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Alaska Medicaid Provider Message Optum Alaska CEO, Operations Director, and Tribal Liaison Announcement October 2, 2023



Please welcome Jaylene Peterson-Nyren, Optum Alaska CEO

Jaylene lives in Anchorage, Alaska with her husband and their three children. She began her healthcare career at Southcentral Foundation (SCF) over 25 years ago. She holds a BA in Organizational Management from Alaska Pacific University and an Executive MBA from Washington State University.

She relocated to Alaska's Kenai Peninsula with her family, where she served for 10 years as the Executive Director for the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, building, and expanding integrated health, social service, justice, tribal government and educational programs and services.

She returned to SCF to complete an MBA program as a recipient of the SCF Presidential Scholarship Award. In her role as Senior Director, she was responsible for administrative oversight of Information Technology, Special Assistant Program, Corporate Counsel, and Corporate Office support staff. In her role as Administrator in the SCF Behavioral Health Division she oversaw outpatient behavioral health and psychiatric services at the Valley Native Primary Care Center, Fireweed Adult Outpatient Clinic and the integrated psychiatry team at the Anchorage Native Primary Care Center.

Jaylene enjoys berry picking, gardening, traveling and spending time with friends and family. She looks forward to serving Alaskans to benefit current and future generations.

Jaylene can be contacted at jaylene_petersonnyren@optum.com or 651-495-5510



Please welcome Syreeta Kinard, Optum Alaska Operations Director.

Syreeta has twenty years of healthcare experience with health insurance as well as medical management for a government non-profit organization. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Information Management and a Master of Science degree in Health Informatics both from University of Illinois at Chicago.

Syreeta has been with United Health Group for four years. Syreeta will be transitioning from her role at Community and State as the Affordability Director where she serviced the Florida and Virginia Government health plans by developing and executing strategies to improve care and reduce costs.

- AK Medicaid experience includes:
 - Working at Qualis Health (now Comagine Health) for four years supporting Alaska Medicaid and BH for state reporting, invoices and ensuring that Care Management system was set up as needed for UM operation's needs and quality efficiencies.
- Significant experience in project/program management, data analytics and process improvement
- Experienced with government health plans and state agencies.
- Provided analysis and support on topics such as the competitive environment, health care industry, government relations, and new market opportunities.
- Contributor to process improvement efforts for Medicaid contract operations, analytics team efficiency and invoicing strategies.

Syreeta currently lives in Lynnwood, WA with her husband. Syreeta enjoys traveling, spending time with family, nature walks, boat/ferry rides, and horseback riding in her free time.

Syreeta can be reached at syreeta.kinnard@optum.com or 952-202-2586.



Please welcome Juliana Crandall, Optum Alaska Tribal Liaison.

Jewelz Crandall lives in Anchorage, Alaska and is Dena'ina Athabaskan from Tyonek, Alaska. She obtained her bachelor's in science in Community Health with a focus on Education from Portland State University and a master's degree in public health. Jewelz brings experience working with tribal health organizations (THO) and healthcare leadership. She previously managed a pediatric neurodevelopment clinic at the Alaska Native Medical Center as well as worked for Southcentral Foundation's RAISE Program and Cook Inlet Tribal Council. Her work in these roles offer a good foundation for building relationships with THO's and Optum.

When not working, Jewelz enjoys participating in Alaska Native subsistence activities such as fishing and berry picking with her family, camping and outdoor activities in the summer and catching up on television shows in the winter.

Jewelz can be reached at Juliana_Crandall@optum.com or 952-687-4001.