

STATE OF MICHIGAN
STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF:

██████████

Claimant

Reg. No.: 2009-36797

Issue No.: 2026

Case No.: ██████████

Load No.: ██████████

Hearing Date:

March 22, 2010

Wayne County DHS (18)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Colleen M. Mamelka

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon the Claimant's request for hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was conducted from Detroit, Michigan on Monday, March 22, 2010. The Claimant appeared, along with ██████████, and testified. ██████████ appeared on behalf of the Department.

ISSUE

Whether the Department properly calculated the Claimant's Medical Assistance ("MA") deductible?

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the competent, material and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. The Claimant submitted an application for public assistance seeking Medical Assistance ("MA-P"). (Exhibit 1)
2. On May 7, 2009, the Department sent a Verification Checklist to the Claimant requesting, in part, income and asset information. (Exhibit 2)

3. The Claimant receives \$1,317.00/month in RSDI benefits from the Social Security Administration (“SSA”).
4. The Claimant’s checking accounts showed balances of \$260.99 and \$1,474.52.
5. On June 10, 2010, the Department ran the SSI-Related MA budget which calculated the group’s monthly deductible as \$922.00. (Exhibit 3)
6. On this same date, the Department sent notification to the Claimant regarding the monthly deductible. (Exhibit 4)
7. On August 10, 2009, the Department received the Claimant’s written request for hearing. (Exhibit 5)

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Medical Assistance (“MA”) program is established by Title XIX of the Social Security Act and is implemented by Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (“CFR”). The Department of Human Services, formerly known as the Family Independence Agency, administers the MA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq* and MCL 400.105. Department policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (“BAM”), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (“BEM”), and the Bridges Program Glossary (“BPG”).

The goal of the Medicaid program is to ensure that essential health care services are made available to those who otherwise could not afford them. BEM 105 Medicaid is also known as Medical Assistance (“MA”). *Id.* The Medicaid program is comprised of several categories; one category is for FIP recipients while another is for SSI recipients. *Id.* Programs for individuals not receiving FIP or SSI are based on eligibility factors in either the FIP or SSI program thus are categorized as either FIP-related or SSI-related. *Id.* To receive MA under an SSI-related category, the person must be aged (65 or older), blind, disabled, entitled to Medicare or formally

blind or disabled. *Id.* Families with dependent children, caretaker relatives of dependent children, persons under age 21 and pregnant, or recently pregnant women, receive MA under FIP-related categories. *Id.*

In general, the terms Group 1 and Group 2 relate to financial eligibility factors. BEM 155 through 174 describes SSI-related categories. BEM 105 Financial eligibility for Group 1 exists when countable income minus allowable expenses equals or is below certain income limits. *Id.* MA income eligibility exists for the calendar month tested when there is no excess income or allowable medical expenses that equal or exceed the excess income. BEM 545 The fiscal group's monthly excess income is called a deductible amount. *Id.* Meeting a deductible means reporting and verifying allowable medical expenses that equal or exceed the deductible amount for the calendar month tested. *Id.* FIP- and SSI-related Group 2 eligibility is possible even when net income exceeds the income limit because incurred medical expenses are considered. *Id.* Eligibility is determined on a calendar month basis. BEM 105 Individuals that are aged (65 or older) blind or disabled fall under the SSI-related Group 2 MA category. BEM 166

In this case, the Claimant receives SSI-related Group 2 MA benefits. The Claimant agreed with the income figure used in calculating his MA deductible, but disagreed with the deductible amount. Ultimately, the Department established it acted in accordance with department policy when it calculated the Claimant's MA budget. Accordingly, the Department's determination is affirmed.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds the Department acted in accordance with Department policy when it calculated the Claimant's MA deductible amount.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED:

The Department's determination is AFFIRMED.

Colleen M. Mamelka

Colleen M. Mamelka
Administrative Law Judge
for Ismael Ahmed, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 4/2/2010

Date Mailed: 4/2/2010

NOTICE: Administrative Hearings may order a rehearing or reconsideration on either its own motion or at the request of a party within 30 days of the mailing date of this Decision and Order. Administrative Hearings will not order a rehearing or reconsideration on the Department's motion where the final decision cannot be implemented within 90 days of the filing of the original request.

The Claimant 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 date of the rehearing decision.

CMM/jlg

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