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**Media Release  
HOPE HOUSE TO BECOME MEDICAID PROVIDER  
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Pago Pago, AS – The American Samoa Medicaid State Agency (Medicaid) received approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for its State Planning Amendment (SPA) request to add Personal Care Aide Services and Long Term Care Support Services provider eligibility to the American Samoa State Plan.

This will effectively allow Hope House to enroll as a Medicaid provider under the Medicaid program. Medicaid Director Sandra King Young stated, “This state planning amendment was in development for a long time to essentially support the work of Hope House which is the only type of long-term care support services provider available in our territory. Medicaid was able to do this because of the generous appropriations provided by the government and the Fono for Hope House—that Medicaid will use for the local match. Numerous obstacles had to be overcome to receive approval for this much needed service for our community.”

The local match requirement for Medicaid must be provided for by the local government and cannot be provided by a Medicaid provider through charitable donations. The SPA was complex to develop and negotiate because Hope House does not provide traditional medical care services that are covered under a Medicaid state plan. Although minimal services will be covered under this new provision for long term care support services, the hope is that the Medicaid provider network continues to expand.

King Young added, “We extend our thanks to Bishop Peter Brown for his resilience in pursuing this benefit for Hope House and we look forward to working with CMS and Hope House on their Medicaid certification.”