TYPED NAME:

22. TITLE:

23. REMARKS:

FORM HCFA-179 (07-92)

Appendix I
2014 Title XIX State Plan
Third Quarter Amendment
Amended SPA Pages

Allowable operating costs as determined in the preceding paragraphs will be increased annually by the Medicare inflation factor for hospitals and units excluded from the prospective payment system except for the rate periods effective July 1, 1995 through June 30, 1996, July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, [and] July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 and July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, where no inflation factor will be used to trend costs.

2. CAPITAL COSTS

To allowable operating costs are added allowable capital costs. Allowable capital costs are determined by the application of principles developed for determining reasonable cost payments under the Medicare program. Allowable capital costs include an allowance for depreciation and interest. To be allowable, capital expenditures which are subject to the Office of Mental Health's certificate of need procedures must be reviewed and approved by the Office of Mental Health.

Transfer of Ownership

In establishing an appropriate allowance for depreciation and for interest on capital indebtedness and (if applicable) a return on equity capital with respect to an asset of a hospital which has undergone a change of ownership, that the valuation of the asset after such change of ownership shall be the lesser of the allowable acquisition cost of such asset to the owner of record as of July 18, 1984 (or, in the case of an asset not in existence as of such date, the first owner of record of the asset after such date), or the acquisition cost of such asset to the new owner.

3. APPEALS

The Commissioner may consider requests for rate revisions which are based on errors in the calculation of the rate or in the data submitted by the facility or based on significant changes in operating costs resulting from changes in service, programs, or capital projects approved by the Commissioner in connection with OMH's certificate of need procedures. Other rate revisions may be based on additional staffing required to meet accreditation standards of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals, or other Federal or State mandated requirements resulting in increased costs. Revised rates must be certified by the Commissioner and approved by the Director of the Budget.

Appendix II
2014 Title XIX State Plan
Third Quarter Amendment
Summary

SUMMARY
SPA #14-017

This State Plan Amendment proposes to reflect no trend factor applied to allowable costs and an updating of the base year from 2011-12 to 2012-13 for residential treatment facilities for children and youth (RTFs) licensed by the Office of Mental Health.

Appendix III
2014 Title XIX State Plan
Third Quarter Amendment
Authorizing Provisions

DRAFT

14 NYCRR Part 578
Express Terms

Paragraph (4) of subdivision (a) of Section 578.8 of Title 14 NYCRR is amended to read as follows:

(4) The allowable costs, as set forth in paragraph (1) of this subdivision, that meet the requirements stated in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subdivision, shall be trended by the applicable Medicare inflation factor for hospitals and units excluded from the prospective payment system except for the rate periods effective July 1, 1996 through June 30, 1997, and July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, where the inflation factor used to trend costs will be limited to the inflation factor for the first year of the two-year period. No trend shall be applied to allowable costs for the rate period effective July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, and July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

Appendix IV
2014 Title XIX State Plan
Third Quarter Amendment
Public Notice

The public is invited to review and comment on this proposed State Plan Amendment. Copies of which will be available for public review on the Department's website at http://www.health.ny.gov/regulations/state_plans/status.

Copies of the proposed State Plan Amendments will be on file in each local (county) social services district and available for public review.

For the New York City district, copies will be available at the following places:

New York County
250 Church Street
New York, New York 10018

Queens County, Queens Center
3220 Northern Boulevard
Long Island City, New York 11101

Kings County, Fulton Center
114 Willoughby Street
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Bronx County, Tremont Center
1916 Monterey Avenue
Bronx, New York 10457

Richmond County, Richmond Center
95 Central Avenue, St. George
Staten Island, New York 10301

For further information and to review and comment, please contact: Department of Health, Bureau of Federal Relations & Provider Assessments, 99 Washington Ave. – One Commerce Plaza, Suite 1430, Albany, NY 12210, (518) 474-1673, (518) 473-8825 (FAX), e-mail: spa_inquiries@health.state.ny.us

PUBLIC NOTICE

Office of Mental Health

Pursuant to 42 CFR Section 447.205, the Office of Mental Health hereby gives public notice of the following:

The Office of Mental Health proposes to amend the Title XIX (Medicaid) State Plan for Residential Treatment Facilities for Children and Youth to reflect no trend factor applied to allowable costs effective July 1, 2014.

The public is invited to review and comment on this proposed State Plan Amendment. Copies of which will be available for public review on the Department's website at http://www.health.ny.gov/regulations/state_plans/status.

