

**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.

\_\_\_\_\_ /

Docket No. 2013-40993 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.*, and upon the Appellant's request for a hearing.

After due notice, a hearing was held on ██████████. Appellant appeared and testified on his own behalf. ██████████, Appellant's nephew and care provider also testified as a witness for Appellant. ██████████, Appeals Review Officer, represented the Department of Community Health. ██████████, Adult Services Worker (ASW), and ██████████, Adult Services Supervisor, from the ██████████ County DHS ██████████ office appeared as witnesses for the Department.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny Appellant's application 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. Appellant is a ██████ year-old man who has been diagnosed with hypertension, anxiety, Hepatitis C, a Vitamin D deficiency, and degenerative joint disease of knees. (Respondent's Exhibit A, page 17).
2. On ██████████, Appellant was referred for HHS. (Respondent's Exhibit A, page 15).
3. As part of his application, Appellant submitted a medical needs form signed by his doctor. That form indicated that Appellant has a medical need for assistance with housekeeping for six weeks. (Testimony of Appellant; Testimony of ██████████; Respondent's Exhibit A, page 6).

4. On ██████████, ASW ██████████ conducted a visit and assessment in Appellant's home. Only Appellant was present. (Respondent's Exhibit A, pages 13-14).
5. During that visit, Appellant reported that he needs a housekeeper. Near the end of the assessment, he also stated that his nephew/provider sometimes assists Appellant with bathing by running the water and washing Appellant's back. (Respondent's Exhibit A, page 14; Testimony of ASW ██████████).
6. ASW ██████████ also observed Appellant walking and transferring without assistance. She did note that, while he was not using it at the time, Appellant has a cane. (Respondent's Exhibit A, page 14; Testimony of ASW ██████████).
7. On ██████████, ASW ██████████ met with Appellant's nephew/provider. During that meeting, the provider indicated that he assists Appellant with light housework, cooking, and shopping. He did not identify any assistance with bathing. (Respondent's Exhibit A, page 12; Testimony of ASW ██████████).
8. Based on the medical needs form; the statements made by Appellant and his provider; and her own observations; ASW ██████████ determined that Appellant did not meet the criteria for HHS as he did not require any hands-on assistance with any Activities of Daily Living (ADLs). (Respondent's Exhibit A, page 25; Testimony of ASW ██████████).
9. On ██████████, the Department sent written notice to Appellant indicating that his application for HHS was being denied because Appellant did not have a need for hands-on physical assistance with any ADLs. (Respondent's Exhibit A, pages 5, 7-11).
10. On ██████████, the Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) received a Request for Hearing filed by Appellant in this matter. (Respondent's Exhibit A, pages 3-5).

### **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.

ASM 101 and Adult Services Manual 120 (5-1-2012) (hereinafter "ASM 120") address the issues of what services are included in Home Help Services and how such services are assessed. For example, ASM 101 provides:

### **Home Help Payment Services**

Home help services are non-specialized personal care service activities provided under the independent living services program to persons who meet eligibility requirements.

Home help services are provided to enable individuals with functional limitation(s), resulting from a medical or physical disability or cognitive impairment to live independently and receive care in the least restrictive, preferred settings.

Home help services are defined as those tasks which the department is paying for through Title XIX (Medicaid) funds. These services are furnished to individuals who are **not** currently residing in a hospital, nursing facility, licensed foster care home/home for the aged, intermediate care facility (ICF) for persons with developmental disabilities or institution for mental illness.

These activities must be certified by a Medicaid enrolled medical professional and may be provided by individuals or by private or public agencies. **The medical professional does not prescribe or authorize personal care services.** Needed services are determined by the comprehensive assessment conducted by the adult services specialist.

Personal care services which are eligible for Title XIX funding are limited to:

#### Activities of Daily Living (ADL)

- Eating.
- Toileting.
- Bathing.
- Grooming.

- Dressing.
- Transferring.
- Mobility.

Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL)

- Taking medication.
- Meal preparation/cleanup.
- Shopping for food and other necessities of daily living.
- Laundry.
- Housework.

*An individual must be assessed with at least one activity of daily living (ADL) in order to be eligible to receive home help services.*

**Note:** If the assessment determines a need for an ADL at a level 3 or greater but these services are not paid for by the department, the individual would be eligible to receive IADL services.

**Example:** Ms. Smith is assessed at a level 4 for bathing however she refuses to receive assistance. Ms. Smith would be eligible to receive assistance with IADL's if the assessment determines a need at a level 3 or greater. [ASM 101, pages 1-2 of 4 (italics added).]

Moreover, ASM 120 states:

**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**

ADLs and IADLs 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.

Home Help payments may only be authorized for needs assessed at the 3 level or greater.

*An individual must be assessed with at least one activity of daily living in order to be eligible to receive home help services.*

**Note:** If the assessment determines a need for an ADL at a level 3 or greater but these services are not paid for by the department, the individual would be eligible to receive IADL services.

**Example:** Ms. Smith is assessed at a level 4 for bathing however she refuses to receive assistance. Ms. Smith would be eligible to receive assistance with IADL's if the assessment determines a need at a level 3 or greater.

See ASM 121, Functional Assessment Definitions and Ranks for a description of the rankings for activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living. [ASM 120, pages 2-3 of 5 (italics added).]

As described in the above policy, an individual is only eligible to receive HHS if he or she has a need for assistance with at least one ADL at a level 3 or greater.

The Department found that Appellant has no such need in this case and is therefore ineligible to receive HHS for assistance as he requested. That decision was based on the information obtained directly from Appellant, his care provider, and his doctor. The medical needs form submitted by Appellant's doctor indicated that Appellant only had a temporary need for assistance with the IADL of housework. Similarly, Appellant primarily requested housekeeping assistance during the assessment and his provider did not report that he assists Appellant with any ADLs.

In response, Appellant does not dispute that the medical needs form only indicates a need for assistance with one IADL. He did testify that his provider does assist him with ADLs such as bathing, dressing and grooming. However, Appellant could not remember exactly what needs he reported to ASW ██████████. Similarly, Appellant's provider could not remember what he told ASW ██████████ and could only testify that he does what needs to be done for Appellant.

Appellant bears the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the Department erred in denying her application. In this case, given the above testimony and evidence regarding Appellant's request for services and need for assistance, Appellant has failed to meet that burden. The medical needs form submitted by Appellant's doctor only identified a temporary need for assistance with the IADL of housework. Similarly, Appellant's provider did not report any assistance with ADLs and Appellant mainly requested a housekeeper during the home visit. Accordingly, the

[REDACTED]  
Docket No. 2013-40993 HHS  
Decision and Order

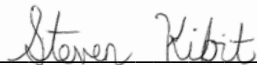
Department properly found that Appellant has no need for physical assistance with any ADLs and its decision to deny services on that basis must be affirmed.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that the Department properly denied Appellant's request for HHS.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

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



\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven Kibit  
Administrative Law Judge  
for James K. Haveman, Director  
Michigan Department of Community Health

[REDACTED]  
Date Signed: 7/09/2013

Date Mailed: 7/9/2013

cc: [REDACTED]

**\*\*\* 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.