

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

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Reg. No.: 13-000217
Issue No.: 2004
Case No.: ██████████
Hearing Date: August 6, 2014
County: Wayne-District 35

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Zainab Baydoun

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 three way telephone hearing was held on August 6, 2014, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included her Authorized Hearing Representative (AHR), ██████████; ██████████, Inc. (L&S). Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included ██████████, Hearings Facilitator.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly process Claimant's application for Medical Assistance (MA) benefits?

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 January 29, 2013, L&S submitted an application for MA benefits, retroactive to October 2012, in the name of Claimant, on behalf of her son, who is a minor child.
2. On October 17, 2013, L&S submitted a hearing request on behalf of Claimant, disputing the Department's actions and requesting that the Department properly process the MA application.

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 Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396-1396w-5; 42 USC 1315; the Affordable Care Act of 2010, the collective term for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Pub. L. No. 111-148, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-152; and 42 CFR 430.10-.25. The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the MA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10, and MCL 400.105-.112k.

Additionally, when the Department receives an application for assistance, it is to be registered and processed in accordance with Department policies. The date of application is the date the local office receives the required minimum information on an application or the filing form. BAM 110 (January 2013), pp.4,6. The standard of promptness (SOP) begins the date the department receives an application/filing form, with minimum required information. BAM 115 (January 2013), pp. 1,12. Retro MA coverage is available back to the first day of the third calendar month prior to the current application for FIP and MA applicants and persons applying to be added to the group. BAM 115, pp. 9-10.

The Department is to certify program approval or denial of the application within 45 days, unless an exception applies and upon certification of eligibility results, the Department is to notify clients in writing of positive and negative actions by generating the appropriate notice of case action. After processing an initial application, the Department will notify clients of the approval or denial. BAM 115, pp. 1, 13-19;BAM 220 (November 2012), p. 1.

In this case, the Department testified that it had no record of whether the January 29, 2013; MA application submitted by L&S in the name of Claimant on behalf of her minor son, was registered and processed. The Department stated that it subsequently received a second MA application for Claimant's son, which was registered and processed. The Department testified that Claimant's son was subsequently approved for MA benefits, effective June 1, 2013; however, this approval was in connection with the second application, not the first application submitted by L&S.

At the hearing, Claimant's AHR testified that the application was delivered to the Department on January 29, 2013, and that it never received any communication from the Department concerning the application, despite sending the Department letters inquiring about the status of the application. Claimant's AHR presented documentation in support of its testimony, specifically a Fed Ex confirmation that an application was received by the Department on January 29, 2013, as well as letters sent to the

Department dated August 2, 2013 and August 26, 2013. (Exhibit A). The Department acknowledged that there were certain errors in the processing of Claimant's MA application and stated that eligibility should have been determined for the requested retro period, ongoing.

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 failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it processed Claimant's MA benefits.

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's 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 and process Claimant's January 29, 2013, application for MA, retroactive to October 2012, to determine Claimant's son's eligibility for MA benefits under the most beneficial category;
2. Issue supplements to Claimant for any MA coverage that her son was entitled to receive but did not from October 2012, ongoing; and
3. Notify Claimant and L&S of its decision in writing.



Zainab Baydoun

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

Date Signed: **8/25/2014**

Date Mailed: **8/25/2014**

ZB / tlf

NOTICE OF APPEAL: A party may appeal this Hearing Decision in the circuit court in the county in which he/she resides, or the circuit court in Ingham County, within 30 days of the receipt date.

A party may request a rehearing or reconsideration of this Hearing Decision from the Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) within 30 days of the mailing date of this Hearing Decision, or MAHS may order a rehearing or reconsideration on its own motion.

MAHS may grant a party's Request for Rehearing or Reconsideration 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 party requesting a rehearing or reconsideration 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 this Hearing Decision is mailed.

A written request may be faxed or mailed to MAHS. If submitted by fax, 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

CC: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]