

**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) 334-4147

IN THE MATTER OF:

████████████████████

Docket No. 15-000463 CMH  
Case No. ██████████

Appellant

\_\_\_\_\_ /

**DECISION AND ORDER**

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 upon Appellant's request for a hearing.

After due notice, a telephonic hearing was held on 3/10/15. ██████████, Appellant's mother, appeared and testified on Appellant's behalf. Other witnesses included: ██████████ parent; ██████████, caregiver.

Jill Smith, Assistant Corporation Counsel, represented Macomb County Community Mental Health Authority (CMH or Department). Robin Silber, Access Center Supervisor, appeared as a witness for the CMH.

**ISSUE**

Did the CMH properly reduce Appellant's Community Living Supports (CLS) hours from 42 to 21 hours per week?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

1. Appellant is a 28 year old Medicaid beneficiary, receiving services through Macomb County Community Mental Health (CMH). (Exhibit A.21; Testimony)
1. CMH is under contract with the Department of Community Health (MDCH) to provide Medicaid covered services to people who reside in the CMH service area. (Testimony)
2. Appellant is diagnosed with autism, OCD, moderate mental retardation, and history of epilepsy. (Exhibit A.1; Appellant Exhibit I; Testimony)

3. Appellant lives in a private residence with his mother and her live in boyfriend. Appellant's parents are divorced; Appellant's father is a stand by guardian. Appellant has a history of property destruction and physical aggression towards others when gets upset, a couple of times a month. He lacks basic safety skills and has a history of elopement. He requires prompting reminding and guidance with his ADLs and with his personal hygiene. Appellant has substantial limitations in self-care, self-direction, learning capacity for independent living, mobility, and economic self-sufficiency. Appellant needs assistance with IADLs, and with completing hygiene tasks. (Exhibit A.2; Testimony)
4. Prior to the action here, Appellant had been receiving support coordination services through CMH at 42.5 hours per week, reduced to 21 hours, with 11.5 hours for respite, supports coordination 2 hours per month. The current service authorization is valid through 7/30/15. (Exhibit A. 2 and 49; Testimony) Appellant also receives 55 hours per month of Adult Home Help services from the Michigan Department of Social Services. (Exhibit A.2)
5. The CLS goals in Appellant's most recent Person Centered Plan (PCP) are as follows: assisting in preparing meals, washing hands, putting dishes in the sink or dishwasher, getting dressed, brushing teeth, combing hair, shaving with electric shaver, feeding animals in the home. Also included are activities in the home and community such as watching TV, computers, playing video games, going to get ice cream, going for a walk, going to the part. (Exhibit A Attachment D)
6. Service Notes dated 1/1/15 through 1/15/15 indicate that CLS hours consistently used to assist supervise food preparation, eating, cleaning up after a meal, watching TV, using computer or playing video games rather than actual skill acquisition. (Exhibit A.50 Attachment E; Testimony)
7. On 1/12/15 Appellant was notified of a reduction in her CLS hours from 42.5 to 21 hours per week. The reason for the action was, "CLS Services are being delivered in manner inconsistent with the treatment goals/objectives outlined in PCP." (Exhibit A.7 Attachment A).
8. Appellant requested a local dispute resolution hearing, held on 2/10/15, No. 756. On 2/24/15 Lory Valuet, Hearing Officer issued an Order that the reduction of the CLS was appropriate and upheld. (Exhibit A.51)
9. On 1/20/15 Appellant's request for a hearing was received by the Michigan Administrative Hearing System. The Respondent did not reinstate the action pending the outcome of the hearing and the action took place 1/9/14. (Testimony)

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

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*

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

Medicaid beneficiaries are entitled to medically necessary Medicaid covered services for which they are eligible. 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*.

The CMH is mandated by federal regulation to perform an assessment for the Appellant to determine what Medicaid services are medically necessary and determine the amount or level of the Medicaid medically necessary services.

The *Medicaid Provider Manual, Mental Health/Substance Abuse*, section articulates Medicaid policy for Michigan. It states, in relevant part:

#### **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 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.

### **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
  - 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 is needed, the beneficiary, with the help of the PIHP case manager or supports coordinator 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. The PIHP case manager or supports coordinator must assist, if necessary, the beneficiary in filling out and sending a request for Fair Hearing when the beneficiary believes that the DHS authorization amount, scope and duration of Home Help does not accurately reflect the beneficiary's needs based on 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 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 nonmedical 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 Personal Care services. 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.

## **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;

- 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.

### **2.5.C. SUPPORTS, SERVICES AND TREATMENT AUTHORIZED BY THE PIHP**

Supports, services, and treatment authorized by the PIHP must be:

- Delivered in accordance with federal and state standards for timeliness in a location that is accessible to the beneficiary;
- Responsive to particular needs of multi-cultural populations and furnished in a culturally relevant manner;
- Responsive to the particular needs of beneficiaries with sensory or mobility impairments and provided with the necessary accommodations;
- Provided in the least restrictive, most integrated setting. Inpatient, licensed residential or other segregated settings shall be used only when less restrictive levels of treatment, service or support have been, for that beneficiary, unsuccessful or cannot be safely provided; and
- Delivered consistent with, where they exist, available research findings, health care practice guidelines, best practices and standards of practice issued by professionally recognized organizations or government agencies.

### **2.5.D. PIHP DECISIONS**

Using criteria for medical necessity, a PIHP may:

- Deny services:
  - that are deemed ineffective for a given condition based upon professionally and scientifically recognized and accepted standards of care;



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- that are experimental or investigational in nature; or
- for which there exists another appropriate, efficacious, less-restrictive and cost effective service, setting or support that otherwise satisfies the standards for medically-necessary services; and/or
- Employ various methods to determine amount, scope and duration of services, including prior authorization for certain services, concurrent utilization reviews, centralized assessment and referral, gate-keeping arrangements, protocols, and guidelines.

A PIHP may not deny services based **solely** on preset limits of the cost, amount, scope, and duration of services. Instead, determination of the need for services shall be conducted on an individualized basis.

*Medicaid Provider Manual  
Mental Health/Substance Abuse Chapter  
July 1, 2014, pp 12-14*

Here, the Department reduced Appellant's CLS hours on the basis that the assessment indicates that services are being delivered inconsistent with the goals and objectives of the PCP; that of the 14 CLS goals in plan only 5 or 6 are consistently being addressed; that the hours are being utilized more for supervision than skills acquisition.

Appellant argues that he is completely homebound, not able to attend vocational day treatment, and that the caregiver documented activities in the logs based on poorly written goals in the PCP.

CMH's Access Center Supervisor testified that one of the functions of the Access Center is to determine eligibility and level of care for services. CMH's Access Center Supervisor indicated that Appellant is 28 years old and diagnosed with Autism, OCD, moderate mental retardation and has been receiving MCCMH services since the mid-1990's. Appellant receives 55 hours per month in a Home Help Services grant from the Michigan Department of Social Services. A review of the notes from the study period here, resulted in the Access Supervisor concluding that the services are mostly supervision of the CLS goals of "following a daily routine of preparing meals, washing hands, putting dishes away, getting dressed, brushing teeth, combing hair and feeding family animals; also watching TV, computer time, playing video games, getting ice cream and going to the park."

Because Appellant is not enrolled in any of the specialty waiver programs administered by the MCCMH, the CLS hours fall under the "B3" services. As noted above, B3 services are not intended to meet all the needs; CLS is intended to meet self-sufficiency with the goal of helping individuals participate independently 2014 through September 1, 2014, when the decision was made. CMH's Access Center Supervisor also indicated


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that the notes from April 30, 2014 did not support the goals in Appellant's PCP. CMH's Access Center Supervisor opined that the 6 hours of CLS authorized per week for Appellant were sufficient in amount, scope and duration to meet Appellant's CLS goal of community inclusion.

According to the MPM, CLS services are intended to "increase or maintain self-sufficiency, and facilitate the achievement of goals related to the community inclusion and participation, independence, or productivity." MPM: 17.3.B. However, here, the CLS services are not being delivered in a manner consistent with the goals and objectives outlined in the PCP.

Appellant argued that due to being housebound, he cannot attend a skill building workshop outside the home. As succinctly noted by Hearing Officer Valuet, while Appellant's guardian is not "required to accept services she does not want for Appellant, MCCMH is not required to provide additional CLS hours as the result of that choice." (Exhibit A.51). In addition, MPM 2.5.D states that "using criteria for medical necessity, a PIHP may deny a service for which there exists another appropriate, efficacious. Less restrictive and cost effective service setting or support that otherwise satisfied the standard for medically necessary services."

Appellant bears the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that 42.5 hours of CLS per week are medically necessary. CMH provided sufficient evidence that it adhered to federal regulations and state policy when authorizing 21 hours per week of CLS for Appellant. Appellant failed to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that an additional 21.5 hours per week of CLS was medically necessary.

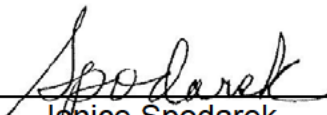
  
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**DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that CMH properly reduced Appellant's CLS hours from 42.5 to 21 per week.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that:

The CMH decision is AFFIRMED.

  
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Janice Spodarek

Administrative Law Judge  
for Nick Lyon, Director  
Michigan Department of Community Health

cc:



JS/skb

Date Signed: 4/2/2015

Date Mailed: 4/3/2015

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**\*\*\* 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.