

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 15-012979
Issue No.: 2004
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: September 10, 2015
County: OAKLAND-DISTRICT 4
(NORTH SAGINAW)

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 September 10, 2015, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included her authorized hearing representative [REDACTED] of [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] represented the Department of Health and Human Services (Department).

ISSUE

Did the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) properly process the Claimant's Medical Assistance (MA) application within a reasonable standard of promptness?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. On January 24, 2014, the Department received the Claimant's application for Medical Assistance (MA) with a request for retroactive benefits.
2. The Department has not approved or denied the Claimant's application for Medical Assistance (MA).
3. On July 13, 2015, the Department received the Claimant's request for a hearing.

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 have the right to contest a department decision affecting eligibility or benefit levels whenever it is believed that the decision is incorrect. The Department will provide an administrative hearing to review the decision and determine the appropriateness. The Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) may grant a hearing for any of the following:

- Denial of an application and/or supplemental payments.
- Reduction in the amount of program benefits or service.
- Suspension or termination of program benefits or service.
- Restrictions under which benefits or services are provided.
- Delay of any action beyond standards of promptness.
- For FAP only, the current level of benefits or denial of expedited service. Department of Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) 600 (April 1, 2015), pp 3-4.

A request for hearing must be in writing and signed by the claimant, petitioner, or authorized representative. Rule 400.904(1). Moreover, the Department of Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) 600 (April 1, 2015), p. 6, provides in relevant part as follows:

The client or authorized hearing representative has 90 calendar days from the date of the written notice of case action to request a hearing. The request must be received anywhere in DHS within the 90 days.

Medical evidence provided by the client will be reviewed by the Medical Review Team (MRT) and a physician. The Department's MRT is now referred to as the Disability Determination Service (DDS). The client or representative has a duty to complete all sections of the DHS-49-F, and the Department has a duty to assist the client or representative. The MRT had a duty to certify whether the client is disabled or blind and record this certification on the DHS-49-A. The MRT will report:

- If a medical basis supporting disability exists, or
- If a medical basis supporting disability does not exist, or
- If additional medical evidence is required.
- Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) 810 (July 1, 2013), pp 2-11.

On January 24, 2014, the Department received the Claimant's application for Medical Assistance (MA) with retroactive benefits.

This Administrative Law Judge finds that the Department has failed to process this application with the standard of promptness. This Administrative Law Judge finds no basis in policy for the MRT or DDS to fail to either make a determination of whether a medical basis supporting a finding of disability, or defer this determination by requesting additional information. This Administrative Law Judge finds that a determination of eligibility based on the Claimant's application for assistance has been caused by the Department's failure to process the application in accordance with policy.

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 processed the Claimant's January 24, 2014, application for Medical Assistance (MA) and retroactive Medical Assistance (MA).

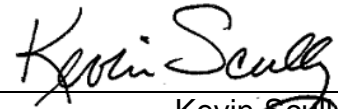
DECISION AND ORDER

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. Reprocess the Claimant's January 24, 2014, application for Medical Assistance (MA).
2. Provide the Claimant with any forms necessary to determine the Claimant's eligibility for Medical Assistance (MA) based on disability.

3. Provide the Claimant with a written notice describing the Department's revised eligibility determination.
4. Issue the Claimant any retroactive benefits she may be eligible to receive, if any.



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

Date Signed: **9/10/2015**

Date Mailed: **9/10/2015**

KS/■

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:

