

STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
P.O. Box 30763, Lansing, MI 48909
(877) 833-0870; Fax: (517) 334-9505

IN THE MATTER OF:

██████████

Appellant

_____ /

Docket No. 2011-44852 EDW
Case No. 4734270

DECISION AND ORDER

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and 42 CFR 431.200 et seq. upon the Appellant's request for a hearing.

After due notice, a hearing was held on Wednesday, ██████████. ██████████, Appellant appeared and testified on her own behalf. ██████████, Care Management Director, Region ██████████ Area Agency on Aging, represented the Department's Waiver Agency. ██████████, Social Work Care Manager; ██████████, Nurse Care Manager; ██████████, Supervisor; and ██████████, Quality Management Supervisor, appeared as witnesses for the Department.

ISSUE

Did the Waiver Agency properly determine the Appellant was not eligible for the MI Choice waiver program?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. The Appellant was enrolled in the MI Choice waiver.
2. The Appellant is a ██████████ year-old woman with an enlarged heart and a seizure disorder. (Testimony)
3. The Appellant has family that lives near her, including a son and two elderly parents who care for Appellant's 50 year old sister. (Testimony).
4. The Appellant lives on her own in a one story trailer. (Testimony).
5. The Appellant is enrolled in and has been receiving MI Choice waiver services since ██████████. (Exhibit A).

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6. The Waiver Agency is a contract agent of the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) and is responsible for waiver eligibility determinations and the provision of MI Choice waiver services.
7. Effective November 1, 2004, all MI Choice waiver applicants are required to be assessed using the MDCH approved Level of Care Assessment Tool. (Exhibit 1, Attachment F).
8. On [REDACTED], Waiver Agency intake staff completed an in-person MDCH Level of Care Determination with Appellant. (Exhibit 1).
9. Waiver Agency staff determined that the Appellant was ineligible for the MI Choice waiver program because the Level of Care Assessment Tool indicated that she did not need a Nursing Facility Level of Care and she could receive services from DHS HHS if needed. (Exhibit 1).
10. On [REDACTED] the Waiver Agency sent Appellant a notice that it determined she was not eligible for the MI Choice waiver. (Exhibit 1, Attachment A).
11. On [REDACTED] 011, the Michigan Administrative Hearing System received the Appellant's request for an administrative hearing. (Exhibit B).

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. Nursing facility residents must also meet Pre-Admission Screening/Annual Resident Review requirements.

The Medicaid Provider Manual, Nursing Facilities Coverages Section, July 1, 2011, lists the policy for admission and continued eligibility as well as outlines functional/medical criteria requirements for Medicaid-reimbursed nursing facility, MI Choice, and PACE services.

Section 4.1 of the Medicaid Provider Manual Nursing Facility Coverages Section references the use of an online Michigan Medicaid Nursing Facility Level of Care Determination Tool. The LOC is mandated for all Medicaid-reimbursed admissions to nursing facilities or enrollments in MI Choice or PACE on and after November 1, 2004.

A written form of the LOC, as well as field guidelines are found in the *MDCH Nursing Facility Eligibility Level of Care Determination, Pages 1-9, 3/07/05* and *MDCH Nursing Facility Eligibility Level of Care Determination Field Definition Guidelines, Pages 1-19, 3/15/05*.

The Waiver Agency provided evidence that on July 19, 2011, Waiver Agency intake staff completed an in-home Michigan Medicaid Nursing Facility Level of Care Determination to determine if the Appellant met criteria for the MI Choice waiver program. Waiver Agency staff determined that the Appellant was ineligible for the MI Choice waiver program because the Level of Care Assessment Tool indicated that she did not need a Nursing Facility Level of Care and she could receive services from DHS HHS if needed. (Exhibit 1, Attachment G).

The Level of Care Assessment Tool consists of seven service entry Doors. (Exhibit 1, Attachment G). The doors are: Activities of Daily Living, Cognition, Physician Involvement, Treatments and Conditions, Skilled Rehabilitative Therapies, Behavior, or Service Dependency. In order to be found eligible for Medicaid Nursing Facility placement the Appellant must meet the requirements of at least one Door. The Waiver Agency presented evidence that based on the Appellant's answers during the in-person assessment, and their observations, she did not meet any of the criteria for Doors 1 through 7.

Door 1
Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)

LOC page 3 of 9 provides that the applicant must score at least six points to qualify under Door 1.

Scoring Door 1: The applicant must score at least six points to qualify under Door 1.

(A) Bed Mobility, (B) Transfers, and (C) Toilet Use:

- Independent or Supervision = 1
- Limited Assistance = 3
- Extensive Assistance or Total Dependence = 4
- Activity Did Not Occur = 8

(D) Eating:

- Independent or Supervision = 1
- Limited Assistance = 2
- Extensive Assistance or Total Dependence = 3
- Activity Did Not Occur = 8

Door 2
Cognitive Performance

Scoring Door 2: The applicant must score under one of the following three options to qualify under Door 2.

1. "Severely Impaired" in Decision Making.
2. "Yes" for Memory Problem, and Decision Making is "Moderately Impaired" or "Severely Impaired."
3. "Yes" for Memory Problem, and Making Self Understood is "Sometimes Understood" or "Rarely/Never Understood."

Door 3
Physician Involvement

The LOC indicates that to qualify under Door 3 the applicant must

...[M]eet either of the following to qualify under

1. At least one Physician Visit exam AND at least four Physician Order changes in the last 14 days, OR
2. At least two Physician Visit exams AND at least two Physician Order changes in the last 14 days.

Door 4
Treatments and Conditions

LOC page 5 indicates that in order to qualify under Door 4 the applicant must receive, within 14 days of the assessment date, any of the following health treatments or demonstrated any of the following health conditions:

- A. Stage 3-4 pressure sores
- B. Intravenous or parenteral feedings
- C. Intravenous medications
- D. End-stage care
- E. Daily tracheostomy care, daily respiratory care, daily suctioning
- F. Pneumonia within the last 14 days
- G. Daily oxygen therapy
- H. Daily insulin with two order changes in last 14 days
- I. Peritoneal or hemodialysis

Door 5

Skilled Rehabilitation Therapies

LOC page 6 provides that the applicant must:

...[H]ave required at least 45 minutes of active ST, OT or PT (scheduled or delivered) in the last 7 days and continues to require skilled rehabilitation therapies to qualify under Door 5

Door 6 Behavior

An applicant must exhibit any of the following behavior symptoms during the 7 days before the assessment: Wandering, Verbally Abusive, Physically Abusive, Socially Inappropriate/Disruptive, Resists Care. An applicant must exhibit any of the following Problem Conditions during the 7 days before the assessment: Delusions and Hallucinations. LOC page 8 provides that to qualify under Door if the applicant must score under the following two options:

1. A “Yes” for either delusions or hallucinations within the last 7 days.
2. The applicant must have exhibited any one of the following behaviors for at least 4 of the last 7 days (including daily): Wandering, Verbally Abusive, Physically Abusive, Socially Inappropriate/Disruptive, or Resisted Care.

Door 7 Service Dependency

An applicant could qualify under Door 7 if there was evidence that she or he is currently being served in a nursing facility (and for at least one year) or by the MI Choice or PACE program, and required ongoing services to maintain her current functional status.

The Appellant testified that she believed she qualified under Door 4 because she relied on daily oxygen use. However, the Waiver Agency witnesses testified that Appellant no longer uses oxygen on a daily basis and only uses oxygen occasionally at night. Appellant also testified that her condition has not changed or approved over the years, however, ██████████, Appellant’s Care Manager for many years, testified that Appellant is now much more self-sufficient than she once was and that her condition has improved greatly. ██████████ also testified credibly that Appellant was at one time quite dependent on oxygen, but that she no longer is. Finally, Appellant testified that she believed she qualified under Door 7 because she has been on the MI Choice Waiver program for many years. However, Door 7 requires a person to have been served in a nursing home for at least one year and here the evidence showed that Appellant has never been in a nursing home.

Weighing the evidence in this case the Waiver Agency provided a preponderance of evidence to show that the Appellant is not eligible for Medicaid nursing facility services and thus not eligible for the MI Choice program. The Appellant did not prove by a preponderance of evidence that she requires a Nursing Facility Level of Care and MI Choice program eligibility. The Appellant does not meet the requirements for any Door 1 through 7 on the Medicaid Nursing Facility Level of Care Determination Tool. Therefore, she is not eligible for MI Choice program eligibility.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Waiver Agency properly determined the Appellant was not eligible for the MI Choice waiver.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

The Department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.



Robert J. Meade
Administrative Law Judge
for Janet Olszewski, Director
Michigan Department of Community Health

cc:



Date Mailed: 9/9/2011

***** NOTICE *****

The Michigan Administrative Hearing System 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 Michigan Administrative Hearing System 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.