

**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) 373-4147

IN THE MATTER OF:

██████████,

Appellant

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Docket No. 2013-17104 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. ██████████, Appeals Review Officer, represented the Department. His witness was ██████████, ASW.

**PRELIMINARY MATTER**

The admission of Joint Exhibit B the ██████████ DHS-54A [medical needs] form was taken under advisement at hearing. Following receipt and review, the document is admitted – without objection.

At hearing the Appellant appeared to comprehend the actions taken by the Department and the purpose of her appeal. She acknowledged [in her testimony] receiving services from Community Mental Health.

**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 is afflicted with schizoaffective disorder. (Department's Exhibit A, p. 14; Joint Ex. B and See Testimony of Appellant)

- 3) The Department witness [ASW ██████████] testified that on in-home assessment she did not observe any limits to the Appellant's ability to perform ADLs. Furthermore, the Appellant told the ASW that she did not need assistance with "...bathing, grooming, dressing, toileting, transferring, continence, eating, respiration, and mobility." The in-home assessment was conducted on ██████████. (Department's Exhibit A, page 11)
- 4) The Department witness said she reviewed the new policy requiring at least one ADL at a ranking of three (3) or better to qualify for HHS. She identified no need for ADLs in the Appellant. (See Testimony and Department's Exhibit A, pp. 11 and 12)
- 5) On ██████████, the Department sent the Appellant an Adequate Negative Action Notice (DHS-1212-A) advising her that her HHS benefits would be terminated on ██████████ ██████████.<sup>1</sup> (Department's Exhibit A, pp. 2, 6)
- 6) The request for hearing on the instant appeal was received by the Michigan Administrative Hearing System for the Department of Community Health on August 23, 2012. (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.

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<sup>1</sup> Of course, retroactive or same-day termination of benefits is prohibited under the notice requirements for termination of HHS benefits. (See ASM 150, page 2 of 4, 11-1-2011) The correct notice should have been a DHS 1212 Advance Negative Action Notice – with an effective date of ██████████. The Department's exhibit deemed its action a termination. Department's Ex. A, page 2.

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 5, 5-1-2012.

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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 that the Appellant had no need for ADL assistance. She said the Appellant also informed her that she had no need for assistance with any ADL, but rather needed assistance with the IADLs of housework, shopping, laundry, meal preparation and “reminding” to take medication.

The Department's witness testified that she explained recent policy developments and advised the Appellant that she would be terminated from the home help program for lack of need with hands-on assistance with activities of daily living.

At hearing, the Appellant said that she needs her choreprovider to keep her functioning in “...normal society. I am not always in my right mind – that's the whole point of it.” She explained that she receives services from Community Mental Health, but that she was “...recently put on probation for getting another doctor.”

It is the province of the ASW to determine eligibility for services; the ASM requires an in-home 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.

Since the Appellant has now exhausted her available services under the HHS program it is incumbent on the ASW to further advocate for the Appellant in receiving CMH sponsored Community Living Supports (CLS) to address the medication needs<sup>2</sup> articulated by the Appellant at hearing. [ASM 125, Coordination With Other Services, pp. 1, 2 of 10, November 1, 2011 and ASM 205]

While the Appellant failed to preponderate her burden of proof that the Department erred in terminating her HHS, the Department failed to provide the Appellant 10-business days of notice as required under ASM 150.

## **DECISION AND ORDER**

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<sup>2</sup> Based on the evidence the ALJ believes that the Appellant does suffer from schizoaffective disorder and takes many medications. This diagnosis carries other important implications such as avoiding anxiety, avoiding isolation and maintaining relationships necessary for successful psychotherapeutic treatment. Yudofsky, M.D., *Fatal Flaws*, (VA: American Psychiatric Publishing, Inc., 2005), p. 409

[REDACTED]  
Docket No. 2013-17104 HHS  
Hearing Decision & Order

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

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that:

The Department's decision is AFFIRMED, in part, and REVERSED, in part.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that:

The Department shall reinstate HHS benefits payable through [REDACTED].

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

cc:

[REDACTED]

Date Mailed: 3/5/2013

**\*\*\* 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.