



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

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

SHELLY EDGERTON
DIRECTOR



Date Mailed: July 28, 2016
MAHS Docket No.: 16-006690
Agency No.: [Redacted]
Petitioner: [Redacted]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Corey Arendt

DECISION AND ORDER

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and upon the Petitioner's request for a hearing.

After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on July 26, 2016. [Redacted] appeared on behalf of the Petitioner. [Redacted], Attorney, represented the Macomb County Community Mental Health (Department). [Redacted] Program Supervisor from [Redacted], appeared as a witness for the Department.

Exhibits:

Petitioner	None
Department	A – Hearing Summary

ISSUE

Did the Department properly calculate Petitioner's Respite Care Services (RCS)?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. The Department is under contract with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to provide Medicaid covered services to people who reside in its service area. (Exhibit (Ex) A, p. 1; Testimony).
2. Petitioner is a [Redacted] year-old Medicaid beneficiary, born [Redacted], who has been diagnosed with multiple health issues and severe disabilities. (Exhibit A, pp. 1, 20, 35; Testimony).

3. Petitioner lives in a home with his parents and two siblings. (Ex. A, p. 2; Testimony).
4. Petitioner is home-schooled by an MISD provided instructor for an average of 2 hours per week. (Ex. A, p. 2; Testimony).
5. Petitioner has received Department services since [REDACTED]. These services included RCL, Community Living Supports (CLS), Supports Coordination and various health and therapy assessments. (Ex. A, p. 2; Testimony).
6. From [REDACTED] through [REDACTED] Petitioner was authorized 900 RCS units per month. (Ex. A, p. 39; Testimony).
7. From [REDACTED] through [REDACTED], Petitioner utilized 778 RCS units of the 900 units authorized. (Ex. A, p. 39; Testimony).
8. From [REDACTED] through [REDACTED] Petitioner was authorized 3040 units of RCS. (Ex. A, p. 38; Testimony).
9. From [REDACTED] through [REDACTED], Petitioner utilized 1709 RCS units of the 3040 units authorized. (Ex. A, p. 38; Testimony).
10. On or around [REDACTED], Petitioner requested 40 hours of RCS per week. (Ex. A, pp. 1, 5; Testimony).
11. On [REDACTED], the Department sent the Petitioner a letter indicating the request for 40 hours of RCS per week was denied and that 35 hours of RCS per week would be authorized. (Ex. A, p. 5; Testimony).
12. On [REDACTED], the Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) received a Request for Hearing filed on the Petitioner's behalf. (Ex. A, p. 9).

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.

Title XIX of the Social Security Act, enacted in 1965, authorizes Federal grants to States for medical assistance to low-income persons who are age 65 or over, blind, disabled, or members of families with dependent children or qualified pregnant women or children. The program is jointly financed

by the Federal and State governments and administered by States. Within broad Federal rules, each State decides eligible groups, types and range of services, payment levels for services, and administrative and operating procedures. Payments for services are made directly by the State to the individuals or entities that furnish the services. [42 CFR 430.0.]

* * *

The State plan is a comprehensive written statement submitted by the agency describing the nature and scope of its Medicaid program and giving assurance that it will be administered in conformity with the specific requirements of title XIX, the regulations in this Chapter IV, and other applicable official issuances of the Department. The State plan contains all information necessary for CMS to determine whether the plan can be approved to serve as a basis for Federal financial participation (FFP) in the State program. [42 CFR 430.10.]

Moreover, Section 1915(b) of the Social Security Act provides:

The Secretary, to the extent he finds it to be cost-effective and efficient and not inconsistent with the purposes of this subchapter, may waive such requirements of section 1396a of this title (other than subsection(s) of this section) (other than sections 1396a(a)(15), 1396a(bb), and 1396a(a)(10)(A) of this title insofar as it requires provision of the care and services described in section 1396d(a)(2)(C) of this title) as may be necessary for a State...

The State of Michigan has opted to simultaneously utilize the authorities of the 1915(b) and 1915(c) programs to provide a continuum of services to disabled and/or elderly populations. Under approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) the Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) operates a section 1915(b) and 1915(c) Medicaid Managed Specialty Services and Support program waiver.

The Medicaid Provider Manual (MPM) articulates Medicaid policy for Michigan. The MPM states with regard to medical necessity:

2.5 MEDICAL NECESSITY CRITERIA

The following medical necessity criteria apply to Medicaid mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse supports and services.

2.5.A. MEDICAL NECESSITY CRITERIA

Mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services are supports, services, and treatment:

- Necessary for screening and assessing the presence of a mental illness, developmental disability or substance use disorder; and/or
- Required to identify and evaluate a mental illness, developmental disability or substance use disorder; and/or
- Intended to treat, ameliorate, diminish or stabilize the symptoms of mental illness, developmental disability or substance use disorder; and/or
- Expected to arrest or delay the progression of a mental illness, developmental disability, or substance use disorder; and/or
- Designed to assist the beneficiary to attain or maintain a sufficient level of functioning in order to achieve his goals of community inclusion and participation, independence, recovery, or productivity.

