

**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:**

**Docket No.** 2012-34263 HHS

██████████

██████████

██████████

Appellant

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**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 ██████████. ██████████ appeared on behalf of the Appellant – who was present and testified. ██████████, Appeals Review Officer, represented the Department. Her witness was ██████████, ASW.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly terminate the Appellant's home help services (HHS)?

**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. (Appellant's Exhibit #1)
2. The Appellant alleges disability through Lupus, OA, OSA, HTN, dementia, DJD – knees, fibromyalgia the residuals and sequela of hip surgery, broken wrist and concussion. (See Testimony, Department's Exhibit A, page 15, and Appellant's Exhibit #1)
3. The Appellant's representative said that the Appellant is forgetful and weak and burns her food when she tries to cook. (See Testimony)
4. The Department's witness testified that she observed the Appellant on in-home assessment ██████████] and that she did not appear to need hands on assistance with any ADL. She reported that the Appellant answered the door utilizing a cane and had trouble standing for extended periods of time. She added that while inventorying the assorted ADLs with the client the choreprovider [not present for hearing] was listening as well and offered no

additional information or corrections. (See Testimony and Department's Exhibit A, p. 13)

5. The Department witness, ASW Helpert, sent the Appellant an Advance Negative Action Notice on ██████████ terminating services effective ██████████ (Department's Exhibit A, pages 2, 9)
6. The Appellant's further appeal rights were contained in the Advance Negative Action Notice.
7. The request for hearing on the instant appeal was received by the Michigan Administrative Hearing System for the Department of Community Health on ██████████ (Appellant's Exhibit #1)

### **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 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 medical professional.

### **COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT**

The DHS-324, Adult Services Comprehensive Assessment is the primary tool for determining need for services. The comprehensive assessment must be completed on all open independent living services cases. ASCAP, the automated workload management system, provides the format for the comprehensive assessment and all information must 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.
- The assessment may also include an interview with the individual who will be providing home help services.

- A new face-to-face assessment is required if there is a request for an increase in services before payment is authorized.
- A face-to-face assessment is required on all transfer-in cases before a payment is authorized.
- 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.

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Adult Service Manual (ASM), §120, page 1 of 6,  
11-1-2011.

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### **Changes in the home help eligibility criteria:**

#### **Home Help Eligibility Criteria**

To qualify for home help services, an individual must require assistance with at least one activity of daily living (ADL) assessed at a level 3 or greater. The change in policy must be applied to any new cases opened on or after October 1, 2011, and to all ongoing cases as of October 1, 2011.

#### **Comprehensive Assessment Required Before Closure**

Clients currently receiving home help services must be assessed at the next face-to-face contact in the client's home to determine continued eligibility. If the adult services specialist has a face-to-face contact in the client's home prior to the next scheduled review/redetermination, an assessment of need must take place at that time.

**Example:** A face-to-face review was completed in August 2011; the next scheduled review will be in February 2012. The specialist meets with the client in his/her home for a provider interview in December 2011. Previous assessments indicate the client only needing assistance with instrumental activities of daily living (IADL). A new comprehensive assessment must be completed on this client.

If the assessment determines a need for an ADL at level 3 or greater but these services are **not** paid for by the department,

or the client refuses to receive assistance, the client would **continue** to be eligible to receive IADL services.

If the client is receiving only IADLs and does **not** require assistance with at least one ADL, the client no longer meets eligibility for home help services and the case must close after negative action notice is provided.

Each month, beginning with October, 2011, clients with reviews due who only receive IADL services must take priority.

### **Negative Action Notice**

The adult services specialist must provide a DHS-1212, Advance Negative Action notice, if the assessment determines the client is no longer eligible to receive home help services. The effective date of the negative action is ten business days after the date the notice is mailed to the client.

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### **Right to Appeal**

Clients have the right to request a hearing if they disagree with the assessment. If the client requests a hearing within ten business days, do not proceed with the negative action until after the result of the hearing.

Explain to the client that if the department is upheld, recoupment must take place back to the negative action date if payments continue. Provide the client with an option of continuing payment or suspending payment until after the hearing decision is rendered.

If the client requests a hearing after the 10-day notice and case closure has occurred, do not reopen the case pending the hearing decision. If the department's action is reversed, the case will need to be reopened and payment re-established back to the effective date of the negative action. If the department's action is upheld, no further action is required.

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Adult Service Bulletin (ASB) 2011-001;  
*Interim* Policy Bulletin Independent Living Services (ILS)  
Eligibility Criteria, pp. 1–3, October 1, 2011

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The Department witness testified that on in-home assessment she observed the Appellant had no need for ADL assistance. She explained policy developments and advised the Appellant and her choreprovider [who was not present for hearing] that she would be terminated from the Home Help Program for lack of need with hands on assistance.

At hearing the Appellant's representative explained that the Appellant required assistance because "she is weak and unable to complete tasks." On cross examination the Appellant said she can't get into the shower without assistance and that she is barely able to brush her hair, although she is "...working with a nurse on that task now." She said she needs medication, has dementia, needs assistance with laundry owing to frequent diarrhea and "needs her strength."

On review, the Appellant's representative explained that since the in-home assessment the Appellant had sustained injury [concussion and broken wrist] the result of a recent fall. She said the Appellant was hospitalized for those injuries on or about [REDACTED]

The ASW testified that prior to the in-home visit conducted in February the Appellant did not require or receive assistance with any ADL personal care issues.

It is the province of the ASW to determine continued eligibility for services; the ASM requires an in-home, comprehensive assessment of HHS recipients. Based on new policy an HHS recipient must utilize at least one (1) ADL requiring hands on service at the three (3) ranking or higher in order to remain eligible for HHS.

The Appellant failed to preponderate her burden of proof that the Department erred in terminating her HHS, because at the time of the assessment she demonstrated no physical need for assistance. The testimony established that the Appellant was able to tend to her own personal care. That ability has eroded since the in-home assessment, although the Appellant had not reported a change in condition to her ASW until today's hearing.

The uncontested testimony regarding cognitive dysfunction in the Appellant is noteworthy. Although not subject to HHS policy - the risk of fire or injury emanating from loss of consciousness might suggest a need for a more restrictive environment for the Appellant or an immediate assessment from Community Mental Health (CMH) or both.

The ALJ has no authority to impose a CMH remedy or to alter HHS policy and observes that the DHS *Interim Policy* adopted in October of 2011 makes no exception for the provision of HHS - absent satisfaction of an ADL requirement at a ranking of 3 or greater observed during the comprehensive assessment.

[REDACTED]  
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Since the Appellant, by virtue of this assessment, has now exhausted her available services under the HHS program it is incumbent on the ASW to advocate for the Appellant in receiving CMH sponsored Community Living Supports (CLS) to address the cognitive issues and related care needs discovered at hearing. [ASM 125, Coordination with Other Services, pp. 1, 2 of 10, November 1, 2011]

**DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Department properly terminated the Appellant's HHS.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that:

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

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Dale Malewska  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Olga Dazzo, Director  
Michigan Department of Community Health

cc:

[REDACTED]

Date Mailed: 6-12-12

**\*\*\* 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.