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

P.O. Box 30763, Lansing, MI 48909 (877) 833-0870; Fax: (517) 334-9505

IN THE MATTER OF:

Docket No. 2010-14378 EDW

Appellant

DECISION AND ORDER

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) pursuant to MCL 400.9 and 42 CFR 431.200 *et seq.*, following the Appellant's request for a hearing.

After due notice, a telephone hearing was held represented her mother,

appeared on behalf of the 'Department')

Department-contracted MI Choice Waiver agency (hereafter, 'Department').

ISSUE

Did the Department properly place the Appellant on the waitlist for the MI Choice Waiver program?

FINDINGS OF FACT

Based upon the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, I find as material fact:

- 1. The Appellant is a great year old seeking MI Choice Waiver services. Her daughter contacted the MI Choice Waiver services agency for her geographical region to request services.
- The agency conducted a telephone screening, including an imminent risk screening and determined that at the time of the screening, the Appellant did not meet a priority category. The Appellant was notified that the MI Choice Waiver program was at capacity, thus she would be placed on the waiting list.
- 3. The Department's waiver agency is currently at capacity and, due to lack of funds, is unable to enroll Appellant in the MI Choice Waiver program at this time.

Docket No. 2010-14378 EDW Decision and Order

4. Following notification she had been placed on a waiting list for the MI Choice program, the Appellant requested a formal, administrative hearing on January 7, 2010.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Medical Assistance Program is established pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act and is implemented by Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). It is administered in accordance with state statute, the Social Welfare Act, the Administrative Code, and the State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act Medical Assistance Program.

This Appellant is claiming services through the Department's Home and Community Based Services for Elderly and Disabled (HCBS/ED). The waiver is called MI Choice in Michigan. The program is funded through the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (formerly HCFA) to the Michigan Department of Community Health (Department). Regional agencies, in this case an Area Agency on Aging (AAA), function as the Department's administrative agency.

> Waivers are intended to provide the flexibility needed to enable States to try new or different approaches to the efficient and cost-effective delivery of health care services, or to adapt their programs to the special needs of particular areas or groups of recipients. Waivers allow exceptions to State plan requirements and permit a State to implement innovative programs or activities on a time-limited basis, and subject to specific safeguards for the protection of recipients and the program. Detailed rules for waivers are set forth in subpart B of part 431, subpart A of part 440 and subpart G of part 441 of this chapter. *42 CFR 430.25(b)*

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, on page 5 of a letter to State Medical Directors labeled Olmstead Update Number 4 (SMDL #01-006), dated January 10, 2001, in reply to the following question responded, in part:

May a State use the program's funding appropriation to specify the total number of people eligible for an HCBS waiver?

CMS has allowed States to indicate that the total number of people to be served may be the lesser of either (a) a specific number pre-determined by the State and approved by CMS (the approved "factor C" value), or (b) a number derived from the amount of money the legislature has made available (together with corresponding Federal match). The current HCBS waiver preprint contains both options.... Docket No. 2010-14378 EDW Decision and Order

The waiver agency has committed all the financial resources made available through the Department's appropriations and to ensure continued service to current waiver enrollees and is not assessing any additional individuals. It maintains a waiting list and contacts individuals on the list on a first come, first served basis when sufficient resources become available to serve additional individuals. It then determines how many individuals from the list it can assess and assesses a limited number of individuals from the list to determine if they may be eligible for enrollment in the MI Choice Waiver.

The Appellant's representative testified she spends all day with her parents taking care of them in their home. She is unfamiliar with all the programs.

The waiver agency supervisor testified that another imminent risk screening was going to be conducted as soon as possible, likely within a week of the hearing date. The Appellant's representative was further advised about the Home Help Services program through the Department of Human Services.

DECISION AND ORDER

Based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, I find the MI Choice Waiver agency properly denied Appellant enrollment and placed her on the waiting list due to limited financial resources.

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:

Date Mailed: 02/26/2010

*** NOTICE ***

The State Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules 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 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.