

**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.** 2012-48019 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 ██████████ ██████████. The Appellant appeared without representation. She had no witnesses. Florence Scott-Emuakpor, R.N., Appeals Review Officer, represented the Department. Her witnesses were ██████████ ██████████, ASW and Vivian Hurst, ASW supervisor.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny the Appellant's request for 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 disabled, 44-year-old Medicaid-SSI beneficiary. (Appellant's Exhibit #1)
2. The Appellant alleges disability through cervical/lumbar pain, CTS, headaches, balance dysfunction, OSA, arthritis, fibromyalgia, pinched nerve in right shoulder and HTN. (Department's Exhibit A, page 9)
3. The Appellant said that she needs help with all activities of daily living as she is frequently bedridden with pain and immobilized due to medication. (See Testimony of Appellant)
4. The Appellant said that she was recently diagnosed [in ██████████] with fibromyalgia. (See Testimony)

5. The Department witness testified that she made contact with the Appellant on ██████████, for an in-home assessment. While there, the ASW did not observe a need for hands on services for any ADL at a ranking of 3 or greater. The ASW reported that the Appellant sought only assistance with IADLs of housework, shopping, meals and laundry. (See Testimony and Department's Exhibit A, page 11)
6. The Department witness, ASW Boynton, sent the Appellant an Adequate Negative Action Notice on ██████████, denying services effective ██████████. (Department's Exhibit A, pages 2, 5 and 11)
7. The Appellant's further appeal rights were contained in the Adequate Negative Action Notice.
8. 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 with a ranking of 3 or greater. She said she ranked her at a level “2” for bathing and mobility – still below the minimum threshold of 3 or greater on need for ADL. She explained policy developments and advised the Appellant and her choreprovider that she would be denied the Home Help Program for lack of need with hands-on assistance.

At hearing the Appellant explained that she needs help with personal hygiene and “day-to-day living.” She said she doesn’t eat unless her family brings her something and that she is incapable of self hygiene owing to chronic pain. On cross examination she said she could hold a cup - but could not brush her teeth because she can’t move her hands – although she is capable of wiping herself after using the toilet.

The ASW offered that the Appellant was “scheduled for gastric by-pass surgery on ██████████ ██████████” – post assessment. The Appellant said she did not know she would have to go through this process to get some assistance.

It is the province of the ASW to determine 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 ASW found her to rank at level two (2) for the ADLs of bathing and mobility.

The Appellant failed to preponderate her burden of proof that the Department erred in terminating her HHS, because at the time of assessment she demonstrated no physical need for assistance with personal care.

Even though the Appellant would likely benefit from medication management owing to her chronic pain and many medications the ALJ has no authority to deviate from Medicaid policy to reach such an equitable result.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Department properly denied the Appellant's request for Home Help Services (HHS).

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that:

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

  \S\    
Dale Malewska  
Administrative Law Judge  
For James K. Haveman, Director  
Michigan Department of Community Health

cc:

[REDACTED]

Date Mailed:   9/19/12  

**\*\*\* 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.