

**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

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Docket No. 2011-51791 HHS

Case No. ██████████

**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 ██████████, daughter, appeared on the Appellant's behalf. ██████████, the Appellant, was also present. ██████████, Appeals Review Officer, represented the Department. ██████████, Adult Services Worker, appeared as a witness for the Department.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly terminate the Appellant's Home Help Services (HHS) case?

**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 is a ██████ year-old Medicaid beneficiary.
2. The Appellant has been diagnosed with hypertension, low back pain, osteoarthritis, asthma, depression, schizophrenia, and status post corneal abrasion. (Exhibit 1, page 17)
3. On ██████████, the Adult Services Worker made a visit to the Appellant's home as part of a comprehensive assessment. (Exhibit 1, pages 11-12)
4. As a result of the information gathered, the Adult Services Worker determined that the Appellant did not qualify for ongoing HHS because she needs reminders, guidance, prompting and supervision rather than hands on assistance. (Adult Services Worker Testimony)

5. On [REDACTED], the Department issued an Adequate Action Notice to the Appellant indicating that her HHS case would terminate effective [REDACTED]. (Exhibit 1, pages 8-10)
6. On [REDACTED], a Request for Hearing filed on the Appellant's behalf was received contesting the termination. (Exhibit 1, pages 4-7)

### **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.

Home Help Services (HHS) are provided to enable functionally limited individuals to live independently and receive care in the least restrictive, preferred settings. These activities must be certified by a physician and may be provided by individuals or by private or public agencies.

Adult Services Manual (ASM 363, 9-1-08), pages 2-15 of 24 addresses the issue of assessment:

#### **COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT**

The Adult Services Comprehensive Assessment (FIA-324) is the primary tool for determining need for services. The comprehensive assessment will be completed on all open cases, whether a home help payment will be made or not. ASCAP, the automated workload management system provides the format for the comprehensive assessment and all information will be entered on the computer program.

Requirements for the comprehensive assessment include, but are not limited to:

- A comprehensive assessment will be completed on all new cases.
- A face-to-face contact is required with the client in his/her place of residence.
- An interview must be conducted with the caregiver, if applicable.
- Observe a copy of the client's social security card.
- Observe a picture I.D. of the caregiver, if applicable.
- The assessment must be updated as often as necessary, but minimally at the six-month review and annual redetermination.

- A release of information must be obtained when requesting documentation from confidential sources and/or sharing information from the department record.
- Follow specialized rules of confidentiality when ILS cases have companion APS cases.

### **Functional Assessment**

The **Functional Assessment** module of the **ASCAP** comprehensive assessment is the basis for service planning and for the HHS payment.

Conduct a functional assessment to determine the client's ability to perform the following activities:

#### Activities of Daily Living (ADL)

- Eating
- Toileting
- Bathing
- Grooming
- Dressing
- Transferring
- Mobility

#### Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL)

- Taking Medication
- Meal Preparation and Cleanup
- Shopping
- Laundry
- Light Housework

Functional Scale ADL's and IADL's are assessed according to the following five-point scale:

1. Independent  
Performs the activity safely with no human assistance.
2. Verbal Assistance  
Performs the activity with verbal assistance such as reminding, guiding or encouraging.
3. Some Human Assistance  
Performs the activity with some direct physical assistance and/or assistive technology.

4. Much Human Assistance  
Performs the activity with a great deal of human assistance and/or assistive technology.
5. Dependent  
Does not perform the activity even with human assistance and/or assistive technology.

**Note:** HHS payments may only be authorized for needs assessed at the 3 level or greater.

### **Time and Task**

The worker will allocate time for each task assessed a rank of 3 or higher, based on interviews with the client and provider, observation of the client's abilities and use of the reasonable time schedule (RTS) as a guide. The RTS can be found in **ASCAP** under the **Payment** module, Time and Task screen. When hours exceed the RTS rationale must be provided.

### IADL Maximum Allowable Hours

There are monthly maximum hour limits on all IADLs except medication. The limits are as follows:

- 5 hours/month for shopping
- 6 hours/month for light housework
- 7 hours/month for laundry
- 25 hours/month for meal preparation

These are maximums; as always, if the client needs fewer hours, that is what must be authorized. Hours should continue to be prorated in shared living arrangements.

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### **Service Plan Development**

Address the following factors in the development of the service plan:

- The specific services to be provided, by whom and at what cost.
- The extent to which the client does not perform activities essential to caring for self. The intent of the Home Help program is to assist individuals to function as

independently as possible. It is important to work with the recipient and the provider in developing a plan to achieve this goal.

- The kinds and amounts of activities required for the client's maintenance and functioning in the living environment.
- The availability or ability of a responsible relative or legal dependent of the client to perform the tasks the client does not perform. Authorize HHS **only** for those services or times which the responsible relative/legal dependent is unavailable or unable to provide.

**Note: Unavailable** means absence from the home, for employment or other legitimate reasons. **Unable** means the responsible person has disabilities of his/her own which prevent caregiving. These disabilities must be documented/verified by a medical professional on the DHS-54-A.

- Do **not** authorize HHS payments to a responsible relative or legal dependent of the client.
- The extent to which others in the home are able and available to provide the needed services. Authorize HHS **only** for the benefit of the client and **not** for others in the home. If others are living in the home, prorate the IADL's by at least 1/2, more if appropriate.
- The availability of services currently provided free of charge. A written statement by the provider that he is no longer able to furnish the service at no cost is sufficient for payment to be authorized as long as the provider is not a responsible relative of the client.
- HHS may be authorized when the client is receiving other home care services if the services are not duplicative (same service for same time period).

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### **Services not Covered by Home Help Services**

Do **not** authorize HHS payment for the following:

- Supervising, monitoring, reminding, guiding or encouraging (functional assessment rank 2);
- Services provided for the benefit of others;
- Services for which a responsible relative is able and available to provide;
- Services provided free of charge;
- Services provided by another resource at the same time;
- Transportation - See Program Administrative Manual (PAM) 825 for medical transportation policy and procedures.
- Money management, e.g., power of attorney, representative payee;
- Medical services;
- Home delivered meals;
- Adult day care.

*Adult Services Manual (ASM) 363, 9-1-2008,  
Pages 2-15 of 24*

The Adult Services Worker completed a home visit as part of a comprehensive assessment on ██████████. The Appellant's statements regarding her abilities and needs for assistance with activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living indicated she mainly needed verbal assistance and supervision, and that some unpaid assistance could be provided by the Appellant's daughter. The Appellant's daughter also indicated she would assist the Appellant in reconnecting with services through Community Mental Health. Accordingly, the ASW determined that the Appellant did not qualify for ongoing HHS services. (Exhibit 1, pages 11-12 and ASW Testimony)

The Appellant's daughter testified that she was not contesting the termination of the Appellant's HHS case. Rather, she requested the hearing regarding issues with the ASW's conduct. (Exhibit 1, pages 4-7 and Daughter Testimony) As discussed during the hearing proceedings, the conduct or professionalism of an ASW is not an issue this ALJ can address.

This ALJ can only address the action taken by the Department on the Appellant's HHS case. The evidence did contain some indications that that Appellant needs hands on assistance was needed with a few activities. However, it appears that the Appellant's daughter could provide some of the needed assistance. The Appellant's daughter also testified she would find the help the Appellant needs. The HHS program does not cover verbal assistance such as reminding, prompting, or supervision. As discussed during the home visit and during the hearing proceedings, the Appellant's daughter may wish

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to inquire about programs through Community Mental Health. The Appellant's daughter did not contesting the termination of the Appellant's HHS case. Therefore, the Department's determination is upheld.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that the Department properly terminated the Appellant's Home Help Services case.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

The Department's decision is AFFIRMED.

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Colleen Lack  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Olga Dazzo, Director  
Michigan Department of Community Health

cc:

[REDACTED]

Date Mailed: 11/29/2011

**\*\*\* 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.