

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

P.O. Box 30763, Lansing, MI 48909
(877) 833-0870; Fax: (517) 334-9505

IN THE MATTER OF:

██████████

Appellant

_____ /

Docket No. 15-022275 EDW
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 Appellant's request for a hearing.

After due notice, a hearing was held on ██████████. Appellant appeared on his own behalf.

██████████, Director, represented the Department's MI Choice Waiver Agency, Senior Resources. (Waiver Agency or Senior Resources).

ISSUE

Did the Waiver Agency properly determine that Appellant was no longer eligible for the MI Choice Waiver Program because he was no longer eligible for Medicaid?

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 ██████ year old male, born ██████████, who had been receiving services through the MI Choice Waiver Program. (Exhibit A, p 1; Testimony).
2. The Waiver Agency is a contract agent of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and is responsible for waiver eligibility determinations and the provision of MI Choice Waiver Services.
3. On ██████████, Appellant's MI Choice Waiver benefits were terminated because he was determined to be ineligible for Medicaid by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services because he was over the asset limit. (Exhibit A, pp 2-6; Testimony)

██████████
Docket No. 15-022275 EDW
Decision and Order

4. On ██████████, the Waiver Agency sent Appellant an Adequate Action Notice informing him that he was no longer eligible for the MI Choice Waiver Program because he was no longer eligible for Medicaid. (Exhibit A, p 7; Testimony).
5. On ██████████, the Michigan Administrative Hearing System received Appellant's request for an administrative hearing. (Exhibit 1).

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.

This Appellant is claiming services through the Department's Home and Community Based Services for Elderly and Disabled (HCBS/ED). The waiver is called MI Choice in Michigan. The program is funded through the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (formerly HCFA) to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (Department). Regional agencies function as the Department's administrative agency.

Waivers are intended to provide the flexibility needed to enable States to try new or different approaches to the efficient and cost-effective delivery of health care services, or to adapt their programs to the special needs of particular areas or groups of recipients. Waivers allow exceptions to State plan requirements and permit a State to implement innovative programs or activities on a time-limited basis, and subject to specific safeguards for the protection of recipients and the program. Detailed rules for waivers are set forth in subpart B of part 431, subpart A of part 440 and subpart G of part 441 of this chapter. *42 CFR 430.25(b)*

A waiver under section 1915(c) of the [Social Security] Act allows a State to include as "medical assistance" under its plan, home and community based services furnished to recipients who would otherwise need inpatient care that is furnished in a hospital, SNF [Skilled Nursing Facility], ICF [Intermediate Care Facility], or ICF/MR [Intermediate Care Facility/Mentally Retarded], and is reimbursable under the State Plan. *42 CFR 430.25(c)(2)*

The policy regarding enrollment in the MI Choice Waiver program is contained in the *Medicaid Provider Manual, MI Choice Waiver*, October 1, 2015, which provides in part:

SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION

MI Choice is a waiver program operated by the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) to deliver home and community-based services to elderly persons and persons with physical disabilities who

meet the Michigan nursing facility level of care criteria that supports required long-term care (as opposed to rehabilitative or limited term stay) provided in a nursing facility. The waiver is approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service (CMS) under section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act. MDCH carries out its waiver obligations through a network of enrolled providers that operate as organized health care delivery systems (OHCDs). These entities are commonly referred to as waiver agencies. MDCH and its waiver agencies must abide by the terms and conditions set forth in the waiver.

MI Choice services are available to qualified participants throughout the state and all provisions of the program are available to each qualified participant unless otherwise noted in this policy and approved by CMS. (p. 1).

* * *

SECTION 2 - ELIGIBILITY

The MI Choice program is available to persons 18 years of age or older who meet each of three eligibility criteria:

- An applicant must establish his/her financial eligibility for Medicaid services as described in the Financial Eligibility subsection of this chapter.
- The applicant must meet functional eligibility requirements through the online version of the Michigan Medicaid Nursing Facility Level of Care Determination (LOCD).
- It must be established that the applicant needs at least one waiver service and that the service needs of the applicant cannot be fully met by existing State Plan or other services.

All criteria must be met in order to establish eligibility for the MI Choice program. MI Choice participants must continue to meet these eligibility requirements on an ongoing basis to remain enrolled in the program. (p.1, emphasis added).

* * *

Appellant testified that he understood from the hearing summary provided by the Waiver Agency that his MI Choice Waiver services had been terminated because he was determined to be no longer eligible for Medicaid.

Docket No. 15-022275 EDW
Decision and Order

The Waiver Agency's Director testified that Appellant's eligibility specialist with the Department of Health and Human Services works out of their office and had attempted to work with Appellant back in December to reapply for Medicaid. The Waiver Agency's Director indicated that she would have the eligibility specialist contact Appellant to initiate his reapplication for Medicaid.

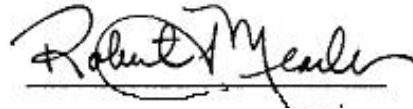
Appellant did not prove by a preponderance of evidence that the Waiver Agency erred in finding that he was no longer eligible for the MI Choice Waiver Program. In order to be eligible for the MI Choice Waiver Program, participants must maintain active eligibility for Medicaid. Here, Appellant's Medicaid was cancelled because he was determined to be over the asset limit. As such, the Waiver Agency properly terminated Appellant's MI Choice Waiver Services.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Waiver Agency properly determined Appellant was no longer eligible for the MI Choice Waiver Program.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

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



Robert J. Meade
Administrative Law Judge
for Nick Lyon, Director
Michigan Department of
Health and Human Services

Date Mailed: [REDACTED]

cc: [REDACTED]

RJM/cg

***** 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.