2.5.B. DETERMINATION CRITERIA

The determination of a medically necessary support, service or treatment must be:

- Based on information provided by the beneficiary, beneficiary's family, and/or other individuals (e.g., friends, personal assistants/aides) who know the beneficiary;

- Based on clinical information from the beneficiary's primary care physician or health care professionals with relevant qualifications who have evaluated the beneficiary;
- For beneficiaries with mental illness or developmental disabilities, based on person centered planning, and for beneficiaries with substance use disorders, individualized treatment planning;
- Made by appropriately trained mental health, developmental disabilities, or substance abuse professionals with sufficient clinical experience;
- Made within federal and state standards for timeliness;
- Sufficient in amount, scope and duration of the service(s) to reasonably achieve its/their purpose; and
- Documented in the individual plan of service.

2.5.C. SUPPORTS, SERVICES AND TREATMENT AUTHORIZED BY THE PIHP

Supports, services, and treatment authorized by the PIHP must be:

- Delivered in accordance with federal and state standards for timeliness in a location that is accessible to the beneficiary;
- Responsive to particular needs of multi-cultural populations and furnished in a culturally relevant manner;
- Responsive to the particular needs of beneficiaries with sensory or mobility impairments and provided with the necessary accommodations;
- Provided in the least restrictive, most integrated setting. Inpatient, licensed residential or other segregated settings shall be used only when less restrictive levels of treatment, service or support have been, for that beneficiary, unsuccessful or cannot be safely provided; and

- Delivered consistent with, where they exist, available research findings, health care practice guidelines, best practices and standards of practice issued by professionally recognized organizations or government agencies.

2.5.D. PIHP DECISIONS

Using criteria for medical necessity, a PIHP may:

- Deny services:
 - that are deemed ineffective for a given condition based upon professionally and scientifically recognized and accepted standards of care;
 - that are experimental or investigational in nature; or
 - for which there exists another appropriate, efficacious, less-restrictive and cost effective service, setting or support that otherwise satisfies the standards for medically-necessary services; and/or
- Employ various methods to determine amount, scope and duration of services, including prior authorization for certain services, concurrent utilization reviews, centralized assessment and referral, gate-keeping arrangements, protocols, and guidelines.

A PIHP may not deny services based **solely** on **preset limits** of the cost, amount, scope, and duration of services. Instead, determination of the need for services shall be conducted on an individualized basis.

SECTION 17 – ADDITIONAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (B3S)

PIHPs must make certain Medicaid-funded mental health supports and services available, in addition to the Medicaid State Plan Specialty Supports and Services or Habilitation Waiver Services, through the authority of 1915(b)(3) of the Social Security Act (hereafter referred to as B3s). The intent of B3 supports and services is to fund medically necessary supports and services that promote community inclusion and participation, independence, and/or productivity when identified in the individual plan of service as one or more goals developed during person-centered planning.

* * * *

17.2 CRITERIA FOR AUTHORIZING B3 SUPPORTS AND SERVICES

The authorization and use of Medicaid funds for any of the B3 supports and services, as well as their amount, scope and duration, are dependent upon:

- The Medicaid beneficiary's eligibility for specialty services and supports as defined in this Chapter; and
- The service(s) having been identified during person-centered planning; and
- The service(s) being medically necessary as defined in the Medical Necessity Criteria subsection of this chapter; and
- The service(s) being expected to achieve one or more of the above-listed goals as identified in the beneficiary's plan of service; and
- Additional criteria indicated in certain B3 service definitions, as applicable.

Decisions regarding the authorization of a B3 service (including the amount, scope and duration) must take into account the PIHP's documented capacity to reasonably and equitably serve other Medicaid beneficiaries who also have needs for these services. The B3 supports and services are not intended to meet all the individual's needs and preferences, as some needs may be better met by community and other natural supports. Natural supports mean unpaid assistance provided to the beneficiary by people in his/her network (family, friends, neighbors, community volunteers) who are willing and able to provide such assistance. It is reasonable to expect that parents of minor children with

disabilities will provide the same level of care they would provide to their children without disabilities. MDCH encourages the use of natural supports to assist in meeting an individual's needs to the extent that the family or friends who provide the natural supports are willing and able to provide this assistance. PIHPs may not require a beneficiary's natural support network to provide such assistance as a condition for receiving specialty mental health supports and services. The use of natural supports must be documented in the beneficiary's individual plan of service.

Provider qualifications and service locations that are not otherwise identified in this section must meet the requirements identified in the General Information and Program Requirement sections of this chapter.

* * * *

17.3.I. RESPITE CARE SERVICES

Respite care services are intended to assist in maintaining a goal of living in a natural community home and are provided on a short-term, intermittent basis to relieve the beneficiary's family or other primary caregiver(s) from daily stress and care demands during times when they are providing unpaid care. Respite is not intended to be provided on a continuous, long-term basis where it is a part of daily services that would enable an unpaid caregiver to work elsewhere full time. In those cases, community living supports, or other services of paid support or training staff, should be used. Decisions about the methods and amounts of respite should be decided during person centered planning. PIHPs may not require active clinical treatment as a prerequisite for receiving respite care. These services do not supplant or substitute for community living support or other services of paid support/training staff.

- "Short-term" means the respite service is provided during a limited period of time (e.g., a few hours, a few days, weekends, or for vacations).
- "Intermittent" means the respite service does not occur regularly or continuously. The service stops and starts repeatedly or with a time period in between.
- "Primary" caregivers are typically the same people who provide at least some unpaid supports daily.
- "Unpaid" means that respite may only be provided during those portions of the day when no one is being paid to provide the care, i.e., not a time when the beneficiary is receiving a paid State Plan

(e.g., home help) or waiver service (e.g., community living supports) or service through other programs (e.g., school).

- Children who are living in a family foster care home may receive respite services. The only exclusion of receiving respite services in a family foster care home is when the child is receiving Therapeutic Foster Care as a Medicaid SED waiver service because that is considered in the bundled rate. (Refer to the Child Therapeutic Foster Care subsection in the Children's Serious Emotional Disturbance Home and Community-Based Services Waiver Appendix for additional information.)

Since adult beneficiaries living at home typically receive home help services and hire their family members, respite is not available when the family member is being paid to provide the home help service, but may be available at other times throughout the day when the caregiver is not paid.

Respite care may be provided in the following settings:

- Beneficiary's home or place of residence
- Licensed family foster care home
- Facility approved by the State that is not a private residence, (e.g., group home or licensed respite care facility)
- Home of a friend or relative chosen by the beneficiary and members of the planning team
- Licensed camp
- In community (social/recreational) settings with a respite worker trained, if needed, by the family
- Licensed family child care home

Respite care may not be provided in:

- day program settings
- ICF/IID's, nursing homes, or hospitals

Respite care may not be provided by:

- parent of a minor beneficiary receiving the service

- spouse of the beneficiary served
- beneficiary's guardian
- unpaid primary care giver

Cost of room and board must not be included as part of the respite care unless provided as part of the respite care in a facility that is not a private residence.

*Medicaid Provider Manual
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Section
January 1, 2016, pp 119, 120, 133, 134*

The Department is mandated by federal regulation to perform an assessment for the Petitioner to determine what Medicaid services are medically necessary and determine the amount and level of the Medicaid medically necessary services that are needed to reasonably achieve their goals.

The evidence in this case indicates there was no question as to whether or not the Petitioner was eligible for RCS hours or that there was a need for RCS hours. The record clearly supports the severity and complexity of the Petitioner's needs and further indicates the Petitioner has a very supportive family that provides a substantial portion of unpaid care to the Petitioner as they would for their children without disabilities. As such, the sole issue in dispute is whether or not the Department's determination as to the amount of authorized RCS hours was appropriate and supported by the record.

The evidence indicates the determination to set the RCS hour allocation at 35 hours a week was based on the fact there existed a significant number of unused RCS hours during previous authorization cycles. The MPM section 2.5.D. of the Behavioral Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disability Supports and Services chapter allows for prior authorization and utilization to be considered when reducing and termination services.

Prior utilization sets the bar as to what could be considered medically necessary. It is reasonable to assume that if there are hours going unused, there is a lack of medical necessity. Likewise, if allocations are being fully utilized, one could assume there may be an additional need.

Petitioner bears the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the Petitioner was entitled to the requested 40 RCS hours per week. The testimony of Petitioner's mother did not meet the burden to establish medical necessity for 40 RCS hours per week. The respite assessment utilized by the Department is reasonable and appropriate and it was applied to Petitioner's needs on an individualized basis.

As such, the evidence presented by the Department supports the conclusions it reached with regard to the RCS authorization based on the information it had at the time the decision was made.

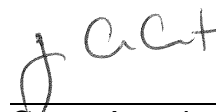
DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Department properly determined the amount of RCS hours.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that

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

CA/cg



Corey Arendt
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 30763
Lansing, Michigan 48909-8139

Counsel for Respondent

[REDACTED]

DHHS -Dept Contact

[REDACTED]

DHHS-Location Contact

[REDACTED]

Authorized Hearing Rep.

[REDACTED]

Petitioner

[REDACTED]