

**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.** 2014-10153 CMH

██████████

██████████

**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 request for a hearing filed on behalf of the minor Appellant.

After due notice, a hearing was held on ██████████, Appellant's mother, appeared and testified on his behalf. ██████████ Assistance Corporation Counsel, represented Respondent ██████████ County Community Mental Health ("CMH"). ██████████, Director of the CMH's Access Center, testified as a witness for the CMH.

**ISSUE**

Did the CMH properly authorize ██████████ hours of Community Living Supports (CLS) per week for Appellant rather than the ██████████ hours requested?

**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 CMH is under contract with the Michigan Department of Community Health (DCH) to provide specified Medicaid covered services to people who reside in its service area.
2. Appellant is an ██████████ year-old male who has been diagnosed with autistic disorder; severe mental retardation; and epilepsy unspecified without intractable epilepsy. (Respondent's Exhibit A, pages 10, 29).
3. Appellant has been receiving services through the CMH since at least ██████████ (Respondent's Exhibit A, page 17).
4. At times, Appellant's services have included CLS, respite care services, speech and language services, and behavioral services. (Respondent's Exhibit A, page 17).

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5. Appellant also receives occupational therapy (OT) and speech and language therapy (SLT) through his school in a group setting. (Respondent's Exhibit 17).
6. On [REDACTED], a person center plan (PCP) was held regarding the reauthorization of services for the upcoming year. (Respondent's Exhibit A, pages 40-54).
7. As part of that process, Appellant was subsequently authorized for [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] hours of respite care services per month. (Respondent's Exhibit A, pages 52-53).
8. Appellant was also authorized for CLS, but the amount requested and approved is disputed. (Testimony of Appellant's representative; Testimony of [REDACTED])
9. According to Appellant's representative, Appellant was previously receiving [REDACTED] [REDACTED] hours a week of CLS and she wanted to continue with that amount. (Testimony of Appellant's representative).
10. One part of the PCP meeting report also indicated that Appellant had agreed to [REDACTED] hours a week of CLS. (Respondent's Exhibit A, page 45).
11. However, the authorization portion of the PCP indicated that Appellant was only requesting [REDACTED] hours of CLS per week and that is also the amount the CMH's witness believed Appellant was previously receiving. (Respondent's Exhibit A, pages 52-53; Testimony of [REDACTED])
12. Appellant was authorized for [REDACTED] hours a week of CLS. (Respondent's Exhibit A, pages 52-53; Testimony of [REDACTED]).
13. On [REDACTED] the CMH also sent Appellant's representative written notice of a denial of her request for any additional CLS. (Respondent's Exhibit A, page 6).
14. The notice specifically provided that the request was being denied because the "amount of CLS services authorized can meet the consumer's needs of community, integration, productivity, and independence." (Respondent's Exhibit A, page 6).
15. On [REDACTED], the Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) received a Request for Hearing with respect to the CMH's decision. (Respondent's Exhibit A, page 8).

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

As a preliminary matter, this Administrative law Judge would note that, while the parties dispute the amount of CLS hours Appellant was previously receiving, that previous amount is immaterial in this matter. The action in dispute is a new authorization of CLS for the upcoming year and, as a new authorization, it would not constitute a reduction in services even if Appellant was receiving █████ hours a week under his previous plan. Moreover, this Administrative Law Judge's jurisdiction is limited to reviewing the CMH's decision in light of the information it had at the time of that decision and, while the amount of services authorized in the past may be relevant, it is not dispositive. Therefore, the issue in this case is whether the authorization of █████ hours per week of CLS, rather than the requested █████ hours per week, was proper given the information available at the time, regardless of what Appellant had been authorized for before.

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.

Title XIX of the Social Security Act, enacted in 1965, authorizes Federal grants to States for medical assistance to low-income persons who are age 65 or over, blind, disabled, or members of families with dependent children or qualified pregnant women or children. The program is jointly financed by the Federal and State governments and administered by States. Within broad Federal rules, each State decides eligible groups, types and range of services, payment levels for services, and administrative and operating procedures. Payments for services are made directly by the State to the individuals or entities that furnish the services.

*42 CFR 430.0*

The State plan is a comprehensive written statement submitted by the agency describing the nature and scope of its Medicaid program and giving assurance that it will be administered in conformity with the specific requirements of title XIX, the regulations in this Chapter IV, and other applicable official issuances of the Department. The State plan contains all information necessary for CMS to determine whether the plan can be approved to serve as a basis for Federal financial participation (FFP) in the State program.