Copies of the proposed State Plan Amendments will be on file in each local (county) social services district and available for public review.

For the New York City district, copies will be available at the following places:

New York County
250 Church Street
New York, New York 10018

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Kings County, Fulton Center
114 Willoughby Street
Brooklyn, New York 11201
Bronx County, Tremont Center
1916 Monterey Avenue
Bronx, New York 10457

Richmond County, Richmond Center
95 Central Avenue, St. George
Staten Island, New York 10301

For further information and to review and comment, please contact: Office of Mental Health, Robert E. Blaauw, Director, Community Budget and Financial Management Group, 44 Holland Ave., 7th Fl., Albany, NY 12229, (518) 474-5968, (518) 486-6767 (FAX), e-mail: Bob.Blaauw@OMH.NY.GOV

PUBLIC NOTICE

New York State and Local Retirement System

Pursuant to Retirement and Social Security Law, the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System hereby gives public notice of the following:

The persons whose names and last known addresses are set forth below appear from records of the above named Retirement System to be entitled to accumulated contributions held by said retirement system whose membership terminated pursuant to Section 517-a of the Retirement and Social Security Law on or before May 10, 2013. This notice is published pursuant to Section 109 of the Retirement and Social Security Law of the State of New York. A list of the names contained in this notice is on file and open to public inspection at the office of the New York State and Local Retirement System located at the 110 State St., in the City of Albany, New York. At the expiration of six months from the date of the publication of this notice. The accumulated contributions of the persons so listed shall be deemed abandoned and shall be placed in the pension accumulation fund to be used for the purpose of said fund. Any accumulated contributions so deemed abandoned and transferred to the pension accumulation fund may be claimed by the persons who made such accumulated contributions or, in the event of his death, by his estate or such person as he shall have nominated to receive such accumulated contributions, by filing a claim with the State Comptroller in such form and in such a manner as may be prescribed by him, seeking the return of such abandoned contributions. In the event such claim is properly made the State Comptroller shall pay over to the person or persons or estate making the claim such amount of such accumulated contributions without interest.

Bloomfield, Gregory T - Staten Island, NY

Mc Field, John L - Brooklyn, NY

Minnies, Robin L - Stony Point, NY

For further information contact: Mary Ellen Kutey, New York State Retirement Systems, 110 State St., Albany, NY 12244, (518) 474-3502

PUBLIC NOTICE

New York State and Local Retirement System

Pursuant to Retirement and Social Security Law, the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System hereby gives public notice of the following:

The persons whose names and last known addresses are set forth below appear from records of the above named Retirement System to be entitled to accumulated contributions held by said retirement system whose membership terminated pursuant to Section 613 of the Retirement and Social Security Law on or before May 10, 2013. This notice is published pursuant to Section 109 of the Retirement and Social Security Law of the State of New York. A list of the names contained in this notice is On file and open to public inspection at the office of the New York State and Local Retirement System located at the 110 State St., in the City of Albany, New York. At the expiration of six months from the date of the publication of this notice. The accumulated contributions of the persons so listed shall be deemed abandoned and shall be placed in the pension accumulation fund to be used for the purpose of said fund. Any accumulated contributions so deemed abandoned and transferred to the pension accumulation fund may be claimed by the persons who made such accumulated contribu-

Appendix V
2014 Title XIX State Plan
Third Quarter Amendment
Responses to Standard Funding Questions

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES
State Plan Amendment #14-017

CMS Standard Funding Questions

The following questions are being asked and should be answered in relation to all payments made to all providers reimbursed pursuant to a methodology described in Attachment 4.19-A of this SPA. For SPAs that provide for changes to payments for clinic or outpatient hospital services or for enhanced or supplemental payments to physician or other practitioners, the questions must be answered for all payments made under the state plan for such service.

