



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

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

MIKE ZIMMER
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Date Mailed: April 8, 2016
MAHS Docket No.: 16-002148

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Vicki Armstrong

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; and Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on April 5, 2016, from Lansing, Michigan. Petitioner personally appeared and testified. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Hearing Facilitator [REDACTED].

ISSUE

Did the Department properly close Petitioner's Medical Assistance program?

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 Department submitted Exhibit A, pages 1-11 without objection during the hearing. (Dept. Exh. A, pp 1-11).
2. On November 16, 2015, the Department issued Petitioner a Redetermination with a due date of December 1, 2015. (Dept. Exh. A, pp 3-8).
3. On December 18, 2015, the Department issued Petitioner a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice informing her she was no longer eligible for Medical Assistance because she failed to timely return the Redetermination. (Dept. Exh. A, pp 9-11).

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.

The Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) must periodically redetermine or renew an individual's eligibility for active programs. The redetermination process includes thorough review of all eligibility factors. BAM 210, p 1 (1/1/2016). A complete redetermination is required at least every 12 months. Bridges sets the redetermination date according to benefit periods. *Id.* Benefits stop at the end of the benefit period unless a renewal is completed and a new benefit period is certified. *Id.* At 2.

Bridges generates a redetermination packet to the client three days prior to the negative action cut-off date in the month before the redetermination is due. *Id.* at 6. A redetermination/review packet is considered complete when all of the sections of the redetermination form including the signature section are completed. *Id.* at 10.

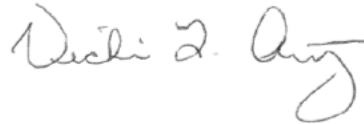
Department policy states that clients must cooperate with the local office in determining initial and ongoing eligibility. BAM 105, p 8 (7/1/2015). This includes completion of the necessary forms. BAM 105, p 8. Clients who are able but refuse to provide necessary information or take a required action are subject to penalties. BAM 105, p 9.

In this case, Petitioner credibly testified that she intentionally did not return the Redetermination as she is trying to determine how the Affordable Care Act applies to her personal situation.

As a result, the Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, finds that the Department acted in accordance with Department policy when it closed Petitioner's Medical Assistance case.

DECISION AND ORDER

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



VLA/db

Vicki Armstrong
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

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