Traditional Healing Overview

- From an American Indian perspective, traditional healing practices are a fundamental element of Indian health care that helps patients achieve wellness.
- Traditional healing services, while beneficial to members, have not been approved as covered Medicaid services, despite it being promoted in the Indian Health Care Improvement Act and by Indian Health Service (IHS).
- Tribes have advised AHCCCS that traditional healing services will aid care coordination and help AHCCCS members achieve improved health outcomes.

AHCCCS Traditional Healing Request Timeline

- **2015** Traditional Healing (TH) workgroup was established
- **Winter of 2016** CMS recommends a State Plan Amendment (SPA) instead of Waiver for traditional healing services
- **2018 & 2019** No clear direction from CMS on path forward to incorporate traditional healing in State Plan
- **Summer of 2016** AHCCCS submits to CMS the traditional healing waiver proposal developed by TH workgroup
- **2017** TH workgroup reconvenes and develops a crosswalk for traditional healing services for SPA
- **2020** AHCCCS reconvenes the TH workgroup to resubmit a traditional healing waiver proposal

Traditional Healing Waiver Proposal:

- AHCCCS is seeking waiver authority to reimburse traditional healing services when provided in, at, or as part of services offered by Indian Health Service, a tribe or tribal organization, or an Urban Indian health program (I/T/U) facilities at the 100% Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP).
- Upon approval by CMS, the covered traditional services, limitations, and exclusions shall be described by each facility working with each tribe they primarily serve.
- The array of practices provided by traditional healers shall be in accordance with an individual tribe’s established and accepted traditional healing practices as identified by the Qualifying Entity.
- An I/T/U facility or clinic governing body may serve as the Qualifying Entity or the tribe(s) served by the facility may choose to designate another governing body as its Qualifying Entity to define what constitutes as a traditional healing service.