1. **Section 1903(a)(1) provides that Federal matching funds are only available for expenditures made by States for services under the approved State plan. Do providers receive and retain the total Medicaid expenditures claimed by the State (includes normal per diem, supplemental, enhanced payments, other) or is any portion of the payments returned to the State, local governmental entity, or any other intermediary organization? If providers are required to return any portion of payments, please provide a full description of the repayment process. Include in your response a full description of the methodology for the return of any of the payments, a complete listing of providers that return a portion of their payments, the amount or percentage of payments that are returned and the disposition and use of the funds once they are returned to the State (i.e., general fund, medical services account, etc.).**

   Response: The total annual Medicaid reimbursement for all nineteen RTFs is approximately $95.9 million. Five of the nineteen Residential Treatment Facilities (RTFs) covered under this proposed Plan Amendment currently have capital construction bonds outstanding that were issued by the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY). A portion of the Medicaid payments for these five facilities (i.e. an amount equal to the debt service on the bonds) is paid directly to the OMH. The OMH acts as an agent and forwards these funds to DASNY which makes the debt service payments on the bonds for these providers. The entire balance of Medicaid payments that is paid directly to the RTFs is retained by them to support their costs of operations.

2. **Section 1902(a)(2) provides that the lack of adequate funds from local sources will not result in lowering the amount, duration, scope, or quality of care and services available under the plan. Please describe how the state share of each type of Medicaid payment (normal per diem, supplemental, enhanced, other) is funded. Please describe whether the state share is from appropriations from the legislature to the Medicaid agency, through intergovernmental transfer agreements (IGTs), certified public expenditures (CPEs), provider taxes, or any other mechanism used by the state to provide state share. Note that, if the appropriation is not to the Medicaid agency, the source of the state**

share would necessarily be derived through either through an IGT or CPE. In this case, please identify the agency to which the funds are appropriated. Please provide an estimate of total expenditure and State share amounts for each type of Medicaid payment. If any of the non-federal share is being provided using IGTs or CPEs, please fully describe the matching arrangement including when the state agency receives the transferred amounts from the local governmental entity transferring the funds. If CPEs are used, please describe the methodology used by the state to verify that the total expenditures being certified are eligible for Federal matching funds in accordance with 42 CFR 433.51(b). For any payment funded by CPEs or IGTs, please provide the following:

(i) a complete list of the names of entities transferring or certifying funds;

(ii) the operational nature of the entity (state, county, city, other);

(iii) the total amounts transferred or certified by each entity;

(iv) clarify whether the certifying or transferring entity has general taxing authority: and,

(v) whether the certifying or transferring entity received appropriations (identify level of appropriations).

<u>Response:</u> The entire non-Federal share of Medicaid payments for inpatient hospital services under the State plan provided by RTFs is paid by State funds provided by appropriations enacted by the State legislature. There is no local share for RTFs.

Regarding CMS' inquiry as to the use of certified public expenditures (CPEs) and intergovernmental transfers (IGTs) by the State please note that New York does not utilize CPEs or IGTs to assist in financing any portion of the non-Federal share of Medicaid payments to RTFs.

Regarding CMS' inquiry as to the use of provider taxes by the State please note that New York does not impose any provider taxes to fund the non-Federal share of Medicaid payments to RTFs.

Regarding the State's practices for verifying that expenditures being certified are eligible for Federal matching funds in accordance with 42 CFR §433.51(b), the State Department of Health (DOH) contracts with a fiscal agent, Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC), to process Medicaid claims and make payments to providers. The fiscal agent processes claims and pays providers for services rendered to eligible Medicaid recipients through the EMEDNY System, a computerized payment and information reporting system. All claims are subjected to numerous system edits to help ensure only legitimate services are reimbursed to properly enrolled providers. In addition, both the DOH and the New York State Comptroller's office subject Medicaid claims to both prepayment and post-payment audits to ensure that providers comply with all applicable State and Federal laws and regulations.

In New York State Medicaid payments are issued to providers every Wednesday. CSC provides a weekly summary to the DOH that includes the total Federal, State, and local funding required to support all checks to be released for payment to providers. The DOH arranges for the required funds to be placed in an escrow account until they are needed to pay for the checks presented by providers. All Federal Medicaid matching funds are drawn down by the State in accordance with an agreement between the United States Department of the Treasury and the State as required by the Cash Management Improvement Act of 1990, as amended.

On a quarterly basis CSC provides a report of paid claims to the DOH. The DOH combines that expenditure information with data concerning other Medicaid expenditures made directly by the DOH or other State agencies. The DOH then submits the CMS-64 report to the Department of Health and Human Services, which enables the State to earn the appropriate Federal reimbursement for its certified claims submitted either by providers of service or by State agency representatives. These procedures are followed by the State in order to ensure that Federal Medicaid funds are only used to pay for legitimate Medicaid services.

