STATE OF MICHIGAN STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

IN THE MATTER:



Reg No.201029347Issue No.2012Case No.Image: Constraint of the second s

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Jana A. Bachman

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on September 9, 2010. Claimant was represented by

ISSUE

Whether the Department of Human Services (department) acted in compliance with department policy when it determined claimant's Medical Assistance (MA) benefits.

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

- 1. On or about March 25, 2009, claimant's representative applied for MA on his behalf.
- 2. March 25, 2009, the department sent a Verification Checklist (DHS-3503) to claimant's representative indicating required proofs and setting a deadline of April 7, 2009. Department Exhibit A.
- 3. April 8, 2010, the department sent an Application Eligibility Notice (DHS-1150) to claimant's representative informing them of the denial.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by the 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 Program Reference Manual (PRM).

Department manuals provide the following policy statements and instructions for caseworkers:

Timeliness of Verifications

All Programs (except TMAP)

Allow the client 10 calendar days (or other time limit specified in policy) to provide the verification you request. If the client cannot provide the verification despite a reasonable effort, extend the time limit at least once.

Verifications are considered to be timely if received by the date they are due. For electronically transmitted verifications (e.g., fax, email), the date of the transmission is the receipt date. Verifications that are submitted after the close of regular business hours through the drop box or by delivery of a DHS representative are considered to be received the next business day. Send a negative action notice when:

- The client indicates refusal to provide a verification, or
- The time period given has elapsed and the client has not made a reasonable effort to provide it.

MA Only

Send a negative action notice when:

- The client indicates refusal to provide a verification, or
- The time period given has elapsed.

Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) 130

42 CFR 435.913(a) 42 CFR 435.916(b) MCL 400.37

Public Law 109-171

An adequate notice is a written notice sent to the client at the same time an action takes effect (not pended). Adequate notice is given in the following circumstances:

All Programs

- Approval/denial of an application.
- Increase in benefits.

Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) 220 42 CFR 431.200-.250 42 CFR 435.912-.913,.919

In this case, the department received an MA application and properly sent a Verification Checklist to the claimant representative setting an appropriate deadline for proofs to be turned in. The department did not receive proofs by the deadline and properly denied the application, sending an Application Eligibility Notice to claimant's representative. At hearing, claimant's representative testified that they did not receive either notice. However, the notices were sent to the proper address and the department did not receive them back from the post office. Finding of Fact 1-2. Accordingly a preponderance of the evidence establishes that both documents were received by claimant's representative. Therefore, the department's action must be upheld.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides the Department of Human Services acted in compliance with department policy when it determined claimant's eligibility for Medical Assistance benefits.

Accordingly, the department's action is, hereby, UPHELD.

/S/

Jana A. Bachman Administrative Law Judge for Ismael Ahmed, Director Department of Human Services

Date Signed: December 15, 2010

Date Mailed: <u>December 20, 2010</u>

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<u>NOTICE</u>: 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.



JAB/db