*42 CFR 430.10*

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Moreover, Section 1915(b) of the Social Security Act provides:

The Secretary, to the extent he finds it to be cost-effective and efficient and not inconsistent with the purposes of this subchapter, may waive such requirements of section 1396a of this title (other than subsection(s) of this section) (other than sections 1396a(a)(15), 1396a(bb), and 1396a(a)(10)(A) of this title insofar as it requires provision of the care and services described in section 1396d(a)(2)(C) of this title) as may be necessary for a State...

The State of Michigan has opted to simultaneously utilize the authorities of the 1915(b) and 1915(c) programs to provide a continuum of services to disabled and/or elderly populations. Under approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) the Department of Community Health (MDCH) operates a section 1915(b) and 1915(c) Medicaid Managed Specialty Services and Support program waiver.

The CMH contracts with the Michigan Department of Community Health to provide services under the waiver pursuant to its contract obligations with the Department.

Among the services that can be provided by the CMH are Community Living Supports (CLS). With respect to CLS, the applicable version of the Medicaid Provider Manual (MPM) provides:

**17.3.B. COMMUNITY LIVING SUPPORTS**

Community Living Supports are used to increase or maintain personal self-sufficiency, facilitating an individual's achievement of his goals of community inclusion and participation, independence or productivity. The supports may be provided in the participant's residence or in community settings (including, but not limited to, libraries, city pools, camps, etc.).

Coverage includes:

- Assisting (that exceeds state plan for adults), prompting, reminding, cueing, observing, guiding and/or training in the following activities:
  - meal preparation
  - laundry

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- routine, seasonal, and heavy household care and maintenance
- activities of daily living (e.g., bathing, eating, dressing, personal hygiene)
- shopping for food and other necessities of daily living

CLS services may not supplant state plan services, e.g., Personal Care (assistance with ADLs in a certified specialized residential setting) and Home Help or Expanded Home Help (assistance in the individual's own, unlicensed home with meal preparation, laundry, routine household care and maintenance, activities of daily living and shopping). If such assistance appears to be needed, the beneficiary must request Home Help and, if necessary, Expanded Home Help from the Department of Human Services (DHS). CLS may be used for those activities while the beneficiary awaits determination by DHS of the amount, scope and duration of Home Help or Expanded Home Help. If the beneficiary requests it, the PIHP case manager or supports coordinator must assist him/her in requesting Home Help or in filling out and sending a request for Fair Hearing when the beneficiary believes that the DHS authorization of amount, scope and duration of Home Help does not appear to reflect the beneficiary's needs based on the findings of the DHS assessment.

- Staff assistance, support and/or training with activities such as:
  - money management
  - non-medical care (not requiring nurse or physician intervention)
  - socialization and relationship building
  - transportation from the beneficiary's residence to community activities, among community activities, and from the community activities back to the

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beneficiary's residence (transportation to and from medical appointments is excluded)

- participation in regular community activities and recreation opportunities (e.g., attending classes, movies, concerts and events in a park; volunteering; voting)
- attendance at medical appointments
- acquiring or procuring goods, other than those listed under shopping, and non-medical services
- Reminding, observing and/or monitoring of medication administration
- Staff assistance with preserving the health and safety of the individual in order that he/she may reside or be supported in the most integrated, independent community setting.

CLS may be provided in a licensed specialized residential setting as a complement to, and in conjunction with, state plan coverage Personal Care in Specialized Residential Settings. Transportation to medical appointments is covered by Medicaid through DHS or the Medicaid Health Plan. Payment for CLS services may not be made, directly or indirectly, to responsible relatives (i.e., spouses, or parents of minor children), or guardian of the beneficiary receiving community living supports.

CLS assistance with meal preparation, laundry, routine household care and maintenance, activities of daily living and/or shopping may be used to complement Home Help or Expanded Home Help services when the individual's needs for this assistance have been officially determined to exceed the DHS's allowable parameters. CLS may also be used for those activities while the beneficiary awaits the decision from a Fair Hearing of the appeal of a DHS decision. Reminding, observing, guiding, and/or training of these activities are CLS coverages that do not supplant Home Help or Expanded Home Help.

Community Living Supports (CLS) provides support to a beneficiary younger than 18, and the family in the care of their child, while facilitating the child's independence and

integration into the community. This service provides skill development related to activities of daily living, such as bathing, eating, dressing, personal hygiene, household chores and safety skills; and skill development to achieve or maintain mobility, sensory-motor, communication, socialization and relationship-building skills, and participation in leisure and community activities. These supports must be provided directly to, or on behalf of, the child. These supports may serve to reinforce skills or lessons taught in school, therapy, or other settings. For children and adults up to age 26 who are enrolled in school, CLS services are not intended to supplant services provided in school or other settings or to be provided during the times when the child or adult would typically be in school but for the parent's choice to home-school.

*MPM, October 1, 2013 version*  
*Mental Health/Substance Abuse Chapter, pages 114-115*

However, while CLS are Medicaid-covered services, Medicaid beneficiaries are still only entitled to medically necessary covered services for which they are eligible and services must be provided in the appropriate scope, duration, and intensity to reasonably achieve the purpose of the covered service. See 42 CFR 440.230.

With respect to medical necessity, the MPM, October 1, 2013 version, Mental Health/Substance Abuse Chapter, pages 12-13, provides:

## **2.5 MEDICAL NECESSITY CRITERIA**

The following medical necessity criteria apply to Medicaid mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse supports and services.

### **2.5.A. MEDICAL NECESSITY CRITERIA**

Mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services are supports, services, and treatment:

- Necessary for screening and assessing the presence of a mental illness, developmental disability or substance use disorder; and/or

- Required to identify and evaluate a mental illness, developmental disability or substance use disorder; and/or
- Intended to treat, ameliorate, diminish or stabilize the symptoms of mental illness, developmental disability or substance use disorder; and/or
- Expected to arrest or delay the progression of a mental illness, developmental disability, or substance use disorder; and/or
- Designed to assist the beneficiary to attain or maintain a sufficient level of functioning in order to achieve his goals of community inclusion and participation, independence, recovery, or productivity.

#### **2.5.B. DETERMINATION CRITERIA**

The determination of a medically necessary support, service or treatment must be:

- Based on information provided by the beneficiary, beneficiary's family, and/or other individuals (e.g., friends, personal assistants/aides) who know the beneficiary;
- Based on clinical information from the beneficiary's primary care physician or health care professionals with relevant qualifications who have evaluated the beneficiary;
- For beneficiaries with mental illness or developmental disabilities, based on person-centered planning, and for beneficiaries with substance use disorders, individualized treatment planning;

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- Made by appropriately trained mental health, developmental disabilities, or substance abuse professionals with sufficient clinical experience;
- Made within federal and state standards for timeliness;
- Sufficient in amount, scope and duration of the service(s) to reasonably achieve its/their purpose; and
- Documented in the individual plan of service.

In addition to medical necessity, the MPM also identifies other criteria for B3 supports and services such as CLS:

**SECTION 17 – ADDITIONAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (B3S)**

PIHPs must make certain Medicaid-funded mental health supports and services available, in addition to the Medicaid State Plan Specialty Supports and Services or Habilitation Waiver Services, through the authority of 1915(b)(3) of the Social Security Act (hereafter referred to as B3s). The intent of B3 supports and services is to fund medically necessary supports and services that promote community inclusion and participation, independence, and/or productivity when identified in the individual plan of service as one or more goals developed during person-centered planning.

**17.1 DEFINITIONS OF GOALS THAT MEET THE INTENTS AND PURPOSE OF B3 SUPPORTS AND SERVICES**

The goals (listed below) and their operational definitions will vary according to the individual's needs and desires. However, goals that are inconsistent with least restrictive environment (i.e., most integrated home, work, community that meet the individual's needs and desires) and individual choice and control cannot be supported by B3 supports and services unless there is documentation that health and safety would otherwise be jeopardized; or that such least restrictive arrangements or choice and control opportunities

have been demonstrated to be unsuccessful for that individual. Care should be taken to insure that these goals are those of the individual first, not those of a parent, guardian, provider, therapist, or case manager, no matter how well intentioned. The services in the plan, whether B3 supports and services alone, or in combination with state plan or Habilitation Supports Waiver services, must reasonably be expected to achieve the goals and intended outcomes identified. The configuration of supports and services should assist the individual to attain outcomes that are typical in his community; and without such services and supports, would be impossible to attain.

\* \* \*

## **17.2 CRITERIA FOR AUTHORIZING B3 SUPPORTS AND SERVICES**

The authorization and use of Medicaid funds for any of the B3 supports and services, as well as their amount, scope and duration, are dependent upon:

- The Medicaid beneficiary's eligibility for specialty services and supports as defined in this Chapter; and
- The service(s) having been identified during person-centered planning; and
- The service(s) being medically necessary as defined in the Medical Necessity Criteria subsection of this chapter; and
- The service(s) being expected to achieve one or more of the above-listed goals as identified in the beneficiary's plan of service; and
- Additional criteria indicated in certain B3 service definitions, as applicable.

Decisions regarding the authorization of a B3 service (including the amount, scope and duration) must take into account the PIHP's documented capacity to reasonably and equitably serve other Medicaid beneficiaries who also have

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needs for these services. The B3 supports and services are not intended to meet all the individual's needs and preferences, as some needs may be better met by community and other natural supports. Natural supports mean unpaid assistance provided to the beneficiary by people in his/her network (family, friends, neighbors, community volunteers) who are willing and able to provide such assistance. It is reasonable to expect that parents of minor children with disabilities will provide the same level of care they would provide to their children without disabilities. MDCH encourages the use of natural supports to assist in meeting an individual's needs to the extent that the family or friends who provide the natural supports are willing and able to provide this assistance. PIHPs may not require a beneficiary's natural support network to provide such assistance as a condition for receiving specialty mental health supports and services. The use of natural supports must be documented in the beneficiary's individual plan of service.

Provider qualifications and service locations that are not otherwise identified in this section must meet the requirements identified in the General Information and Program Requirement sections of this chapter.

*MPM, October 1, 2013 version*  
*Mental Health/Substance Abuse Chapter, pages 111-112*

Here, it is undisputed that Appellant needs some CLS and it is only the amount of hours to be authorized that is at issue. As discussed above, while the CMH is willing to authorize ███ hours of CLS per week, Appellant and his representative seek ███ hours a week of such services.

Appellant bears the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the CMH erred. For the reasons discussed below, this Administrative Law Judge finds that Appellant has not met that burden of proof.

Appellant's CLS was authorized to assist with a number of objectives found in his PCP, including daily needs involving practicing activities of daily living, OT exercises, and SLT exercises. Moreover, the PCP also states that the CLS staff is to assist Appellant in getting ready for school in the morning and getting on the school bus without having a meltdown. Moreover, while it is undisputed that Appellant's behavior has improved in the mornings, Appellant's representative/mother credibly testified that the improvement is the result of the CLS workers assisting Appellant and that Appellant continues to have meltdowns if she tries to assist him. Appellant's representative also testified that, even

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if only █████ hours are authorized rather than █████ hours, she will continue to have the CLS workers assist Appellant in the mornings on days he has school.

Nevertheless, even with that adjustment in how the hours are used, the █████ hours of CLS per week appears to be sufficient to meet the objectives found in the PCP. Appellant's representative did not identify any specific part of Appellant's PCP that Appellant would need more time for. Instead, Appellant's representative testified about Appellant's general need for more time. She also pointed to the negative effect a reduction would have on Appellant and his brother given the less time Appellant would be supervised. However, CLS is not meant to address such general child care concerns and is meant to be used "to increase or maintain personal self-sufficiency, facilitating an individual's achievement of his goals of community inclusion and participation, independence or productivity." MPM, October 1, 2013, Mental Health/Substance Abuse Chapter, page 114.

Appellant has been authorized a significant amount of CLS and, while additional CLS hours would likely be beneficial, it is not clear that they are medically necessary given the CLS already authorized and Appellant's other services and supports. Appellant attends school full-time and receives █████ hours a month of respite care services. Additionally, Appellant's mother provides significant assistance for him and the MPM specifically provides that it "is reasonable to expect that parents of minor children with disabilities will provide the same level of care they would provide to their children without disabilities." MPM, October 1, 2013, Mental Health/Substance Abuse Chapter, page 112.

The above policy regarding B3 supports and services, such as CLS, also provides that such services "are not intended to meet all the individual's needs and preferences, as some needs may be better met by community and other natural supports." MPM, October 1, 2013, Mental Health/Substance Abuse Chapter, page 112. Moreover, in allocating such services, the CMH "must take into account the PIHP's documented capacity to reasonably and equitably serve other Medicaid beneficiaries who also have needs for these services." MPM, October 1, 2013, Mental Health/Substance Abuse Chapter, page 112.

Taking into account those policies, the lack of any identified specific need for more hours, the minor Appellant's natural supports and the significant services Appellant already receives, this Administrative Law Judge finds that Appellant has failed to meet his burden of proof with respect to the denial of additional CLS. Accordingly, the decision to only authorize █████ hours a week of CLS is affirmed.

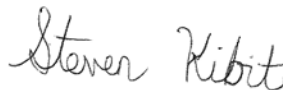
**DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the CMH properly authorized █████ hours of CLS per week.

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**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that:


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



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

Date Signed: 

Date Mailed: 

SK/db

cc: 

**\*\*\* 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.