3. **Section 1902(a)(30) requires that payments for services be consistent with efficiency, economy, and quality of care. Section 1903(a)(1) provides for Federal financial participation to States for expenditures for services under an approved State plan. If supplemental or enhanced payments are made, please provide the total amount for each type of supplemental or enhanced payment made to each provider type.**

   Response: No supplemental or enhanced payments are made for Residential Treatment services.

4. **Please provide a detailed description of the methodology used by the state to estimate the upper payment limit (UPL) for each class of providers (State owned or operated, non-state government owned or operated, and privately owned or operated). Please provide a current (i.e., applicable to the current rate year) UPL demonstration.**

   Response: All RTFs fall into the category of psychiatric residential treatment facilities, which are defined in Federal regulation as facilities "other than a hospital that provides psychiatric services...to individuals under age 21, in an inpatient setting." 42 CFR §483.352. This regulation permits a State to pay the customary charge of the provider, but not pay more than the prevailing charges in the locality for comparable services under comparable circumstances. Therefore, although there is a UPL requirement, CMS does not require the State to perform additional work.

5. **Does any governmental provider receive payments that in the aggregate (normal per diem, supplemental, enhanced, other) exceed their reasonable costs of providing services? If payments exceed the**

cost of services, do you recoup the excess and return the Federal share of the excess to CMS on the quarterly expenditure report?

<u>**Response:**</u> There are no governmental providers providing RTF services in New York State. All providers are private, not-for-profit corporations.

<u>**ACA Assurances:**</u>

1. <u>**Maintenance of Effort (MOE).**</u> **Under section 1902(gg) of the Social Security Act (the Act), as amended by the Affordable Care Act, as a condition of receiving** <u>**any**</u> **Federal payments under the Medicaid program** <u>**during the MOE period**</u> **indicated below, the State shall** <u>**not**</u> **have in effect any eligibility standards, methodologies, or procedures in its Medicaid program which are more restrictive than such eligibility provisions as in effect in its Medicaid program on March 10, 2010.**

   <u>**MOE Period.**</u>
   - <u>**Begins on:**</u> **March 10, 2010, and**
   - <u>**Ends on:**</u> **The date the Secretary of the Federal Department of Health and Human Services determines an Exchange established by a State under the provisions of section 1311 of the Affordable Care Act is fully operational.**

   <u>**Response:**</u> This SPA complies with the conditions of the MOE provision of section 1902(gg) of the Act for continued funding under the Medicaid program.

2. **Section 1905(y) and (z) of the Act provides for increased FMAPs for expenditures made on or after January 1, 2014 for individuals determined eligible under section 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(VIII) of the Act. Under section 1905(cc) of the Act, the increased FMAP under sections 1905(y) and (z) would not be available for States that require local political subdivisions to contribute amounts toward the non-Federal share of the State's expenditures at a greater percentage than would have been required on December 31, 2009.**

   <u>**Prior to January 1, 2014**</u> **States may potentially require contributions by local political subdivisions toward the non-Federal share of the States' expenditures at percentages** <u>**greater than**</u> **were required on December 31, 2009.** <u>**However**</u>**, because of the provisions of section 1905(cc) of the Act, it is important to determine and document/flag any SPAs/State plans which have such greater percentages prior to the January 1, 2014 date in order to** <u>**anticipate potential violations and/or appropriate corrective actions**</u> **by the States and the Federal government.**

   <u>**Response:**</u> This SPA would [ ] / would <u>not</u> [✓] violate these provisions, if they remained in effect on or after January 1, 2014.

3. **Please indicate whether the State is currently in conformance with the requirements of section 1902(a)(37) of the Act regarding prompt payment of claims.**

   Response: This SPA does comply with the requirements of section 1902(a)(37) of the Act regarding prompt payment of claims.

Tribal Assurance:

Section 1902(a)(73) of the Social Security Act the Act requires a State in which one or more Indian Health Programs or Urban Indian Organizations furnish health care services to establish a process for the State Medicaid agency to seek advice on a regular ongoing basis from designees of Indian health programs whether operated by the Indian Health Service HIS Tribes or Tribal organizations under the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act ISDEAA or Urban Indian Organizations under the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

IHCIA Section 2107(e)(I) of the Act was also amended to apply these requirements to the Children's Health Insurance Program CHIP. Consultation is required concerning Medicaid and CHIP matters having a direct impact on Indian health programs and Urban Indian organizations.

a) **Please describe the process the State uses to seek advice on a regular ongoing basis from federally recognized tribes Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations on matters related to Medicaid and CHIP programs and for consultation on State Plan Amendments waiver proposals waiver extensions waiver amendments waiver renewals and proposals for demonstration projects prior to submission to CMS.**
b) **Please include information about the frequency inclusiveness and process for seeking such advice.**
c) **Please describe the consultation process that occurred specifically for the development and submission of this State Plan Amendment when it occurred and who was involved.**

Response: Tribal consultation was performed in accordance with the State's tribal consultation policy as approved in SPA 11-06, and documentation of such is included with this submission. To date, no feedback has been received from any tribal representative in response to the proposed change in this SPA.

Appendix VI
2014 Title XIX State Plan
Third Quarter Amendment
Responses to Standard Access Questions

NON-INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES
State Plan Amendment #14-017

CMS Standard Access Questions

The following questions have been asked by CMS and are answered by the State in relation to all payments made to all providers under Attachment 4.19-A of the State Plan.

1. **Specifically, how did the State determine that the Medicaid provider payments that will result from the change in this amendment are sufficient to comply with the requirements of 1902(a)(30)?**

   Response: This amendment seeks to eliminate the trend factor applied to the "base year" operating costs used in the calculation of the rates for the period from 7/1/14 – 6/30/15. Although the CMS-179 reflects a negative impact, providers can be paid more under the new proposal, effective 7/1/14 – 6/30/15, than in the prior year, 7/1/13-6/30/14, due to the use of a more recent cost report period in the calculation. The new proposal maintains patient access and quality of care.

   The State Plan for the Residential Treatment Facilities for Children and Youth established the framework for setting Medicaid rates for the 19 providers licensed by the Office of Mental Health. In doing so, eligible children and youths have been and are currently receiving inpatient treatment that they may not have otherwise been afforded.

   This proposed amendment will not have an adverse effect on providers, because the current rates paid to these providers continues to be adequate to ensure access and quality of care.

2. **How does the State intend to monitor the impact of the new rates and implement a remedy should rates be insufficient to guarantee required access levels?**

   Response: This amendment does adjust rates based on rebasing of costs.

   OMH has quarterly meetings with the Children's Coalition of Mental Health Services, which represents all of the RTF providers except August Aichorn. A regular agenda item for these meetings involves the RTF providers and programs. OMH also has a good relationship with August Aichorn, and periodically hears from them. Further, the OMH Field Offices regularly monitor the programs to insure quality care.

   For providers that are not subject to an approval process, the State will continue to monitor provider complaint hotlines to identify geographic areas of concern and/or service type needs. If Medicaid beneficiaries begin to encounter access issues, the Department would expect to see a marked increase in complaints. These complaints

will be identified and analyzed in light of the changes proposed in this State Plan Amendment.

3. **How were providers, advocates and beneficiaries engaged in the discussion around rate modifications? What were their concerns and how did the State address these concerns?**

   Response: This change was enacted by the State Legislature as part of the negotiation of the 2014-15 Budget. The impact of this change was weighed in the context of the overall Budget in the State. The legislative process provides opportunities for all stakeholders to lobby their concerns, objections, or support for various legislative initiatives.

4. **What action(s) does the State plan to implement after the rate change takes place to counter any decrease to access if the rate decrease is found to prevent sufficient access to care?**

   Response: Should any essential community provider experience Medicaid or other revenue issues that would prevent access to needed community services, per usual practice, the State would meet with them to explore the situation and discuss possible solutions, if necessary.

5. **Is the State modifying anything else in the State Plan which will counterbalance any impact on access that may be caused by the decrease in rates (e.g. increasing scope of services that other provider types may provide or providing care in other settings)?**

   Response: Over the course of the past three years, the State has undertaken a massive reform initiative to better align reimbursement with care. When fully implemented, the initiative will invest over $600 million in the State's ambulatory care system (outpatient, ambulatory surgery, emergency department, clinic and physicians) to incentivize care in the most appropriate setting. The State has also increased its physician reimbursement schedule to resemble Medicare payments for similar services, thus ensuring continued access for Medicaid beneficiaries. Further, the State is implementing initiatives that will award $600 million annually, over five years, to providers who promote efficiency and quality care through the Federal-State Health Reform Partnership(F-SHRP)/ NYS Healthcare Efficiency and Affordability Law (HEAL). While some of these initiatives are outside the scope of the State Plan, they represent some of the measures the State is taking to ensure quality care for the State's most vulnerable population.