

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 14-000938
Issue No.: 2001;4001
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: May 15, 2014
County: Oakland (02)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: C. Adam Purnell

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 May 15, 2014 from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED] (Claimant's Authorized Hearing Representative (AHR) from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] (Claimant). Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED] (Eligibility Specialist) and [REDACTED] (Assistance Payments Supervisor).

ISSUE

Did the Department properly process Claimant's applications for Medical Assistance alleging disability (MA-P) and State Disability Assistance (SDA)?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. Claimant applied for MA-P and SDA on August 17, 2012.
2. Claimant applied again for MA-P on October 17, 2012.
3. The Department forwarded Claimant's medical information and packet to the Medical Review Team (MRT).
4. On or about May 31, 2013, Advomas submitted an application for MA-P on Claimant's behalf.

5. On June 12, 2013, the Department mailed Claimant a Notice of Case Action (DHS-1605) which denied Claimant's application effective August 1, 2012.
6. On August 15, 2013, the Social Security Administration (SSA) sent Claimant a Notice of Decision-Fully Favorable which approved his application for social security disability benefits with an onset date of December 31, 2012.
7. On April 3, 2014, Claimant's AHR from ██████████ requested a hearing to prompt the Department to process Claimant's May 31, 2014 application for MA-P. The request for hearing also provides that because Claimant was approved for RSDI, he is eligible for MA-P coverage for February, 2013.

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.

Here, the Department concedes that Claimant was entitled to MA-P benefits back to February, 2013. The Department representative who attended the hearing testified that a remedy ticket was required to effectuate the MA-P coverage back to February, 2013. Claimant's AHR did not dispute the Department's contention in this regard.

Testimony and other evidence must be weighed and considered according to its reasonableness. *Gardiner v Courtright*, 165 Mich 54, 62; 130 NW 322 (1911); *Dep't of Community Health v Risch*, 274 Mich App 365, 372; 733 NW2d 403 (2007). The weight and credibility of this evidence is generally for the fact-finder to determine. *Dep't of Community Health*, 274 Mich App at 372; *People v Terry*, 224 Mich App 447, 452; 569 NW2d 641 (1997). Moreover, it is for the fact-finder to gauge the demeanor and veracity of the witnesses who appear before him, as best he is able. See, e.g., *Caldwell v Fox*, 394 Mich 401, 407; 231 NW2d 46 (1975); *Zeeland Farm Services, Inc v JBL Enterprises, Inc*, 219 Mich App 190, 195; 555 NW2d 733 (1996).

This Administrative Law Judge has carefully considered and weighed the testimony and other evidence in the record. There was no genuine issue that existed between the parties in this matter. Both parties agreed that Claimant was entitled to MA-P coverage

for February, 2013. The SDA program was not implicated and Claimant's AHR did not request a hearing concerning this program. Claimant's AHR did not make any other requests and the Department did not indicate that any other issues existed in this matter.

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 determined that Claimant was not eligible for MA-P.

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. The Department shall redetermine Claimant's MA-P eligibility back to the date of closure.
2. The Department shall determine whether Claimant is entitled to MA coverage for the month of February, 2013.
3. To the extent necessary, the Department shall request a remedy ticket, on an expedited basis, to effectuate any changes related to this order.
4. To the extent required by policy, the Department shall provide Claimant with supplemental and/or retroactive MA-P benefits.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



C. Adam Purnell
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: **5/21/2014**

Date Mailed: **5/22/2014**

CAP/las

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:

