

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

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**IN THE MATTER OF:**

██████████,

Appellant

Docket No. 15-004404 HHS  
Case No. ██████████

**DECISION AND ORDER**

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and 42 CFR 431.200 *et seq.*, upon the Appellant's request for a hearing.

After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on ██████████. Appellant appeared and testified. Charise McDonald appeared as a witness on behalf of Appellant.

██████████ Appeals Review Officer, (ARO) represented the Department. ██████████ ARO, and ██████████ Adult Services Supervisor, (ASS), appeared as witnesses for the Department.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly close the Appellant's Home Help Services ("HHS") case?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

1. Prior to the negative action herein, Appellant had an open HHS grant. Appellant is a ██████ year old male who at the time of the administrative hearing, was on the MA-G2C Medicaid category, with a deductible of \$████████ per month. Appellant has a spouse. (Exhibit A.13-16).
2. Appellant is medically eligible for the HHS program. (Exhibit A).
3. Following a review of Appellant's case, the ASW checked the Bridges MA History that indicated that Appellant's active MA ended ██████████ and spend-down/deductible began ██████████. (Exhibit A.16).

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4. On [REDACTED] the Department issued a Notice of Case Suspension on the grounds that Appellant has a deductible and has not met his spend-down. Appellant's status is Scope 2H. (Exhibit A.5-16).
5. On [REDACTED] the Appellant's Request for Hearing was received by the Michigan Administrative hearing System. (Exhibit A.4).

**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.

Home Help Services (HHS) are provided to enable functionally limited individuals to live independently and receive care in the least restrictive, preferred settings. These activities must be certified by a physician and may be provided by individuals or by private or public agencies.

The Adult Services Manual (ASM) addresses eligibility for Home Help Services:

Department policy requires Medicaid eligibility in order to receive HHS, and clients with a monthly spend-down are not eligible until they have met their spend-down obligation. (Adult Services Manual (ASM) 105, November 1, 2011, pages 1-2 of 3).

**Requirements**

Home help eligibility requirements include **all** of the following:

- Medicaid eligibility.
- Certification of medical need.
- Need for service, based on a complete comprehensive assessment (DHS-324) indicating a functional limitation of level 3 or greater for activities of daily living (ADL).
- Appropriate Level of Care (LOC) status.

**Medicaid/Medical Aid (MA)**

The client may be eligible for MA under one of the following:

- All requirements for Medicaid have been met.

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- MA deductible obligation has been met.

The client must have a scope of coverage of either:

- 1F or 2F.
- 1D or 1K (Freedom to Work).
- 1T (Healthy Kids Expansion).
- 3G (Healthy Michigan Plan).

Clients with a scope of coverage 20, 2C or 2B are **not** eligible for Medicaid until they have met their MA deductible obligation.

**Note:** A change in the scope of coverage in Bridges will generate a system tickler in ASCAP for active services cases.

#### Medicaid Personal Care Option

Clients in need of home help personal care services may become eligible for MA under the Medicaid personal care option.

Discuss this option with the client and coordinate implementation with the eligibility specialist.

Conditions of eligibility:

- The client meets all Medicaid eligibility factors except income.
- An independent living services case is open.
- The client is eligible for home help services.
- The cost of personal care services is **more** than the MA excess income amount.

If **all** the above conditions have been satisfied, the client has met MA deductible requirements. The adult services specialist can apply the personal care option in ASCAP. The deductible amount is entered on the **MA History** tab of the Bridges **Eligibility** module in ASCAP.

Use the DHS-1210, Services Approval Notice to notify the client of home help services approval when MA eligibility is met through this option. The notice must inform the client that the home help payment will be affected by the deductible amount, and that the client is responsible for paying the provider the MA deductible amount each month.

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Do **not** close a case eligible for MA based on this policy option if the client does not pay the provider. It has already been ensured that MA funds will not be used to pay the client's deductible liability. The payment for these expenses is the responsibility of the client.

Changes in the client's deductible amount will generate a system tickler from Bridges.

MA eligibility under this option **cannot** continue if the cost of personal care becomes **equal to or less than** the MA excess income amount.

*Adult Services Manual (ASM) 105, 11-1-2011 pages 1-2 of 3*

The Appellant's medical eligibility is not contested in this case. Rather, the Appellant's HHS case was suspended on the grounds that Appellant has a spend-down/deductible case, and has not met her spend-down. That is, Appellant no longer has an active MA case.

HHS is a program for individuals who have active Medicaid, or who are able to trigger active Medicaid by meeting the deductible.

Here, there is no evidence that Appellant has active Medicaid, nor is there evidence that he has met her spend-down.

Department policy found at ASM 105 cited above clearly states that individuals must have the identified Scope of Coverage in order to have financial eligibility for the HHS program. Appellant does not.

Here, the Department's documentation establishes that the Appellant does not financially qualify for the HHS program under applicable ASM policy and procedure and thus, federal and state law requires closure of the HHS case. Thus, the suspension/closure of her HHS case was appropriate and must be upheld.

The Appellant can always re-apply for HHS if he meets her Medicaid spend-down or has a change in Medicaid eligibility status.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Department properly suspended and subsequently closed Appellant's HHS case.

