

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 15-005558
Issue No.: 2002
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: June 04, 2015
County: Genesee-District 6

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Kevin Scully

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, telephone hearing was held on June 04, 2015, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department included [REDACTED] as hearing facilitator.

ISSUE

Did the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) properly determine the Claimant's eligibility 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. The Claimant is an ongoing Medical Assistance (MA) recipient.
2. On March 17, 2015, the Department sent the Claimant a Redetermination (DHS-1010) with a due date of April 1, 2015.
3. On April 1, 2015, the Department received the Claimant's Redetermination form and it was not signed.
4. On April 3, 2015, the Department notified the Claimant that it would close her MA benefits as of May 1, 2015.
5. On April 13, 2015, the Department received the Claimant's request for a hearing protesting the closure of her MA benefits.
6. On April 15, 2015, the Claimant submitted an application for MA benefits.

7. On April 20, 2015, the Department approved the Claimant for MA benefits as of May 1, 2015.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Department policies are contained in the Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), Department of Health and Human Services Reference Tables Manual (RFT), and Department of Health and 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 Department of Human Services) administers the MA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10, and MCL 400.105-.112k.

Clients must cooperate with the local office in determining initial and ongoing eligibility and this includes the completion of necessary forms. Department of Human Services Bridges Assistance Manual (BAM) 105 (October 1, 2014), p 5.

Verification means documentation or other evidence to establish the accuracy of the client's verbal or written statements. Verification is usually required at application/redetermination and for a reported change affecting eligibility or benefit level when it is required by policy, required as a local office option, or information regarding an eligibility factor is unclear, inconsistent, incomplete, or contradictory. The Department uses documents, collateral contacts, or home calls to verify information. A collateral contact is a direct contact with a person, organization, or agency to verify information from the client. When documentation is not available, or clarification is needed, collateral contact may be necessary. Department of Human Services Bridges Assistance Manual (BAM) 130 (October 1, 2014), pp 1-9.

The Claimant was an ongoing MA recipient when the Department initiated a routine review of her eligibility to receive continuing benefits. On March 17, 2015, the Department sent the Claimant a Redetermination (DHS-1010) with a due date of April 1, 2015. On April 1, 2015, the Claimant returned her Redetermination form but failed to sign it. On April 3, 2015, the Department notified the Claimant that it would close her MA benefits as of May 1, 2015, for failing to complete the Redetermination form.

On April 15, 2015, the Claimant submitted a complete application for MA benefits. On April 20, 2015, the Department approved the Claimant for MA benefits effective May 1, 2015.

A redetermination/review packet is considered complete when all of the sections of the redetermination form including the signature section are completed. Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 210 (April 1, 2015), p 10.

On April 1, 2015, the Claimant returned an incomplete Redetermination (DHS-1010) and the Department was acting in accordance with its policy when it started to close her MA benefits as of May 1, 2015. On April 15, 2015, the Claimant submitted an application for assistance and the Department properly restored her MA benefits.

The Claimant argued that the Department failed to handle her case properly and that her attempts to contact her caseworker with information about her case have been ignored.

A complaint as to alleged misconduct or mistreatment by a state employee shall not be considered through the administrative hearing process, but shall be referred to the department personnel director. Mich Admin Code, R 400.903.

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 acted in accordance with Department policy when it closed the Claimant's Medical Assistance (MA) benefits on April 3, 2015, and subsequently approved her for MA benefits when the Claimant fully acknowledged her duties by signing the April 15, 2015, application for assistance.

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.



Kevin Scully
Administrative Law Judge
for Nick Lyon, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

Date Signed: **6/8/2015**

Date Mailed: **6/8/2015**

KS/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 48909-8139

cc:

