

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg. No.: 2014-25377
Issue No(s): 2004; 3000; 6000
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: March 3, 2014
County: Wayne (43)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Eric Feldman

HEARING DECISION

Following Claimant's request for a hearing, this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and 400.37; 7 CFR 273.15 to 273.18; 42 CFR 431.200 to 431.250; 45 CFR 99.1 to 99.33; and 45 CFR 205.10. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on March 3, 2014, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department or DHS) included [REDACTED], Eligibility Specialist, and [REDACTED], Eligibility Specialist.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly process Claimant's Medical Assistance (MA) application dated September 16, 2013 and retroactive MA request from June to August 2013?

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. On September 16, 2013, Claimant applied for MA benefits and also sought retroactive MA coverage (June to August 2013). See Exhibit A.
2. The Department failed to process Claimant's MA application/retroactive request.
3. On January 27, 2014, Claimant filed a hearing request, protesting her MA application, Child Development and Care (CDC) program denial, and Food Assistance Program (FAP) allotment. See Exhibit 1.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Department policies are contained in the Department of Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), Department of Human Services Reference Tables Manual (RFT), and Department of Human Services Emergency Relief Manual (ERM).

The Food Assistance Program (FAP) [formerly known as the Food Stamp program] is established by the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, 7 USC 2011 to 2036a and is implemented by the federal regulations contained in 7 CFR 271.1 to 285.5. The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10 and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001 to .3015.

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by the Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396-1396w-5, and is implemented by 42 CFR 400.200 to 1008.59. The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the MA program pursuant to MCL 400.10 and MCL 400.105.

The Child Development and Care (CDC) program is established by Titles IVA, IVE and XX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 601-619, 670-679c, and 1397-1397m-5; the Child Care and Development Block Grant of 1990, PL 101-508, 42 USC 9858 to 9858q; and the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, PL 104-193. The program is implemented by 45 CFR 98.1-99.33. The Department administers the program pursuant to MCL 400.10 and provides services to adults and children pursuant to MCL 400.14(1) and Mich Admin Code, R 400.5001-.5020.

Preliminary matter

On January 27, 2014, Claimant filed a hearing request, protesting her CDC program denial and FAP allotment. See Exhibit 1. Shortly after commencement of the hearing, Claimant testified that she now understood the actions taken by the Department and did not wish to proceed with the CDC and FAP hearing request. Thus, Claimant's FAP and CDC hearing request (dated January 27, 2014) is DISMISSED.

MA application

The Department determines eligibility and benefit amounts for all requested programs. BAM 105 (July 2013), p. 13.

Any person, regardless of age, or their authorized representative (AR) may apply for assistance. BAM 110 (July 2013), p. 4. The Department must register a signed application or filing form, with the minimum information, within one workday for all requested programs. BAM 110, p. 19.

The standard of promptness (SOP) begins the date the department receives an application/filing form, with minimum required information. BAM 115 (July 2013), p. 15. For MA applications, the Department certifies the program approval or denial of the application within 45 days. BAM 115, p. 15. However, there are exceptions to these benefits programs for processing times, which are described as follows: 90 days for MA categories in which disability is an eligibility factor. BAM 115, p. 16. The SOP can be extended 60 days from the date of deferral by the Medical Review Team. BAM 115, p. 16.

Moreover, if the group is ineligible or refuses to cooperate in the application process, the Department must certify the denial within the standard of promptness and also send a DHS-1605, Client Notice, or the DHS-1150, Application Eligibility Notice, with the denial reason(s). BAM 115, p. 23. If approved, the Department sends the DHS-1605 detailing the approval at certification of program opening. BAM 115, p. 23.

In this case, on September 16, 2013, Claimant applied for MA benefits and also sought retroactive MA coverage (June to August 2013). See Exhibit A. The Department failed to process Claimant's MA application/retroactive request. First, the Department presented a program request – summary document, which indicated no MA application for September 2013. See Exhibit 1. However, the Department also presented an electronic case file, which did acknowledge an online application for September 16, 2013. See Exhibit 1. It appears the online application was sent to a different DHS location. See Exhibit A. Moreover, there was no evidence presented if the Department processed and sent a denial for this application. Claimant testified that she did not receive a denial notice regarding the MA application.

Based on the foregoing information and evidence, the Department failed to process Claimant's MA application dated September 16, 2013 and retroactive MA coverage (June to August 2013). Claimant presented credible evidence that she submitted an online MA application on September 16, 2013. See Exhibit A. Also, the electronic case filed document also acknowledged an online application it received on September 16, 2013. See Exhibit 1. Moreover, Claimant credibly testified that she did not receive a notice regarding the status (approval or denial) of the application. Because the Department failed to process Claimant's MA and retroactive application, it will register the MA application dated September 16, 2013 and retroactive MA coverage (June to August 2013) in accordance with Department policy. BAM 105, p. 13; BAM 110, pp. 4 and 19 and BAM 115, pp. 15, 16, and 23.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds that the Department did not act in accordance with Department policy when it failed to process Claimant's MA application dated September 16, 2013 and retroactive MA coverage (June to August 2013).

Accordingly, the Department's MA decision is REVERSED.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO BEGIN DOING THE FOLLOWING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT POLICY AND CONSISTENT WITH THIS HEARING DECISION, WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS DECISION AND ORDER:

1. Register the MA application dated September 16, 2013 and retroactive MA coverage (June to August 2013);
2. Begin processing the application/calculating the MA budget for June 2013, ongoing, in accordance with Department policy;
3. Issue supplements to Claimant for any MA benefits she was eligible to receive but did not from June 2013, ongoing; and
4. Notify Claimant in writing of its MA decision in accordance with Department policy.

IT IS ALSO ORDERED that Claimant's FAP and CDC hearing request (dated January 27, 2014) is **DISMISSED**.



Eric Feldman
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: March 6, 2014

Date Mailed: March 6, 2014

NOTICE OF APPEAL: The claimant 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 or Reconsideration was made, within 30 days of the receipt date of the Decision and Order of Reconsideration or Rehearing Decision.

Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) may order a rehearing or reconsideration on either its own motion or at the request of a party within 30 days of the mailing date of this Decision and Order. MAHS will not order a rehearing or reconsideration on the Department's motion where the final decision cannot be implemented within 90 days of the filing of the original request (60 days for FAP cases).

A Request for Rehearing or Reconsideration may be granted when one of the following exists:

- Newly discovered evidence that existed at the time of the original hearing that could affect the outcome of the original hearing decision;
- Misapplication of manual policy or law in the hearing decision which led to a wrong conclusion;

- Typographical, mathematical or other obvious error in the hearing decision that affects the rights of the client;
- Failure of the ALJ to address in the hearing decision relevant issues raised in the hearing request.

The Department, AHR or the claimant must specify all reasons for the request. MAHS will not review any response to a request for rehearing/reconsideration. A request must be *received* in MAHS within 30 days of the date the hearing decision is mailed.

The written request must be faxed to (517) 335-6088 and be labeled as follows:

Attention: MAHS Rehearing/Reconsideration Request

If submitted by mail, the written request must be addressed as follows:

Michigan Administrative Hearings
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request
P.O. Box 30639
Lansing, Michigan 48909-07322

EJF/tlf

cc:

