

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**

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IN THE MATTER OF:

██████████
Appellant
_____ /

Docket No. 2009-34003 SAS
██████████

DECISION AND ORDER

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9, upon the Appellant's request for a hearing.

After due notice, a telephone hearing was held ██████████. ██████████ (Appellant) appeared on her own behalf.

██████████ appeared on behalf of the Southeast Michigan Community Alliance, a Michigan Department of Community Health contracted provider of substance abuse services to Michigan's Medicaid population (hereafter, 'Department').

ISSUE

Has the Department appropriately proposed the Appellant's termination from the Nardin Park Recovery Center?

FINDINGS OF FACT

Based upon the competent, material, and substantial evidence presented, I find, as material fact:

1. The Appellant is a Medicaid beneficiary. She has been enrolled in the Methadone Maintenance treatment program through ██████████ for approximately ██████████
2. The Appellant tested positive for illicit substances on the following dates: ██████████
██████████
██████████

3. The Appellant diverted her methadone, per urinalysis tests on [REDACTED].
4. The Appellant was provided warning of potential termination from the program due to non-compliance with program requirements.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Medicaid program was established pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act (SSA) and is implemented by 42 USC 1396 *et seq.*, and Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (42 CFR 430 *et seq.*). The program is administered in accordance with state statute, the Social Welfare Act (MCL 400.1 *et seq.*), various portions of Michigan's Administrative Code (1979 AC, R 400.1101 *et seq.*), and the state Medicaid plan promulgated pursuant to Title XIX of the SSA.

Subsection 1915(b) of the SSA provides, in relevant part:

The Secretary, to the extent he finds it to be cost-effective and efficient and not inconsistent with the purposes of this title, may waive such requirements of section 1902 (other than subsection(s) 1902(a)(15), 1902(bb), and 1902(a)(10)(A) insofar as it requires provision of the care and services described in section 1905(a)(2)(C)) as may be necessary for a State –

- (1) to implement a primary care case-management system or a specialty physician services arrangement which restricts the provider from (or through) whom an individual (eligible for medical assistance under this title) can obtain medical care services (other than in emergency circumstances), if such restriction does not substantially impair access to such services of adequate quality where medically necessary.

Under approval from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Department (MDCH) presently operates a Section 1915(b) Medicaid waiver referred to as the managed specialty supports and services waiver. A prepaid inpatient health plan (PIHP) contracts (Contract) with MDCH to provide services under this waiver, as well as other covered services offered under the state Medicaid plan.

Pursuant to the Section 1915(b) waiver, Medicaid state plan services, including substance abuse rehabilitative services, may be provided by the PIHP to beneficiaries who meet applicable coverage or eligibility criteria. *Contract, Part II, Section 2.1.1, p 23*. Specific service and support definitions included under and associated with state plan responsibilities are set forth in the Mental Health/Substance Abuse Chapter of the Medicaid Provider Manual (MPM). *Contract, Part II, Section 2.1.1, p 23*.

The following Medicaid-covered substance abuse services and supports must be provided, based on medical necessity, to eligible beneficiaries:

- Access assessment and referral (AAR) services
- Outpatient treatment
- Intensive outpatient (IOP) treatment
- Office of Pharmacological and Alternative Therapies (OPAT)/Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) – approved pharmacological supports

*MPM, Mental Health/Substance Abuse,
Section 12.1, October 1, 2005, pp 60 - 61.*

OPAT/CSAT-approved pharmacological supports encompass covered services for methadone and levo-alpha-acetylmethadol (LAAM) supports and associated laboratory services. *MPM, Mental Health/Substance Abuse Chapter, §§ 12.1, October 1, 2005, p 61.* Opiate-dependent patients may be provided therapy using methadone or as an adjunct to other therapy.

The Department testified that in part, its termination decision relied on the MDCH “Criteria for Opioid Dependent Substance Abuse Treatment with Methadone/LAMM as an Adjunct” and its own methadone services policy. The MDCH “Criteria for Opioid Dependent Substance Abuse Treatment with Methadone/LAMM as an Adjunct is Attachment F-1 of the contract between MDCH and the substance abuse agency. As such, the substance abuse agency must comply with the provisions of Attachment F.

The Criteria allows for administrative discharge of a client for clinical noncompliance, as follows:

2. Administrative Discharge

Once the program and/or the AAR system have determined the client is not responding appropriately to services available within their treatment modality, it may become necessary to proceed with an administrative discharge for clinical noncompliance...

- a. Clinical Noncompliance – A client’s failure to comply with the provider’s specific treatment protocol and/or treatment plan criteria, despite attempts to address such noncompliance, can result in administrative discharge. Such compliance issues are defined as, but not limited to, the following:

- (3) Continued behavior (non-threatening) interfering with the client’s ability to participate in the clinical process, such as continued use of illicit drugs or misuse of alcohol, missing

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psychiatric/psychological appointments, and missing
evaluation referrals.

*Criteria for Opioid Dependent Substance Abuse Treatment with
Methadone/LAMM as an Adjunct, Attachment F 1, October 1, 2004 –
September 30, 2005, pages 6-7.*

The Appellant claims she has stopped using illicit substances and has had 2 clean drug screens. She said she knows she has made bad decisions in the past but only needs a chance to prove she can do it.

The preponderance of the evidence presented supports the Department's position. The Appellant has consistently violated the terms and conditions of this program, making administrative discharge due to clinical non-compliance appropriate.

DECISION AND ORDER

Based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, I find the Department has properly proposed the Appellant's termination from the Methadone Maintenance and Detoxification Program.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

The Department's decision is AFFIRMED.

Jennifer Isiogu
Administrative Law Judge
for Janet Olszewski, Director
Michigan Department of Community Health

cc: [REDACTED]

Date Mailed: 11/12/2009

***** NOTICE *****

The State Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules for the Department of Community Health may order a rehearing on either its own motion or at the request of a party within 30 days of the mailing date of this Decision and Order. The State Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules for the Department of Community Health will not order a rehearing on the Department's motion where the final decision or rehearing cannot be implemented within 90 days of the filing of the original request. The Appellant may appeal the Decision and Order to Circuit Court within 30 days of the receipt of the Decision and Order or, if a timely request for rehearing was made, within 30 days of the receipt of the rehearing decision.