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GOVERNOR

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

SHELLY EDGERTON
DIRECTOR



Date Mailed: May 20, 2016
MAHS Docket No.: 15-026368
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Jacquelyn A. McClinton

HEARING DECISION

Pursuant to a September 8, 2014, federal lawsuit, the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) issued notices to Medicaid applicants who were potentially denied full Medicaid coverage based on immigration status between January 2014 and May 2015. The notice included information about how to request a hearing. Petitioner filed a request for a hearing; and accordingly, this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to Michigan Administrative Hearing Rules (R 792.10101 – R 792.11903) and the Administrative Procedures Act, 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 *et seq.*

After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on May 11, 2016, from Detroit, Michigan. The Petitioner was represented by [REDACTED], Eligibility Specialist. The Department was represented by Petitioner. [REDACTED], Petitioner's husband, also appeared as a witness for Petitioner. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] served as interpreters during the hearing.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's immigration status or citizenship when determining Medicaid (MA) eligibility?

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 [REDACTED] Petitioner applied for MA or had a redetermination of current MA benefits.

2. On the date of MA application or redetermination, Petitioner was not a United States citizen.
3. Beginning [REDACTED], Petitioner's full coverage MA application was approved for Emergency Services Only (ESO) MA coverage or denied MA coverage.
4. The Department subsequently updated Petitioner's benefits to full MA coverage from February 2014 until December 2014, when her case closed for failure to return required information.
5. On [REDACTED], Petitioner requested 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), Department of Health and Human Services Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) Related Eligibility Manual (MREM), 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 administers the MA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10, and MCL 400.105-.112k.

To be eligible for full coverage MA, a person must be a U.S. citizen or an alien admitted to the U.S. under a specific immigration status. BEM 225 (January 2014; July 2014; October 2014; and October 2015), p. 2. An individual who is a permanent resident alien with a class code on the permanent residency card other than RE, AM or AS is eligible only for ESO MA coverage for the first five years in the U.S. unless the alien is a qualified military alien or the spouse or dependent child of a qualified military alien. BEM 225, pp. 7-8, 30; MREM, § 3.6. A qualified military alien is a qualified alien on active duty in, or veteran honorably discharged from, the U.S. Armed Forces. BEM 225, p. 5; MREM, § 3.6. A person who does not meet an acceptable alien status, including undocumented aliens and non-immigrants who have stayed beyond the period authorized by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, are eligible only for ESO MA coverage. BEM 225, p. 9. The alien status of each non-citizen must be verified to be eligible for full MA coverage. BEM 225, p. 2.

In this case, on [REDACTED], Petitioner applied for MA benefits. On the date of MA application, Petitioner was not a United States citizen, but did indicate in the application that she has eligible immigration status. When an applicant for Medicaid claims to be a

U.S. citizen or to have qualified immigrant status, and all other eligibility factors are met, certify benefits. See BAM 130 (January 2014; April 2014; July 2014; October 2014; and July 2015). The Department testified, and Petitioner confirmed, that at the time of application, she was pregnant. Petitioner testified that she gave birth in October 2014.

The Department confirmed that Petitioner's full MA coverage ended in December 2014 because she failed to return a Redetermination form. Petitioner indicated that she reapplied for benefits following the closure of her case. However, Petitioner was unable to provide the date of her new application and the Department testified that it did not have record of a new application.

Based on the foregoing information and evidence, along with both parties testimony, the Department properly determined Petitioner's immigration status when determining MA eligibility. While it is true that the Department initially provided Petitioner with only ESO coverage, it updated all of Petitioner's benefit periods that previously had ESO coverage to full MA coverage until the closure of Petitioner's case in December 2014.

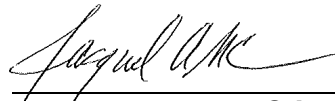
The undersigned's jurisdiction for cases brought as a result of the lawsuit is limited to whether or not the Department properly determined Petitioner's immigration status or citizenship between January 2014 and May 2015. The evidence provided revealed that Petitioner was provided full MA benefits following her March 2014 application and that there was no subsequent denial of benefits based on immigration status and/or citizenship.

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 properly determine Petitioner's immigration status or citizenship when determining MA eligibility and properly provided full MA benefits until December 2014.

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's determination about MA eligibility based on immigration status is **AFFIRMED**.

JM/hw



Jacquelyn A. McClinton

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

DHHS

[REDACTED]

Petitioner

[REDACTED]