

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 201429332
Issue No.: 2002, 3002
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: March 26, 2014
County: Macomb County DHS #36

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Kevin Scully

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 26, 2014, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

ISSUE

Whether the Department of Human Services (Department) properly closed the Claimant's Medical Assistance (M.A.) and Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits?

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 Claimant was an ongoing Medical Assistance (M.A.) and Food Assistance Program (FAP) recipient.
2. On December 2, 2013, the Department sent the Claimant a Semi-Annual Contact (DHS-1046).
3. On January 10, 2014, the Department notified the Claimant that his Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits would close effective January 31, 2014.
4. On January 21, 2014, the Department notified the Claimant that it would close his Medical Assistance (M.A.) benefits.
5. The Department received the Claimant's request for a hearing on February 25, 2014, protesting the closure of Medical Assistance (M.A.) and Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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 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 Department will re-determine eligibility for active deductible cases at least every 12 months unless the group has not met its deductible within the past three months. If a group has not met its deductible in at least one of the three calendar months before that month and none of the members are QMB, SLM or ALM eligible, the Department will automatically notify the group of closure. Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 545 (July 1, 2013), p 11.

In this case, the Claimant was an ongoing Medical Assistance (M.A.) recipient but failed to meet his deductible for three months. On January 21, 2014, the Department notified the Claimant that it would close his Medical Assistance (M.A.) case.

The Claimant did not dispute that he has not met his deductible. The Claimant testified that he did not submit receipts because he knew that his medical expenses were low enough that he would not meet his deductible.

The Department established that it was acting in accordance with policy when it closed the Claimant's Medical Assistance (M.A.) benefits.

Clients must cooperate with the local office in determining initial and ongoing eligibility. This includes the completion of necessary forms. Department of Human Services Bridges Assistance Manual (BAM) 105 (March 1, 2013), p 5. Verification means documentation or other evidence to establish the accuracy of the client's verbal or written statements. Department of Human Services Bridges Assistance Manual (BAM) 130 (May 1, 2012), p 1. Verification is usually required at application/redetermination and for a reported change affecting eligibility or benefit level when it is required by policy, required as a local office option, or information regarding an eligibility factor is unclear, inconsistent, incomplete, or contradictory. BAM 130. The Department uses documents, collateral contacts, or home calls to verify information. BAM 130. A collateral contact is a direct contact with a person, organization, or agency to verify information from the client. BAM 130. When documentation is not available, or clarification is needed, collateral contact may be necessary. BAM 130.

The Claimant was an ongoing Food Assistance Program (FAP) recipient. On December 2, 2013, the Department sent the Claimant a Semi-Annual Contact (DHS-1046). When the Department did not receive the completed semi-annual contact form, it notified the Claimant on January 10, 2014, that it would close his Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits as of January 31, 2014.

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The Claimant testified that he returned the completed semi-annual contact report. The Claimant testified that he attempted to contact his caseworker on numerous occasions, but his calls were never returned.

Clients have the right to contest a department decision affecting eligibility or benefit levels whenever it is believed that the decision is incorrect. The Department will provide an administrative hearing to review the decision and determine the appropriateness. The Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) may grant a hearing for any of the following:

MAHS may grant a hearing about any of the following:

- Denial of an application and/or supplemental payments.
- Reduction in the amount of program benefits or service.
- Suspension or termination of program benefits or service.
- Restrictions under which benefits or services are provided.
- Delay of any action beyond standards of promptness.
- For FAP only, the current level of benefits or denial of expedited service. Department of Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) 600 (July 1, 2013), p 4.


Whether the Claimant's caseworker provided satisfactory service is not within the jurisdiction of the Michigan Administrative Hearing System, but only whether the closure of benefits was proper.

Based on the evidence and testimony available during the hearing, this Administrative Law Judge finds that the Claimant failed to establish that he returned the Semi-Annual Contact (DHS-1046) in a timely manner. Therefore, the Department has established that it was acting in accordance with policy when it closed the Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits.

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 acted in accordance with Department policy when it closed the Claimant's Medical Assistance (M.A.) and Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits.

Accordingly, the Department's decision is AFFIRMED.



Kevin Scully
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura D. Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: March 27, 2014

Date Mailed: March 27, 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:

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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

KS/hj

cc:

