

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. 2010-1679 EDW

██████████,

Appellant

_____ /

DECISION AND ORDER

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon the Appellant's request for a hearing.

After due notice, a hearing was held ██████████. ██████████ was represented by ██████████. ██████████, represented the Department's Waiver Agency, ██████████.

ISSUE

Did the Department's Waiver Agency, properly determine that Appellant did not meet the financial eligibility criteria for MI Choice Waiver services?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. Appellant is a ██████████ participant in MI Choice Waiver services.
2. In ██████████ the Wavier Agency was notified the Appellant was no longer financially eligible for MI Choice Wavier services. A notice terminating services was sent.
3. The Appellant stipulates her monthly income is ██████████ (gross) per month. The program limit is ██████████ per month.
4. In ██████████, the Department of Human Services (DHS) sent Appellant written notice that she was ineligible for services under the waiver program due to excess income.
5. On ██████████, the State Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules received Appellant's request for an Administrative Hearing, protesting the

denial of MI Choice Waiver services.

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.

Effective November 1, 2004, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) implemented revised functional/medical eligibility criteria for Medicaid nursing facility, MI Choice, and PACE services. Federal regulations require that Medicaid pay for services only for those beneficiaries who meet specified level of care criteria.

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 Health Care Financing Administration to the Michigan Department of Community Health (Department). Regional agencies, in this case the Waiver Agency, 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)*

1915 (c) (42 USC 1396n (c) allows home and community based services to be classified as "medical assistance" under the State Plan when furnished to recipients who would otherwise need inpatient care that is furnished in a hospital SNF, ICF or ICF/MR and is reimbursable under the State Plan. (*42 CFR 430.25(b)*).

Home and community based services means services not otherwise furnished under the State's Medicaid plan, that are furnished under a waiver granted under the provisions of part 441, subpart G of this subchapter. (*42 CFR 440.180(a)*).

Medicaid beneficiaries are only entitled to medically necessary Medicaid covered services. See *42 CFR 440.230*. The MI Choice Waiver did not waive the federal Medicaid regulation that requires that authorized services be medically necessary.

Clients must meet both the non-financial and financial eligibility criteria for waiver services. The waiver agent conducts the assessment to determine whether the client meets the non-financial eligibility criteria for services. However, DHS determines whether the client meets the financial eligibility criteria for the services after the waiver agency approves the client for the waiver. Although the MI Choice Waiver is not a Medicaid category, there are special financial eligibility rules for **Medicaid recipients** who have been approved for the waiver. The DHS local offices' primary responsibilities are doing initial asset assessments and determining MA eligibility for waiver patients. (Program Eligibility Manual, Item 106)

The Appellant, through her representative, stipulated on the record that she has ██████████ in income. The program limit is ██████████ per month. The Appellant stated she filed a hearing request due to the possibility that not all income was countable and in hopes there was some exclusion that would render her financially eligible. She is only a few dollars over the income limit for the program and other programs have income exclusions. She was informed the determination was through the Department of Human services. She did not present evidence to support a determination that any of the income was excludable or that the determination was otherwise inaccurate or wrong. A client is not eligible to receive MI Choice Waiver services if DHS has determined that the client does not meet the financial eligibility criteria for waiver services, and the client is not a Medicaid recipient.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Department's Waiver Agency properly determined that Appellant was not eligible to receive MI Choice Waiver services.

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

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Decision and Order

Date Mailed: 12/22/2009

***** NOTICE *****

The State Office of Administrative Hearing 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 Hearing 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.