



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM
Christopher Seppanen
Executive Director

MIKE ZIMMER
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]

Date Mailed: March 30, 2016
MAHS Docket No.: 16-000924
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Kevin Scully

HEARING DECISION

Following Petitioner'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 March 24, 2016, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Petitioner included his authorized hearing representative [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (Family Independence Manager) represented the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). Witnesses on behalf of the Department included [REDACTED] (Eligibility Specialist).

ISSUE

Did the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) properly deny Medical Assistance (MA) for March of 2015?

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 April 18, 2014, the Department notified the Petitioner that he was approved for Medical Assistance (MA) as of April 1, 2015.
2. On June 17, 2015, the Petitioner's requested retroactive Medical Assistance (MA) benefits effective March 1, 2014.
3. On June 30, 2014, the Department received the Petitioner's request for Medical Assistance (MA) with retroactive benefits through March 1, 2014.
4. On June 17, 2015, the Department notified the Petitioner that it had denied Medical Assistance (MA) for March of 2014.

5. On January 21, 2016, the Department received the Petitioner'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 (October 1, 2015), pp 3-4.

A request for hearing must be in writing and signed by the Petitioner, petitioner, or authorized representative. Rule 400.904(1). Moreover, the Department of Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) 600 (October 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.

The evidence on the record supports a finding that the Petitioner submitted a MA application or request for retroactive benefits covering March of 2014, on at least three occasions. The hearing record only contains one written denial of MA benefits for March of 2014, which was mailed on June 17, 2015.

The Department's representative testified that the June 17, 2015, denial of MA benefits was based on BEM 211 and the fact that this request for retroactive benefits was submitted more than 90 days from the original determination of MA eligibility. This Administrative Law Judge finds no basis in BEM 211 or any other policy for denying the request for retroactive benefits effective March 1, 2014, solely based on his approval for MA benefits on April 18, 2014.

Other than the June 17, 2014, denial of MA benefits, the hearing record does not contain any evidence that the Department considered the Petitioner's eligibility for MA effective March 1, 2014.

This Administrative Law Judge finds that the Department registered a MA application and request for retroactive benefits for the Petitioner on June 17, 2015, and failed to issue adequate or timely notice of its eligibility determination for March of 2014. This is a delay of action beyond the standard of promptness.

The production of evidence to support the department's position is clearly required under BAM 600 as well as general case law (see e.g., *Kar v Hogan*, 399 Mich 529; 251 NW2d 77 [1976]). In *McKinstry v Valley Obstetrics-Gynecology Clinic, PC*, 428 Mich167; 405 NW2d 88 (1987), the Michigan Supreme Court addressed the issue of burden of proof, stating in part:

The term "burden of proof" encompasses two separate meanings. [citation omitted.] One of these meanings is the burden of persuasion or the risk of nonpersuasion. The other is the risk of going forward or the risk of nonproduction. The burden of producing evidence on an issue means the liability to an adverse ruling (generally a finding or a directed verdict) if evidence on the issue has not been produced. It is usually on the party who has pleaded the existence of the fact, but..., the burden may shift to the adversary when the pleader has discharged [its] initial duty. The burden of producing evidence is a critical mechanism[.]

The burden of persuasion becomes a crucial factor only if the parties have sustained their burdens of producing evidence and only when all of the evidence has been introduced.

McKinstry, 428 Mich at 93-94, quoting *McCormick*, *Evidence* (3d ed), Sec. 336, p. 946.

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 failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy that it

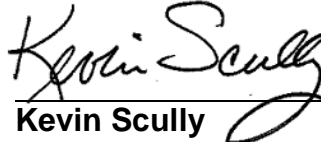
properly processed the Petitioner's application for retroactive Medical Assistance (MA) effective March 1, 2014.

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. Initiate a determination of the Petitioner's eligibility for Medical Assistance (MA) effective March 1, 2014.
2. Provide the Petitioner with written notice describing the Department's revised eligibility determination.
3. Issue the Petitioner any retroactive benefits he may be eligible to receive, if any.



KS/las

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

NOTICE OF APPEAL: A party may appeal this Order in circuit court within 30 days of the receipt date. A copy of the circuit court appeal must be filed with the Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS).

A party may request a rehearing or reconsideration of this Order if the request is received by MAHS within 30 days of the date the Order was issued. The party requesting a rehearing or reconsideration must provide the specific reasons for the request. MAHS will not review any response to a request for rehearing/reconsideration.

A written request may be mailed or faxed to MAHS. If submitted by fax, the written request must be faxed to (517) 335-6088; 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

Counsel for Complainant

[REDACTED]

DHHS

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Petitioner

[REDACTED]